



ALIVE

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL



To the Desert View Family,

Holy Week is one of the most meaningful times of the year for those who know and follow Jesus. It's a time when we remember what Christ has done for us, lament over our sin that made His sacrifice necessary, and celebrate His love for us - a love that overcomes the darkness of sin and that takes us from death into life!

Our prayer is that this Devotional and Prayer Guide will be helpful for you as you follow Jesus during Holy Week. Each devotional, along with its prayer prompts, was written by a member of our congregation - this truly is a family project!

Each day this Holy Week, we hope that you are able to set aside some time with the Lord to read Scripture, reflect on the truth contained therein, and go to God in prayer. We'd encourage you to use the prayer prompts as a guide or springboard to get you started in prayer each day.

May God bless you richly this Holy Week. Make an intentional investment in your time with God each day; it's certain to bear fruit in your life!

And above all, remember - Jesus is ALIVE!
And in Him, so are we!

Blessings,

DVBC Prayer Team



Table of Contents

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry	2
Monday: Clearing the Temple	4
Tuesday: Words of Eternal Life	6
Wednesday: The Costly Gift	8
Maundy Thursday: Humble Servant	10
Good Friday: It is Finished	12
Saturday: Preparation	14
Notes	16





Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry

Read: Matthew 21:1-11, Zechariah 9:9

The moment of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is unlike any other, because in this moment, Jesus openly proclaims that He IS the King prophesied in Zechariah 9:9, who comes not to take life, but to offer it. Every detail we read about Jesus' triumphal entry speaks to one thing. *Jesus came humbly as a servant-King to bring life to all who would receive Him.*

Let's look at each detail together:

He's riding a borrowed colt. A warhorse would be the animal of choice for a conquering king or general. But this King rides a baby donkey, signifying that He IS the King, but a humble King, who came not to be served but to serve.

He's received with cloaks, palm branches, and shouts of "Hosanna!". The crowds echo the words of Psalm 118 - "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!". They were acknowledging Him as the Messiah, the Son of David, the only One worthy of highest praise.

He came from the unlikeliest of places. When asked, "Who is this?" the answer given is, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." This life-giving King comes intentionally from a place of great humility, making Him relatable, approachable, and inviting.

Jesus' message to the people who were there for the first Palm Sunday was clear:

I AM your King, your Messiah. And I AM here to bring you LIFE.

Jesus came to establish His Kingdom - the Kingdom of God - bringing new life in Him offered freely to every person on earth. He is inviting you and me to participate in bringing the Kingdom of God to those who are dying and lost. We get to be a part of this great commission by introducing others to the life-giving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** Lord God, I am in awe of You and of Your Son Jesus, the King of Kings who came not to be served but to serve. I worship You because You are the only One worthy of all my praise.
- **Response:** Lord, just as Your people Israel failed to receive Jesus, I too have failed to fully understand and trust in Your Son. Help me look to Jesus alone, in every situation.
- **Requests:** Because You invite me to cast every care upon You, today I want to pray for: (Name of person, situation, care, anxiety, need, etc.)
- **Readiness:** Lord, help me to be Your ambassador today, reflecting the approachable, humble, meek, and lowly Jesus, the servant-King of Palm Sunday.



Mike Bohlmann





Monday: Clearing the Temple

Read: Matthew 21:12-17, Hosea 6:6, Psalm 51

Twice Jesus cleared the temple (also see John 2). God's chosen people desecrated the very place He provided so they could worship Him. God's gift of communing with His people turned into a performance, going through the motions and offering sacrifices as a way of looking good, despite not truly loving the Lord.

Offering sacrifices without offering our lives misses the point. As the prophet Hosea said, God "desires steadfast love and not sacrifice." The Lord wants us to love Him, not just offer sacrifices to present the appearance of love. In John 14 and 15, Jesus clarifies if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

Jesus cleared out the temple court because it was supposed to be a place of prayer where God could dwell with His people. Now, God dwells in us.

That means the question for us is: are our hearts places of love and obedience, or have they become places of pride and performance?

Too often we live our lives as if asking how much of life can I keep to myself without obeying God. Our hearts are far from Him. Our own temples need clearing.

Praise be to God that He has mercy on us according to His steadfast love and His abundant mercy. Repent before Him and be cleansed. This Holy Week, take time to remember that we do not worship God to look good or for a get-out-of-hell-free card. We worship God because our entire purpose is to glorify Him and to enjoy His presence for all eternity. Jesus came so our hearts can be purified through His blood and we can dwell with Him forever, and that starts with Him dwelling in us. May we allow Him to turn the tables over in our hearts today.

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** Lord, I praise you because you are both righteous and merciful, holy and good! Thank you for the cleansing power of Jesus' blood!
- **Response:** Father, purify my heart through the blood of your Son. Help me to surrender_____.
(ex. my need for control, my selfishness, my desire for the things of this world, etc.)
- **Requests:** Lord, show me the ways I perform, trying to look good, while withholding_____ from You. (ex. my whole heart, my time, etc.)
- **Readiness:** Lord, help me to obey you in every area of my life so I can love you well.



Emma Blair





Tuesday:

Words of Eternal Life

Read: Matthew 22:23-33, Matthew 23:37-39,
John 6:68

Think of the most influential person in your life—a parent, teacher, coach, or mentor who lovingly challenged you by telling you the truth, even when it was difficult for you to hear. True Love does not soften the truth but speaks words of LIFE.

When many followers walked away from Jesus' hard teaching in John 6, those closest to Him still trusted. Peter believed – not because he understood perfectly, but because he knew Jesus was the Holy One of God. Peter had come to know Jesus not simply as a good teacher, but as the very source of life. Although Peter's obedience to Christ would ultimately require him to lay down his life, he chose to trust Jesus because all other options paled by comparison.

The Sadducees in Matthew 22 preferred to stay within their familiar framework of the Law. But the hard truth is, knowledge without surrender is just a selfish attempt to stay in control. They had reduced God to a system of beliefs and rules they could master and manage. They could not see Jesus – the present-tense God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of the living – for who He truly was because they had already decided who they thought God should be.

In Matthew 23, the long-awaited Messiah lamented over Jerusalem because His love had been repeatedly refused by the very people He came to save. His love spoke hard truths and simultaneously offered the warm protection of His wings.

Consider Jesus' hard teachings in light of their proof: His resurrection. We must respond and ask the Spirit.

- Am I the Sadducee, hiding behind religious knowledge and performance, trying to keep God at a safe distance from my heart?

- Am I Jerusalem, attempting to build walls of false protection around my heart?

- Or am I Peter, opening my heart to Jesus, because I know there is nowhere better to go?

Jesus' resurrection reveals the only option that truly leads to life. What would it look like for you to confess, "Jesus, You have the words of eternal life" - and mean it?

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** I praise You, Father, for... (Your steadfast love, Your grace and mercy, the gift of eternal life in Christ, etc.)
- **Response:** Lord, show me where I have... (considered Your teachings too difficult, or rejected Your protective love, etc.)
- **Requests:** Jesus, please help (name) to know You... (as the Holy One of God, source of life, etc.)
- **Readiness:** Holy Spirit, give me... (boldness to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection and obey His commands, or the courage to speak the truth in love to a world that rejects You, etc.)



Kelley Burwick





Wednesday: The Costly Gift

Read: Matthew 26:1-16, Mark 14:1-9,
John 12:24-25, Romans 12:1

Jesus tells His disciples that He will be delivered up to be crucified in two days. The Elders and the High Priest plot His death. Judas works a deal for His betrayal.

But the woman comes in humility and faith.

I am struck by the raw and heartfelt love and devotion of this woman, in this self-sacrificial act, as she pours the priceless oil upon the head of Jesus, her Lord, Savior, and friend. She anoints Him in preparation for His sacrifice for her.

The broken alabaster and the pouring out of the priceless oil in this extravagant act of love, worship, and deep devotion parallels the soon-to-be broken body of her Lord and the pouring out of His precious blood upon her and all who would believe. Her act is one of extravagant love, sacrifice, and praise. His act is one of extravagant love and sacrifice. She knew and recognized Him as the Messiah – the anointed One whom she now anoints for His burial.

The expensive oil cost her much as she selflessly and sacrificially poured it upon her Lord. Did she understand fully? Perhaps. But in that moment, all that mattered to her was that He understood how much she loved and desired to serve and bless Him with all that she had, her life. That selfless act revealed her spiritual worship – holy and acceptable to God.

The preciousness of His blood will be poured out upon her and all who believe, so that we who die to ourselves might have life eternal. The costly gift of eternal life is the life of Christ within us that drives this kind of heartfelt devotion, at all costs. We become living sacrifices as we seek to die to ourselves and live for Him, so that the very life of Christ is lived in us as we seek to love our God and love those around us.

Christ sacrificed for us so that we might live the sacrificed life in Him.

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** Lord, thank You for the sacrifice You made for me. Help me truly know You as Lord and King. Help me to better understand the sacrifice You made on the cross, so that I may truly live.
- **Response:** Strengthen my desire to live a life of sacrifice for my Lord as I love Him wholeheartedly, loving others as I do myself. Help me to count everything as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing and serving Christ, my Lord (Phil. 3:8).
- **Requests:** Lord, I ask for a deeper understanding of the costly gift that You have given to me.
- **Readiness:** Father God, help me to live my life, today and every day, as an act of worship and gratitude for all Jesus has done for me!



Vicki Lang





Maundy Thursday: Humble Servant

Read: Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25,
Luke 22:7-23, John 13:1-20

Maundy Thursday is the evening before the humiliation of the cross becomes reality. On this night, Jesus gathers with His disciples, not to mourn, but to give and to share. Bread is broken. A cup is shared. These ordinary elements become life-giving symbols as He speaks: "This is My body... This is My blood." In that sacred meal, He offers not just a model for remembrance, but a Life poured out so that others may live. What seemed like a simple Passover meal became a moment where heaven and earth came together.

Then He did something even more startling: He knelt and washed His disciples' feet. The Master became the servant. In that quiet act, He showed them and us that true greatness is found in humble love as He paints a picture of a life that puts others before self. Then He gives the command, "Love one another as I have loved you." It is a call for us to live His life of humility and service in this world.

On the night before He was to be humiliated at the cross, Jesus modeled for us what true humility really means.

Maundy Thursday still speaks to us today. It calls us to the table of grace, to receive eternal life which we could never earn. It calls us to the basin and towel, to serve as we have been served. From the table in the Upper Room to the cross flows one unbroken stream: through the giving of His life, we can receive eternal life.

Maundy Thursday is not only about remembrance, but it is also a call to prayer and to action! It invites us to respond in humility, gratitude, surrender, and love.

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** Thank You, Lord, for the way You came not to be served, but to serve. Thank You for the humility You showed and modeled for us. Thank You for the life-giving sacrifice You made on the cross - for me!
- **Response:** Help me to walk in humility and service as Jesus did! May I recognize myself among the disciples in that upper room; sometimes faithful, sometimes failing, yet always loved.
- **Requests:** Father, please cleanse me, soul and spirit. Give me strength to obey Your command to “love one another as as You have loved us,”
- **Readiness:** Give me boldness and obedience to live Your life of humility and service in this world.



Larry Fultz





Good Friday: It is Finished

Read: Matthew 27

On the cross of Calvary, on the day we call “Good Friday,” the last words Jesus uttered as He willingly released His Spirit to His Father were, “It is finished” (Jn 19:30).

What was finished? Clearly to His followers, that Friday was not good. To them Jesus’ death meant the end of everything that was good. Their three and a half years together - enjoying Jesus, observing His love and compassion for people, and seeing His miraculous power proclaiming the Kingdom of God - all ended with the most horrible and torturous death in human history.

But God saw that day differently - as the culmination of His purpose and plan conceived before time began (2 Tim 1:9). When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, a death sentence hung over all mankind until God’s love sent His only Son into our world to suffer and die, paying a debt we couldn’t pay.

The Greek word (teleo) translated “It is finished” means “to bring to a close, to end, fulfill, to perform the last act which completes a process.” On that Good Friday, God’s purpose and plan that He began was finished, so that:

- God’s law was perfectly fulfilled in Christ (Matt 5:17).
- The serpent’s (devil’s) head was crushed, his works were destroyed, and he was disarmed (Gen 3:15; 1 John 3:8).

- God’s wrath was unleashed against sin, and convicted sinners were redeemed, forgiven, and saved through Jesus’ blood poured out” (Eph 1:7).
- New life and fellowship as God’s children would be restored – forever (Heb 2:10).

Good Friday reminds us that by faith in Christ Jesus, the penalty and debt for our rebellion and sin was paid for by Jesus. On the Cross, Christ finished what He began, as He always does. This is proof that He who began a good work in me and you will continue to finish it until His return. And that’s REALLY GOOD.

Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** Thank you Father that Your Son Jesus died for sinners like me, that I can have peace with You through the finished work of Your Son. Thank You Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins through Your sacrifice on Calvary.
- **Response:** Father, show me where I’m not trusting in You, and help me to give those situations over to You completely.
- **Requests:** Fill me with gratitude for Jesus and for His work for me. Help me to hate my sin and to make war on it through the Holy Spirit’s power. Give me a passion to know, trust, and follow Jesus - today and every day!
- **Readiness:** Help me to know who in my life needs to hear the good news of Christ. Give me boldness to share this truth with others!



Mike Bodeen





Saturday: Preparation

Read: Luke 24:1-12, Genesis 1:5-31

The crucifixion left Jesus' followers stunned. They had heard His warnings, His parables, His promises — yet nothing prepared them for the crushing weight of Friday's darkness. Confusion settled in like a fog. Grief pressed down on their chests. Their questions echoed in the silence: Why did this happen? What do we do now? How could everything fall apart so quickly?

We know those questions. We've whispered them in hospital rooms, in the quiet after a job loss, in the hollow ache of grief. We've lived through nights that felt endless, nights when hope seemed like a distant memory.

But Scripture reminds us that God built a rhythm into creation itself: morning always follows the night. Darkness does not have the final word. David echoes this truth: "Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5b).

And on Easter morning, joy did come. Light broke through—not just the sunrise, but the dawning realization that Jesus was alive. Understanding replaced confusion. Hope replaced despair. Joy replaced fear.

Our spiritual journey mirrors this pattern. We begin in the night—aware of our sin, our limitations, our need. But God does not leave us there. Through repentance and salvation, we step into the morning of grace, forgiveness, and everlasting joy.

Isaac Watts captured this movement from darkness to joy in his hymn, “Joy to the World.” Though often sung at Christmas, its proclamation fits Easter beautifully: **“The Lord is come... the Savior reigns.”**

So let this be our declaration as we anticipate Easter Sunday: **Joy to the world—He is risen. The night has passed. The morning has come. Hallelujah!**

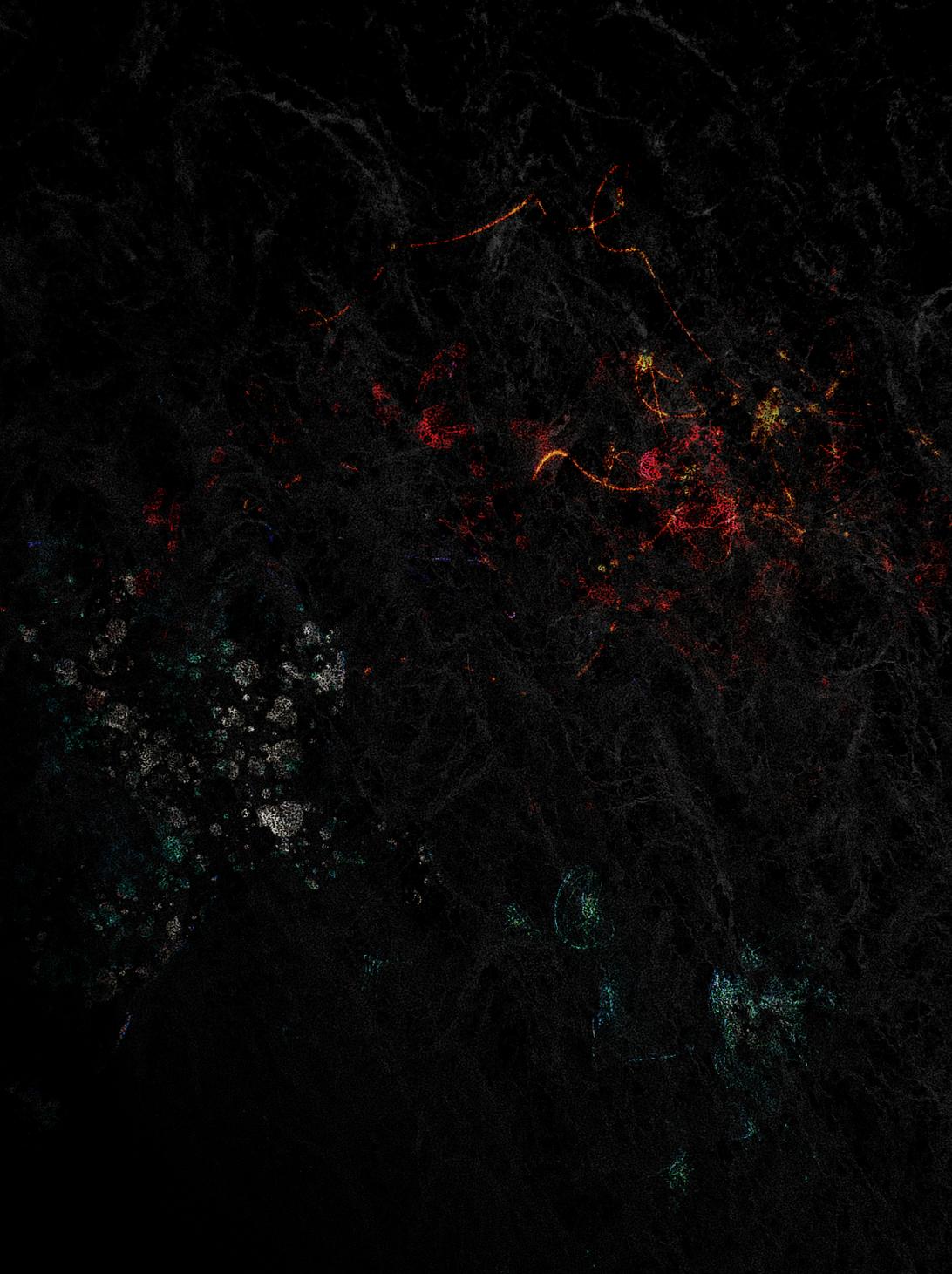
Prayer Prompts

- **Reverence:** I praise you Father, because You are the only One who can raise the dead to life! Thank You that Jesus is alive, and thank You that in Him I have eternal life!
- **Response:** Fill my heart with joy, gratitude, and praise to You as I await this Easter Sunday!
- **Requests:** Father, show me where my thoughts, words, or actions need to change in light of what Jesus has done for me. Give me the desire and the ability to live a life of devotion and obedience to Christ. Help me to live as a new person, brought from death to life, a true child of the One True God!
- **Readiness:** Lord, please show me how to share the Good News about Jesus with my family, friends, and any others You bring into my life. Help me to share the joy of Easter with all around me!



Jeff Ellis





Desert View Bible Church
105 W. Carefree Hwy, Phoenix, AZ 85068
desertviewbible.org | 480.423.4888