

APRIL 2-4, 2026
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY



In suffering and death, Jesus shows God's power.

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	Matthew 27:57-66	The burial of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. John 18:4-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:

Almighty God, through Jesus' betrayal and death on the cross, you show us the power of your love. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love and saving grace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Merciful God, through Jesus' suffering and death you heal us. Through this food you restore us daily. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ shine his face on you with love.



APRIL 2-4, 2026
HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK
Go to Dark Gethsemane



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:

- What words describe how you or someone you know has felt when a loved one died?
- How would you describe the way you feel about Jesus' suffering and death?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:1–19:47.

Read the passage from the Bible or use a storybook Bible to tell the story of Jesus' death. Jesus' death was no accident. Jesus knew what was to happen to him, but the powerful nature of the event was in God's hands, not human hands. When Jesus said "I am he," (John 18:5) that is, I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one the soldiers wanted to arrest, they—not Jesus—fell. It has always been hard for us to grasp that God in Christ suffered a painful and humiliating death, one reserved for the most despised by those in power. Yet, true power, the power to forgive and to give eternal life remains God's greatest gift to humanity. Nothing stops God's purposes for life, reconciliation, and eternal life. Jesus' concern for the sacredness of daily life is even shown from the cross when he tells his mother that she will not be abandoned but be given one of the disciples (likely John) as a new son to care for her (John 19:26-27).

Discuss: What are some ways that God empowers you to care for others today?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see, in the suffering and death of Jesus, the depth of your love and power that brings life and forgiveness for all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Holy Week Bible Readings and theme, how can you serve someone in response to God's love and care ?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Light the six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross on Maundy Thursday. Tell the story about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the last supper in your own words. When you finish telling the story, blow each candle out and say this prayer: **Dear Lord Jesus, help us to honor your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. We ask this in your precious name, amen.**

On Good Friday do not light the candles. Cover the Lenten Candle Cross with a black cloth and observe a time of silence.

