

Weekly Devotional- March 21<sup>st</sup>-March 28<sup>th</sup>

## Introduction

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.



## Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Mark 14:1--15:47

The passion of the Lord

## Questions:

1. Have you ever set your face like flint toward something? In what ways did God help you? (Isaiah 50:7)
2. What helps you see each day as a gift made by God? What helps you rejoice in the gift of each day? (Psalm 118:24)
3. Does it matter if the same people who cried "Hosanna" later shouted "crucify him?" (Mark 11:9)

## Lord's Prayer

Bless one another saying: May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: [Sundaysandseasons.com](http://Sundaysandseasons.com) #AS008098

Questions for discussion: #workingpreacher

[www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org)