

Meditations for the Days of Holy Week

These short meditations may be used as personal devotions, school devotions, or devotions at the beginnings of church meetings.

Monday of Holy Week

VERSES AND PRAYER

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Almighty God, we fail in so many adversities because of our weakness. Restore us by the Passion and intercession of your only Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LESSON: Matthew 22:41-46

On Monday of Holy Week, Jesus taught in the Temple courts and was challenged by his enemies.

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵ If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” ⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. (ESV)

PRAYER

O God, Son of God, you took on yourself our nature and suffered death on the cross for us. By your Passion you have set us free from eternal death. Preserve us in your grace; through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed, and live and govern all things, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. (*Psalm 145:9*)

Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week

VERSES AND PRAYER

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (*Isaiah 53:5*)

Almighty and eternal God, grant that we may celebrate the mysteries of our Lord's Passion and find there the pardon of our sin; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LESSON: Matthew 24:36-51

On Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus taught in the Temple courts and instructed his disciples about faithfulness.

³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

PRAYER

O God, Son of God, you took on yourself our nature and suffered death on the cross for us. By your Passion you have set us free from eternal death. Preserve us in your grace; through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed, and live and govern all things, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (*Psalms 33:22*)

Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week

VERSES AND PRAYER

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (*Isaiah 53:7*)

Almighty God, we are continually afflicted by our evil deeds. Free us by the Passion of your only Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LESSON: Matthew 26:1-16

On Wednesday of Holy Week, Jesus may have rested. Matthew gives us a flashback to Jesus being anointed at Bethany and Judas beginning his plot.

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,² “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas,⁴ and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.⁵ But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”⁶ Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,⁷ a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.⁸ And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.¹² In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.¹³ Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. (ESV)

PRAYER

O God, Son of God, you took on yourself our nature and suffered death on the cross for us. By your Passion you have set us free from eternal death. Preserve us in your grace; through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed, and live and govern all things, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected our prayer or removed his steadfast love from us!
(Psalm 66:20)

Amen.

All Scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*.

The opening prayers are the Historic Collects for the days of Holy Week, freely modified from *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

The closing prayer for each day is a Mozarabic Collect for Holy Week.

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