

APRIL 17-19, 2025  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY



*Jesus was faithful to the end.*

## 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	1 Peter 4:1-8	Conversion of life

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

*One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him [Jesus]?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.*

**John 18:26-27 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Holy Week:**

Merciful God, you know our weaknesses and our need for forgiveness and new beginnings; we give you our thanks and praise for the constant love you show us through Jesus Christ and his crucifixion. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, all that is good and loving comes from you. May this food, a gift of your love, strengthen us to trust in Jesus and to be faithful followers. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May Christ's love and faithfulness give you good courage.



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## HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

*Stay with Me*



## 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:

- When has it been difficult for you to stand up for a friend?
- Who first told you the story of Jesus' journey to the cross?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 18:1–19:42.

While Jesus is put on trial, others are also on trial. Three times Peter is asked if he knows Jesus. One time Peter is asked directly if he is one of Jesus' disciples, to which Peter clearly responds, "I am not" (18:17). The Jewish leaders also find themselves put on trial by their conversation with Pilate. The religious leaders eventually give in to Pilate and say, "We have no king but the emperor" (19:15). Religious leaders choose a false god over the God of Israel. Jesus' own disciples deny him, betray him, or run away from his hour of death. Only the beloved disciple stands with Jesus' mother at the foot of the cross. Jesus' crucifixion leads us to wonder when we, ourselves, deny Jesus, seek false gods, and run from the truth. We are freed to face our own limitations knowing that Jesus died for us precisely because of our failures, not because of our successes. We may turn away from Jesus Christ in ways we barely recognize, but thanks be to God, our Lord Jesus Christ never wavered on his way to the cross and never turns away from us now.

*Discuss:* When has there been a time you turned away from Jesus to find a safer, easier path?

*Pray:* **Compassionate God, you know our failures, our fears, and our running away from you; through it all, we thank you for Jesus, the one who remained faithful to you and to us until his last breath. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for Holy Week, who could you pray for during this Holy Week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Just before Jesus' betrayal and arrest, he went to the Mount of Olives. The disciples followed him. Jesus said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial" (Luke 22:40b). Then he went a short distance away from them, knelt, and prayed. Reflect on the words that Jesus taught us to pray found in Luke 11:4b: "And do not bring us to the time of trial." Take a moment to sit in silence and think about what this means. Finish by reading the words of the Lord's Prayer you have written around the cross drawn on the paper on the first week in Lent: **Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

