

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers
March 29-April 4



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, JOHN 12:12-15

The next day, the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!’

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

If Jesus is a different kind of king, should his subjects be a different kind of subjects?

PRAYER

We know, O God, that Jesus represents a different kind of kingdom, that Jesus asks us to pledge ourselves not to worldly principalities but to divine principles. The one who comes in your name asks us to live not by power but by humility, not by wealth but by service to others, not by vengeance but by forgiveness, and not by fear but by love. That is why his parade looks so different from all the others. As we wave our palm branches to greet this different kind of king, may we rededicate ourselves to the heavenly kingdom and not to any earthly power or principality. Amen.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

MONDAY, MARCH 30, JOHN 17:10-13

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

What unites you with others? What unites you with God?

PRAYER

One of Jesus' many prayers for his disciples is for them to be one. His desire for us, O God, is that we be united together in the same way that the Holy Trinity is united together. He wants us to be one in heart, one in mind, and one in mission and clarity of purpose. We long for this as well, but our human nature gets in the way. We allow ourselves to be divided by pride and petty gossip. We get distracted by hubris, and proving we are right becomes more important than living our purpose. We allow our hearts to be pulled not towards one another, not towards our neighbors and our strangers but rather towards prosperity, influence, and comfort. Even as we pull ourselves apart, O God, we ask that you pull us back together. Amen.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, JOHN 17:14-19

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes, I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

How does Jesus' truth set you apart from the world around you?

PRAYER

Jesus asks us to live our lives defined by the truth of his life. This truth will sanctify us, which means that it will quite literally set us apart from the world around us. Help us, O God, to live in ways that honor the truth of Jesus' life and teaching. Help us feed the hungry and welcome the outcast. Lead us so we may nurture the vulnerable and bind up the broken. Help us to find our lives by devoting ourselves to others. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, PSALM 22:1-5

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you, our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

For what do you cry out?

PRAYER

We too, O God, cry out. Our sisters cry out from families shattered, split, and divided. Our brothers cry out from a world filled with violence, greed, and graft. Our neighbors cry out from hospital rooms, food lines, and lonely corners. We know, O God, that much is not right in the world. In the midst of such shadows, give us a glimpse of the light and hope of Christ. Remind us that you do save. You do redeem. You do indeed steady the feet of the faithful. We cry out, O God. Hear us and respond. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, JOHN 19: 23-30

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing, they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour, the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

How do you keep sight of what is truly important?

PRAYER

They thought his clothes were worth more than his life. His mother was standing close enough to hear him speak, and they cast lots for his tunic. The tunic, I assume, he was wearing when he fed the hungry, chastised the greedy, healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, and washed the feet of his disciples. "A shame," they thought, "to tear such a fine garment. Never mind the man." Grant, O God, that we may never take better care of objects than we do people. May we never ignore our neighbors in the name of preserving our possessions. And may we always deal kindly with the vulnerable among us. Amen.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, JOHN 19: 31-42

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again, another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

Where do you find crosses in the world today?

PRAYER

In the shadow of the cross, O God, help us to face the truths we are often asked to ignore. The truth of the ash: that we are no different than all that surrounds us. The truth of the meal: that we destroy the things we love most. The truth of the garden: that we cannot face it alone. The truth of the courtroom: that we shrink when our witness is needed most. And the truth of the cross: that in polluted waters, with empty bowls, and in the rubble of hatred and violence, the powers of greed, control, and consumption continue to put Jesus to death. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, PSALM 22:6-11

But I am a worm and not human;
scorned by others and despised by the people.
All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
'Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!'
Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me, you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

How do you draw near to God?

PRAYER

The day of silence is here, O God: the solemn hours of quiet interlude when we must ultimately face ourselves. At the end of the season of penitence, we come ultimately to ourselves. And as we look back at the path that has led us to the cross, we must consider which pathways we travel in the world. Do we move down the path of right relationship, or do we travel the route of death? Does our living create joy or sorrow? And for whom and when? These are the questions of Lent. These are the questions we sit with while we wait for Easter Sunday, while we wonder whether we or the world really can be changed. Amen.

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Holy Week 2026

3/29 Palm Sunday

Contemplative Service: 8:30 a.m. in Chapel
Traditional Service: 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary
with kids and youth choir and bells at 10:30 a.m. service

4/2 Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Table Fellowship & Service in Memorial Room

4/3 Good Friday

7 p.m. Service in Sanctuary

Good Friday - Easter morning

Easter Prayer Vigil in Chapel

4/5 Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services in Sanctuary
with Cathedral Brass, Chancel Choir, and Chancel Bells at both services

