

Celebrating the Season of Lent



Holy Week:

This is the holiest week in the church year, the holiest week for the Christian faith. It is a week that begins when Jesus enters Jerusalem to a joyful welcome, with cheering crowds, waving palm branches, and shouts of Hosanna! The crowds are welcoming the man whom they have heard has brought healing and wholeness to so many in the towns and villages of Galilee. This is the man who has healed the sick, brought a young girl back to life, raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and expelled demons from Mary of Magdala. The week begins with the joy of celebration but will soon turn dark and deadly.

Jesus tried to help his apostles understand what was about to take place when he shared a final meal with them. Jesus gives them his own body and blood, in the form of bread and wine, affirming that whenever they share this meal, they will share it in remembrance of him. During this meal, he gave them the gift of his example and the promise of his unfailing Presence in the Eucharist. Later that evening, Jesus was arrested by the authorities in the Garden of Gethsemane, beginning his journey to Calvary and to Easter.

As we enter into Holy Week, take time to reflect upon the scenes of Jesus' last days. Place yourself in the story, envisioning your response to all that is happening? How would you have responded? And reflect this week in prayer: what is the significance of these events for my life now and for the life of the world?

Prayers

Prayer for Monday of Holy Week

Faithful God,

As we enter into Holy Week, help us to be mindful of all that Jesus asked of his disciples, “Follow me,” “Remember me,” and “Do as I do.” With these three simple instructions we can be assured that Jesus never denies us, and will lead us into glory, as promised. Gratefully we say, Amen.

Prayer for Tuesday of Holy Week

God of Love,

These precious days of Holy Week are a time for us to bring to fruition all that we have been practicing during the Lenten season. May our time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving be reminders for us of all that Jesus did to bring us our salvation. May we continue to pray, fast and give to those in need as a way to remain ever so close to you. We ask this in your name, Amen.

Prayer for Wednesday of Holy Week

God of Mercy,

Your acts of love and mercy that we experience, especially during this holy time of the year, provides us with strength. We are grateful that regardless of who we are, what we do, or how we act, you continue to encourage us to remain close to you. Through this closeness of love and mercy, we come to understand more fully the journey you have planned for us, the journey that leads to everlasting life. Putting our trust in you, we say, Amen.

Prayer for Thursday of Holy Week

Eucharistic God,

Holy Thursday is a day to remember the final meal Jesus had with his disciples, where he introduced his body and blood as food for our souls. Guide us to always remember the importance of the Eucharist in our lives, and upon receiving it, going out into the world to share your love with others. Amen.

Prayer for Friday of Holy Week

Loving Lord,

On this day of great sorrow, let us be reminded of the love that Jesus has for all people. Walking that road to Golgotha, carrying that heavy cross, only to be stretched out and nailed upon it, all humiliating acts of love. During our lives when we experience humiliating acts out of love, help us remember the One that went before us. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What part of my Lenten journey spoke most profoundly to me? Why?