

APRIL 18-20, 2019
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY



We have a crucified and loving God.

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

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **John 13:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:

Dear Jesus, Savior and Lord, you conquer sin and death with a love that gives us your all. Give us courage to love as you have loved us. 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 be faithful followers day by day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who died that you may live, strengthen you in body, mind, and soul.



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HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you have been hurt.
- Compassion means to “suffer with.” Give an example of how you have loved others by being willing to suffer with them.
- God shows us love by suffering for us from the cross. How does that kind of God and that kind of suffering change how you live?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Jesus washing his disciples’ feet was so shocking and seemingly so inappropriate for one they called their “Teacher and Lord” that Peter objected. It was seen as beneath the dignity of Jesus to do this. However, Jesus is giving his followers an example of how to live and how to love. Jesus sends them out to serve even—or especially—when there is no glamour in the service. True service is like that; true love is like that. The hour of Jesus’ glory has come. He will soon die a horrible death to serve and to love the world without reservation. It is not a glamorous depiction of love, but it is a complete depiction of the love of the Son and of the Father. It is the completion of John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” The depth of God’s love is shocking. It is not glamorous. It is not limited to what is fair or right. God’s love through Christ is complete and eternal love. Sit quietly and meditate on God’s love for you and for the whole world through Jesus Christ.

Pray: **Dear Loving God, you have come into our world and into my life with the power of love and forgiveness. Thank you for loving me and the world and for your gift of forgiveness and eternal life. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SERVICE



Christian actions show witness to Christ. In 1 Peter 4:8a, we read, “Above all, maintain constant love for one another.” Through suffering there are times our life changes for the better. Think of a time in your life when you suffered. Who helped you and how? In what ways can you show kindness toward another to help them through their suffering?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday in many English-speaking countries. They originated in England. These sweet buns are made with spices and currants or raisins. They mark the end of Lent. The cross represents the crucifixion of Jesus and the spices inside symbolize the spices put on the body of Jesus. Make or buy hot cross buns to serve on Good Friday. Before eating them, spend a moment in silence as you gaze at the cross on the bun. Then say: **For God so Loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.** (John 3:16).

