



HOLY WEEK GUIDE

2025

WELCOME

The final week of the earthly life of Jesus began with Sunday's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, progressed until His death on Friday, and concluded with His resurrection the following Sunday morning.

This devotional guide is intended to provide a starting point for meditation, discussion, and worship as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus and celebrate His resurrection.

Readings

Each day in this guide will include suggested readings from the Gospel accounts describing what took place on that corresponding day in the final week of Jesus' life. You may choose to follow a particular Gospel account or compare multiple accounts. Note that not every Gospel has intended to present events in exact chronological order, so some readings move back and forth across chapters.

Response

Following each day's readings, there will be a few questions to encourage meditation and discussion. It is hoped these will be helpful whether used individually or with the whole family.

Each day has also been paired with a hymn. Scan the QR code accompanying each hymn to view the music for the hymn or launch a slideshow of the lyrics accompanied by music.

Good Friday Services

You are invited to attend one of VBC's Good Friday services on April 18 at 5 pm or 7 pm. This is a somber time of reflection with music, Scripture reading, prayer, and communion as we remember Christ's sacrifice and prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday. Childcare is provided in the nursery for children 2 years old and younger.



SUNDAY

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Verse 1

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming
the King and Blessed One.

Verse 2

The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and
anthems
before you we present.

Verse 3

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!



Daily Reading

Matthew 21:1-11, 17
Mark 11:1-11
Luke 19:29-44
John 12:12-19

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

What were the major events that took place on this day?

What was Jesus communicating when He chose a donkey colt to ride into Jerusalem on? (cf. Zechariah 9:9)

What was the significance of the words the people cried out as Jesus approached Jerusalem?

Why did Jesus weep?

How do we wish to demonstrate our worship of Jesus this week as we meditate on His sacrifice and resurrection?

Link to Today's Hymn

<https://my.hymnary.org/song/45/all-glory-laud-and-honor?instrument=full&capo=None&>

MONDAY

He Leadeth Me

Verse 1

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort
fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Verse 2

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest
gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers
bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Verse 3

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in
mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis
my God that leadeth me.

Verse 4

And when my task on earth is done,
when, by thy grace, the victory's
won, e'en death's cold wave I will
not flee, since God through Jordan
leadeth me.



Daily Reading

Matthew 21:18-19, 12-13
Mark 11:12-18
Luke 19:45-48
John 12:20-50

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

What were the major events that took place on this day?

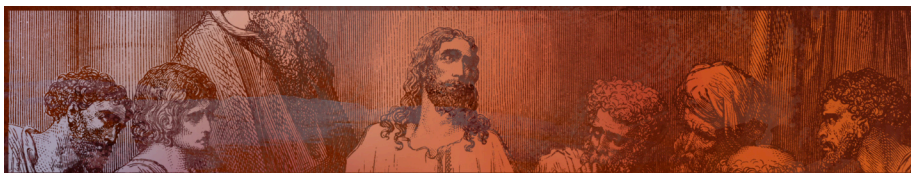
What does the fig tree represent, and why is it significant to this week in the life of Jesus?

How ought we to express zeal for pure worship like Jesus did? What are the things that are perhaps distracting us from our meditation on Jesus this week?

During Holy Week, we rightly focus on the good news of our salvation. How do the images of judgment and cleansing help us appreciate the work of Jesus even more?

Link to Today's Hymn

<https://my.hymnary.org/song/97/he-leadeth-me?instrument=full&capo=None&>



TUESDAY

Rejoice the Lord is King

Verse 1

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Verse 2

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Verse 3

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Verse 4

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our
Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!



Daily Reading

Matthew 21:18-25:46 (*If time is short, focus on Matthew 22:34-46*)

Mark 11:20-13:37

Luke 20:1-21:38

John (N/A)

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

What were the significant events that took place on this day?

Pick one of the parables in Matthew, Mark, or Luke, and explain what the central point of the parable is and why Jesus would have wanted to teach this lesson so close to His death and resurrection.

How did Jesus model the two great commandments for us in His final week?

What themes does Jesus emphasize about the future (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) that should be on our minds today as believers (e.g. warnings against false teachers)?

Link to Today's Hymn

<https://my.hymnary.org/song/81/rejoice-the-lord-is-king>

WEDNESDAY

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Verse 1

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

Verse 2

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
look on me with Thy favor,
vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

Verse 3

What language shall I borrow
to thank Thee, dearest Friend, for this,
Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for Thee.

Verse 4

Be near when I am dying,
O show Thy cross to me!
And, for my succor flying,
come, Lord, to set me free:
these eyes, new faith receiving, from
Thee shall never move;
for he who dies believing
dies safely in Thy love.

Daily Reading

Matthew 26:3-5, 14-16

Mark 14:1-2, 10-11

Luke 22:1-6

John (N/A)

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

What were the significant events that took place on this day?

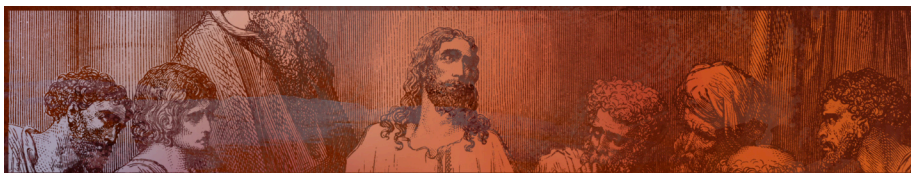
What might Judas' motives have been for seeking to betray Jesus? What motives most tempt us to rebellion today?

Given the feast that was being observed, what should the religious leaders have been meditating on? What two motives were they consumed with instead (Luke 22:2)?

How does our world today still plot against Jesus and His purposes?

Link to Today's Hymn

<https://my.hymnary.org/song/79/o-sacred-head-now-wounded?instrument=full&capo=None&>



THURSDAY

Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Verse 1

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men,
from the best bliss that earth
imparts,
we turn unfilled to Thee again.

Verse 2

Thy truth unchanged hath ever
stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
to them that seek Thee, Thou art
good,
to them that find Thee all in all.

Verse 3

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
and long to feast upon Thee still;
we drink of Thee, the Fountain-head,
and thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Verse 4

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
where'er our changeful lot is cast;
glad when Thy gracious smile we
see,
blest when our faith can hold Thee
fast.

Verse 5

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
make all our moments calm and
bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
shed o'er the world Thy holy light.



Daily Reading

Matthew 26:17-46

Mark 14:12-42

Luke 22:7-46

John 13:1-17:26

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

What were the significant events that took place on this day?

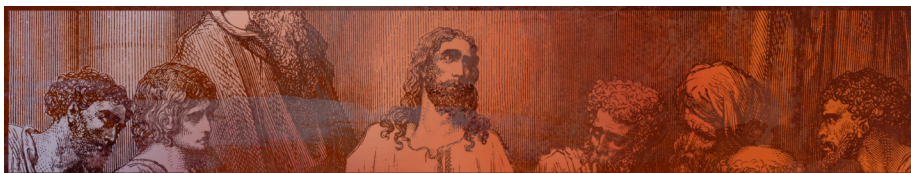
What was the original significance of the Passover meal?

How did Jesus fulfill the promise of Passover, and what did He inaugurate that was even better than the covenant God had made with His people at Sinai?

Of all of Jesus' words to His disciples on His last night before the crucifixion, what stood out to you the most this year?

Link to Today's Hymn

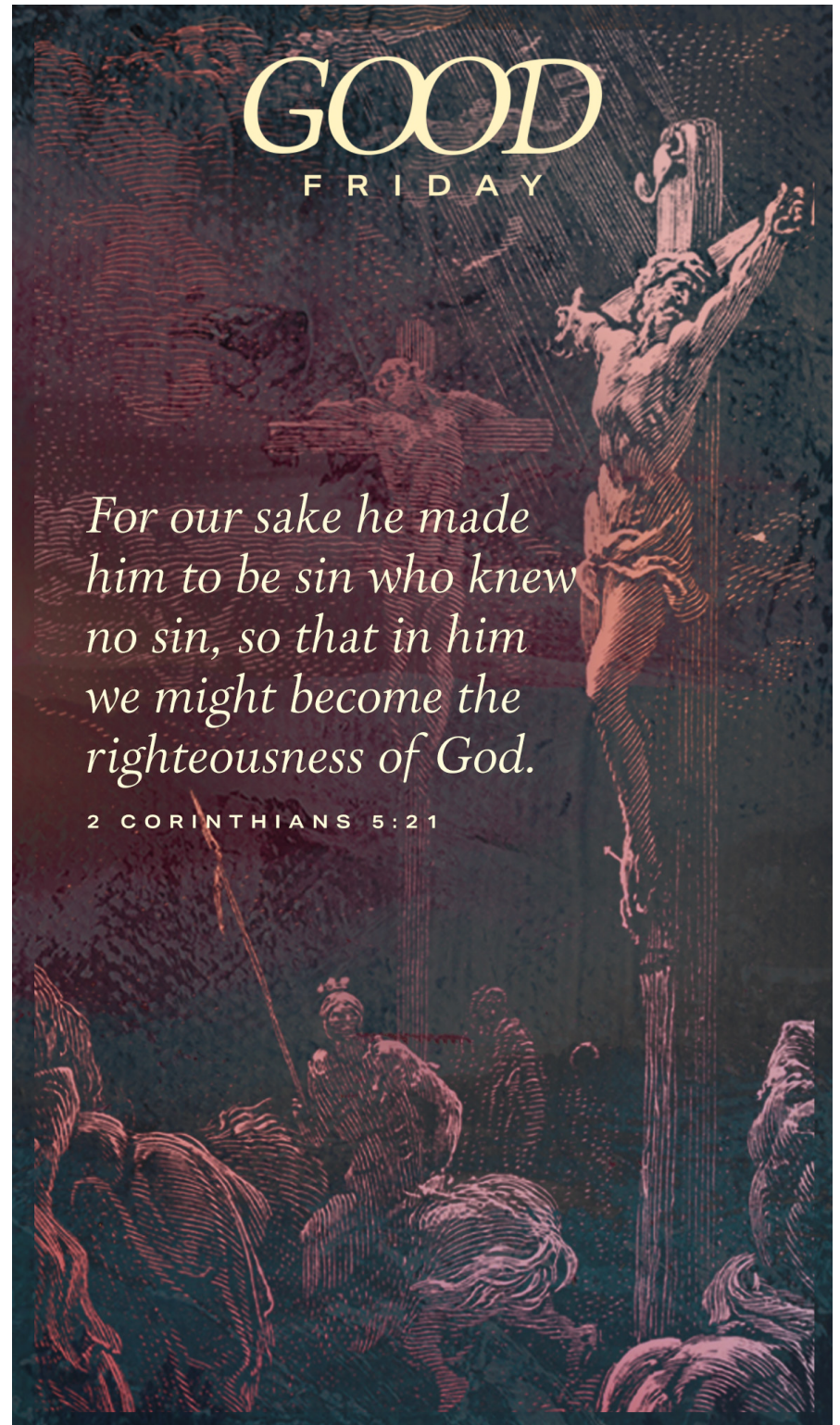
<https://my.hymnary.org/song/144/jesu-thou-joy-of-loving-hearts?instrument=full&capo=None&>



GOOD FRIDAY

*For our sake he made
him to be sin who knew
no sin, so that in him
we might become the
righteousness of God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21



SATURDAY

Man of Sorrows, What a Name

Verse 1

Man of sorrows what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 2

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 3

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 4

He was lifted up to die;
"It is finished" was his cry;
now in heaven exalted high:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 5

When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!



Daily Reading

Isaiah 53

Devotional Thoughts/Questions

In Isaiah 53, what did God tell us the death of Jesus would be for?

Why do you think the people of Israel did not understand this when Jesus finally came?


As you reflect on this week of meditating on final week of the life of Jesus, what has made the biggest impression on you? How do you desire to see this week impacting your worship of Jesus both in your heart and in your life?

Looking back at Isaiah 53, what hints do you see pointing to Easter morning, the greatest plot twist in all of history?

Link to Today's Hymn

[https://my.hymnary.org/song/221/
man-of-sorrows-what-a-name?
instrument=full&capo=None&](https://my.hymnary.org/song/221/man-of-sorrows-what-a-name?instrument=full&capo=None&)



The background is an abstract, textured composition. The upper half is dominated by warm, glowing colors like orange, yellow, and light brown, with a fine, wavy texture. The lower half transitions into darker, more complex textures in shades of blue, purple, and dark brown, with visible brushstrokes and a more chaotic, layered appearance. The overall effect is one of depth and emotional resonance, with the text placed in the upper left quadrant.

*Greater love
has no one than this,
that someone lay down
his life for his friends.*

JOHN 15:13