

Holy Week thoughts and readings

(Based on reflections by Jacqui Horton).



Please use this leaflet to guide your reading through Holy week. You may also like to build up a small display in your homes adding one item each day from Palm Sunday to Easter day.

Palm Sunday: Collect a leaf from the garden, or from a walk, that represents a palm branch. If you are unable to go out draw one, cut it out, and place this first item on your display.

Read Mark 11: 1-11 - Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

Prayer – Loving God, today I am reminded of your arrival into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. I offer you my worship at the beginning of Holy week. Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

Monday: Find some coins to represent the exploitive money changers in the temple and put them on your display.

Read Mark 11: 12-19 - Jesus goes into the Temple

Prayer: Loving God, these coins remind me of your challenge to the money changers in the Temple. I offer you my own desires to challenge exploitation & injustice.

Tuesday - Pour some oil or perfume into an egg cup to represent the costly perfume that was used to anoint Jesus feet.

Read Mark 14: 1-11 - Jesus is anointed at Bethany.

Prayer: Loving God this small container of oil reminds me of the actions and devotion of the woman at Bethany. May I serve you as you deserve, giving and not counting the cost.

Wednesday – Leave a deliberate space in your display to indicate a day of rest. This day is not mentioned in the Gospels; imagine what Jesus might have done. Did he relax? Sleep? Read the scriptures? Pray?

Read Psalm 23 – The Lord is my shepherd.

Prayer: Spend some time in quiet - Loving God, I offer you my rest as well as my business, my pauses as well as my actions.

Maundy Thursday: Find a small cup/glass to represent the cup that Jesus shared during his last Passover meal and place on your display.

Read Mark 14: 12-26 - The last supper.

Prayer – Loving God, I recall in this image the events of the last supper and I am reminded of the sacrifice you made. As I eat and drink I do so in your presence, united in your love.

(As you eat your main meal today you may like to start by reading the account of the last supper and as you eat and drink give thanks)

Good Friday – Place a cross on your display (This could be a palm cross, holding cross, one made from twigs or a picture.)

Read Mark 15: 1-41 – They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, there they crucified him.

Prayer: As I gaze upon the cross I remember the events of your arrest, torture and crucifixion; and I think about *love so amazing, so divine, It demands my soul, my life, my all.* (Isaac Watts)

At the end of the day - Place a cup on its side on your display - to represent the tomb - and use some rolled up tissue to symbolise the grave cloths and put inside. Then place a stone, (a rolled-up sock makes a good alternative stone or cut out a paper one).

Holy Saturday: Look for an elastic band or paper clip, anything that keeps things in place, to represent the guard that Herod placed outside the tomb and add to your display.

Read Matthew 27: 62-66 The Pharisees request a guard is put outside the tomb.

Prayer: Loving God, I think about the guard, posted outside the tomb to ensure the stone was kept in place and I offer you this waiting time.

Easter Sunday: Roll the stone away from the tomb on your display

Read John 20: 1-18 - Jesus is risen!

Prayer: Loving God, with Christians throughout the world, I marvel at the wonder of the empty tomb "*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son, endless is the Victory thou o'er death has won*" (Edmond Budry)

