

# Holy Week At Home

**Monday, April 6, 2020 - Monday in Holy Week, Year A**

## Introduction

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to meditate each day on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Today's gospel commemorates the anointing of Jesus by Mary, a foreshadowing of his death and burial. Isaiah speaks of the suffering servant who is a light for the nations and who faithfully brings forth justice. For Christians, Jesus' suffering is the path to resurrection and new life. We eagerly await the celebration of the great Three Days later this week.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son chose the path that led to pain before joy and to the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Gospel Acclamation

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Gal. 6:14*)

## Readings and Psalm

**Isaiah 42:1-9** - God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

**Psalm 36:5-11** - All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. (*Ps. 36:7*)

**Hebrews 9:11-15** - *Prior to Christ, forgiveness was mediated through animal sacrifice. Christ came as the great high priest to establish a new covenant. Through his blood we are liberated from our sins and promised eternal life.*

**John 12:1-11** - A few days after raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus visits the man's home. Lazarus's sister Mary anoints the feet of Jesus with costly perfume.

## Tuesday, April 7, 2020 - Tuesday in Holy Week, Year A

### Introduction

Today, Paul proclaims Christ crucified as the wisdom and power of God. Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order that it may bear fruit. We die with Christ in baptism that we may be raised with him to new life. We will celebrate this great mystery of death and resurrection at the Easter Vigil later this week.

### Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail or deny you in the time of trial, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Gospel Acclamation

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Gal. 6:14*)

### Readings and Psalm

**Isaiah 49:1-7** - Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honoured mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

**Psalm 71:1-14** - From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (*Ps. 71:6*)

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31** - To the world, the word of the cross is silly, because it claims God's power is most fully revealed in complete, utter weakness. For those who are being saved, however, the word of the cross unveils God's true wisdom, power, and source of true life.

**John 12:20-36** - Knowing that his hour has come, Jesus announces that his death will be an exaltation. When he is lifted up in death, drawing people to new life, God's name will be glorified.

## **Wednesday, April 8, 2020 - Wednesday in Holy Week, Year A**

### **Introduction**

This day was formerly called "Spy Wednesday," an allusion to the gospel reading, in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are called to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come. In the Three Days, which begin tomorrow evening, we will journey with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Gal. 6:14*)

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a** - The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**Psalm 70** - Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. (*Ps. 70:1*)

**Hebrews 12:1-3** - Look to Jesus, who endured the cross

**John 13:21-32** - At the last supper, Jesus identifies Judas Iscariot as the one who will betray him, and sends him on his way.

## Thursday, April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday, Year A

**Introduction** - With Christians around the world we begin the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. We anticipate the coming days.

**Prayer of the Day** - Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. (*John 13:34*)

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14** - Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19** - I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** - In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35** - The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

## **Friday, April 10, 2020 - Good Friday, Year A**

### **Introduction**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. In solemn devotion, we hold the promise that the tree upon which we gaze is indeed a tree of life. We anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (*Heb. 12:2*)

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

**Psalm 22** - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (*Ps. 22:1*)

**Hebrews 10:16-25** - In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

**John 18:1 - 19:42** - The passion and death of Christ - On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.