

APRIL 6-8, 2023
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY



Jesus suffers and intercedes for us.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35 **Jesus gives a new commandment**
Friday John 18:1–19:42 **The suffering and death of Jesus**
Saturday Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 **The great high priest who saves us**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:

Ah, holy Jesus, for your sacrifice of love that knows no end and that brings your grace, mercy, and salvation to us, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for your steadfast love and mercy that gives us Jesus, we thank you for giving us this food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God give you grace, mercy, and peace now and always.



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HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

They Crucified My Lord



HOLY WEEK MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is some bad news that you have heard recently?
- What is some good news that you have heard? How is God's grace and mercy part of that good news?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9.

The words in this reading say so much about Jesus' suffering and death. Jesus fully identifies with us and experiences what we experience, yet without the sin that clouds our relationship with God. Because of what he experienced he has compassion for our frailty. Jesus suffers, prays, and cries with and for us. His obedience benefits us. His suffering is not just something Jesus must obediently endure. His suffering identifies who he is for us as the obedient Son of God and as the ultimate high priest who prays with and for us. Because of his faithful suffering, his obedience, his own testing as a human, and his intercessions on our behalf, we have the perfect Savior we can approach with confidence and even boldness. In Jesus we have the one to whom we can turn to in prayer for divine mercy again and again. It is the reason we can "hold fast to our confession" (4:14), the source of our hope now and forevermore.

Discuss: How does it make a difference for you to know that Jesus intercedes and suffers for us?

Pray: **Almighty God, we pray for your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ who in obedience to you suffered and died that we may live with confidence and boldness. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for these days, how might you pray with and for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



On Good Friday, make a cross made from two sticks tied together and put it on the table where you are eating. Place a nail at each person's place as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us. Observe a moment of silence. As you are eating, tell the story of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in your own words or use a storybook Bible.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms on the cross in love for us. Open our hearts to receive your love. Amen.**

