Prayer Guide

Holy Week

"In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight."
(Ephesians 1:7-8)

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Hymn for Holy Week: "My Song is Love Unknown"
(John Crossman, 1664)

V1
My song is love unknown– my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

V2
He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

V3
Sometimes they strew His way and His strong praises sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

V4 *(Traditional)*
Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease,
and 'gainst Him rise.

V4 *(Contemporary)*
In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home;
but mine the tomb wherein He lay.

V5
Here might I stay and sing– no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Scan for the recordings to sing along to both versions.

Following the Way of the Cross in Holy Week

What Christians call "Holy Week" follows the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry, from His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to His institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, to His arrest and crucifixion on Good Friday, to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. In many ways, Christianity centers on this week.

Followers of Christ have meditated upon these most holy events by following the road Jesus walked from his arrest to crucifixion to burial–sometimes call the *Via Dolorosa* ("Way of Suffering") or "Way of the Cross."

This ancient road, winding through Old City Jerusalem, marks Jesus' final steps. From as early as the 6th-century, pilgrims went to Jerusalem to follow the Way of the Cross, remembering events from the locations they likely took place. This local tradition inspired the wider devotional practice known as The Stations of the Cross, which uses Bible passages and pictures of Christ to draw worshipers from around the world into that frightful and most holy afternoon in Jerusalem.

As part of our Lent Liturgy Box, we invite our church family to walk the Way of the Cross this Holy Week. To do so, this devotional provides a morning and evening meditation from Monday through Saturday of Holy Week, following Jesus' movement from trial to crucifixion to burial. Scripture, a reflection, song, prayer and artwork help us slow down and enter into the profundity and holiness of what our Lord did for us.

Way of the Cross Devotionals:

1. March 30 Morning: Jesus condemned by Pilate *(Luke 23:18–25)*
2. March 30 Evening: Jesus Scourged and Mocked *(John 19:1–3; Matthew 27:27–31)*

3. March 31 Morning: Jesus Takes Up His Cross *(John 19:16–17)*
4. March 31 Evening: Simon of Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross *(Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21)*

5. April 1 Morning: Jesus Warns the Lamenting Women *(Luke 23:27–31)*
6. April 1 Evening: Jesus Nailed to the Cross *(Luke 23:32–33)*

7. April 2 Morning: Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothing *(Luke 23:33–35; John 19:23–24)*
8. April 2 Evening: Jesus Promises the Kingdom to the Thief *(Luke 23:39–43)*

9. April 3 Morning: Jesus Addresses His Mother and Beloved Disciple *(John 19:25–27)*
10. April 3 Evening: Jesus Cries Out to His Father *(Matthew 27:45–46)*

11. April 4 Morning: Jesus Finishes His Work and Breathes His Last *(John 19:28–30)*
12. April 4: Evening: Jesus Laid in the Tomb *(Matthew 27:57–61)*

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry

Sunday, March 29

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

2) Practice Memory Verse

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.
Ephesians 1:7-8

3) Sing Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

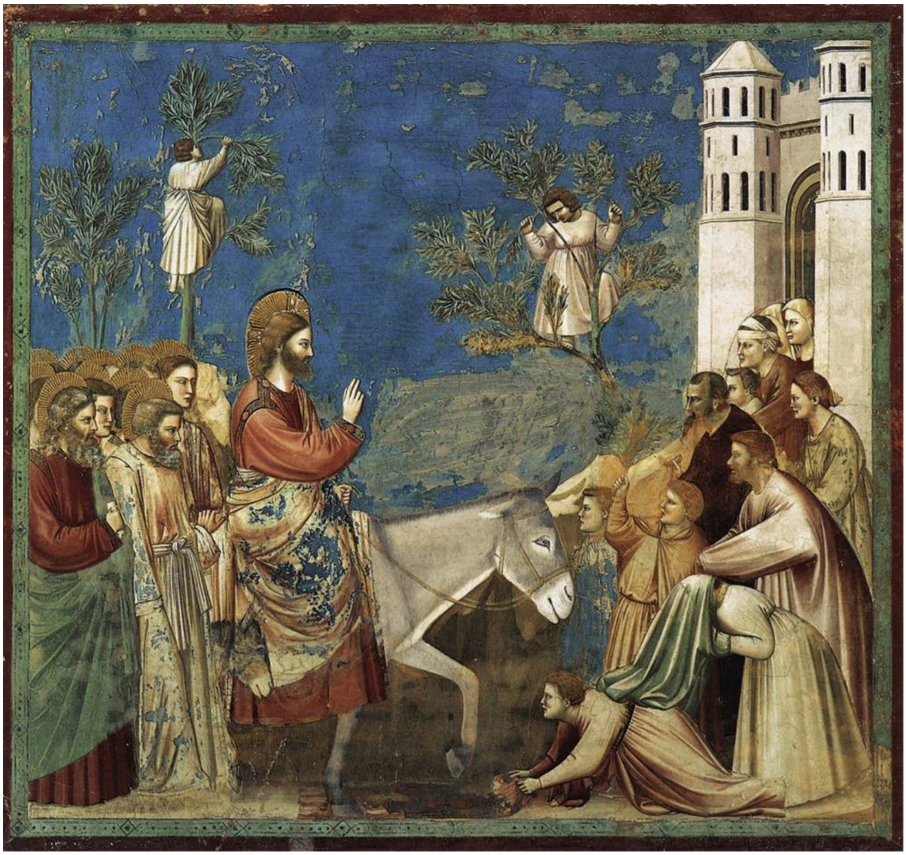
Scan here for the traditional and contemporary recordings.

4) Prayer (Collect for Palm Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

5) Practice

- Attend Palm Sunday Service (8, 9, or 11 a.m.)
- Light Ivory Candle
- Little Feast: Enjoy final purple/pink candy!



Palm Sunday
The Entry into Jerusalem by Giotto di Bondone, c. 1305

Station One: Jesus Condemned by Pilate

Monday, March 30 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Luke 23:18-25

2) Reflection: Jesus knows not a fair trial. His fate instead vacillates between an angry mob and a weak governor. Three times Pilate maintains Jesus' innocence (v. 22), but in the end acquiesces, handing Jesus over to the wolves. As His verdict sounds ("Crucify him!" v. 21), and He's delivered up (v. 25), we wonder why, "like a lamb led to the slaughter" (Is 57:3), he's silent?

Don't hear His silence as defeat or weakness. Jesus' trial is no battle of will between Him and His accusers. Jesus' battle of will occurred the night before in Gethsemane when He surrendered His to God's. Nor does His quiet acceptance of condemnation want for strength. Rather, in His trial and sentencing, Jesus begins to walk out a decision He's already made with awe-inspiring determination: "not my will, Father, but yours, be done" (Lk 22:42).

This is not to say the moment wasn't scary. As He undergoes a frightful loss of freedom and reputation and faces a terrifying ensuing torture, we might wonder where His feet searched for stability. My guess is that as Jesus began the *Via Dolorosa* ("Way of Suffering"), He drew courage from the only sure thing He had left, His Father's character and will. May it be true of His followers: "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done" (Lk 22:42, KJV).

How does Jesus' total surrender to His Father's will encourage you? How does it challenge you?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, forgive my sin before you, in thought, word and deed. My iniquity is ever before me. I recognize my rebellion against you. It haunts me day and night. Jesus, forgive my indifference to my rebellious spirit and the punishment inflicted on You for my behalf. Have mercy on me, O God. Blot out the stain of my sin. Restore me to fellowship with You. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station One: Jesus Condemned by Pilate
Ecce Homo (Behold the Man), by Antonio Ciseri, 1871

Station Two: Jesus Scourged and Mocked

Monday, March 30 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: John 19:1-3; Matthew 27:27-31

2) Reflection: Condemned by Pilate, the punishment begins. Soldiers take Jesus to the Praetorium. There they bind Him to a column, securing His-hands over His head, exposing His back. They proceed to lash Him with a three-pronged, lead-tipped whip for 40 lashes. They intend to weaken Him physically for His crucifixion. They slap His face. Mocking, calling Him the King of the Jews.

What the soldiers thought was mocking, was actually truth. Jesus was King of the Jews, but for the Romans, He was a criminal to be disposed of. Jesus absorbed their blows without complaint. He was fulfilling Isaiah 53:5, "He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed." In this physical flogging and mocking, we see a picture of how foul our sins are to God. What was justifiable for us, punishment for our rebelliousness, He, an innocent man, took upon His body.

We cannot appreciate how foul our sin is to God. Reflect on the punishment Jesus is absorbing. What does this tell you about how detestable sin is to God? His Son absorbed the brutality of the Roman soldiers that we might be made whole. Physical, emotional, and spiritual degradation for our healing. Reflect on what this says about how much God loves you.

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, forgive my sin before you, in thought, word and deed. My iniquity is ever before me. I recognize my rebellion against you. It haunts me day and night. Jesus, forgive my indifference to my rebellious spirit and the punishment inflicted on You for my behalf. Have mercy on me, O God. Blot out the stain of my sin. Restore me to fellowship with You. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station Two: Jesus Scourged and Mocked
Ecce Homo (Behold the Man), by Antonio Ciseri, 1871

Station Three: Takes up His Cross

Tuesday, March 31 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: John 19:16-17

2) Reflection: Her silver cross pendant was a gift. Weighing a gram, she often forgets it's hanging there around her neck, until she's reminded by a friend's remark of its beauty. Perhaps you wear one like it?

Besides a shared shape, the cross Jesus bears could scarcely be more different. A Roman cross used for execution was made of rough wood and could weigh 300 lbs. A strong man could scarcely carry it, let alone one worn to the bone by scourging. The crossbeam would be laid over Jesus' shoulder, wood crushing collarbone, while the tail end drags along the ground. Jesus gasps under the weight.

Spear in hand, a centurion points in the direction of Golgotha, "The Place of the Skull," some 650 yards ahead. The road's uphill and dreadfully public. Now outside the Praetorium, Jesus, falling under His cross, becomes a public spectacle.

It's fitting that our crosses—from necklaces to tattoos—weigh nothing. For we are not built to carry what our Lord did. Indeed, we imitate Him by taking up our own crosses; but what made the burden upon our Lord's shoulders so unbearable was not it's physical, but spiritual, weight: *our iniquity*. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and Yahweh has *laid upon him the iniquity of us all*" (Is 53:6).

How does the weight of Jesus' cross strike you? Are you carrying a heavy load of guilt or shame? You can put it on Him to carry.

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

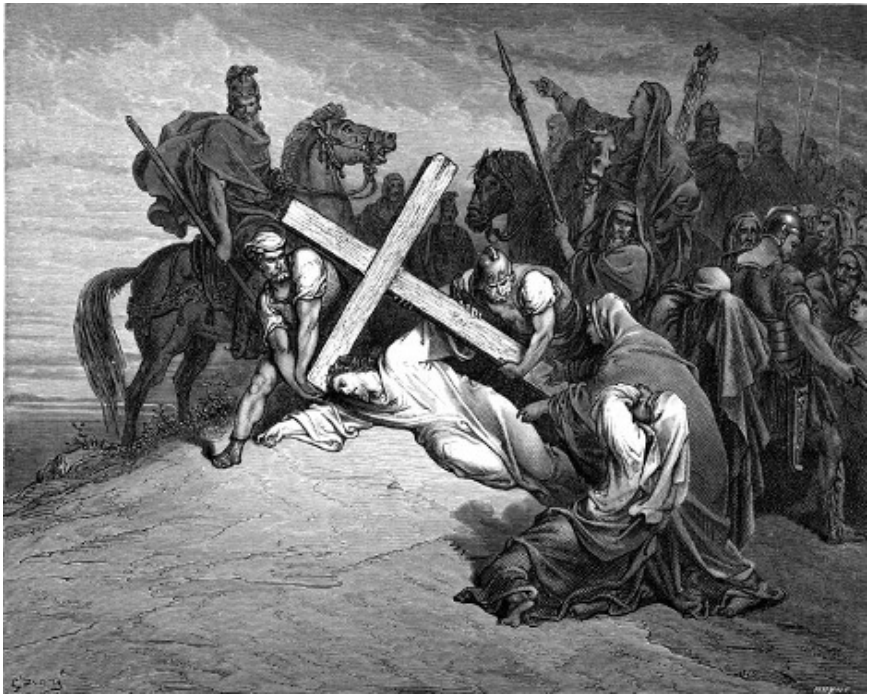
Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, the guilt and shame of our sin is so heavy; it crushes our spirit. Let us place it upon Christ our Lord, as he carries it—His Cross—to Golgotha. As we see him there, falling under this burden, may we feel our own burden is lifted, but also our hearts overwhelmed with gratitude. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle



Station Three: Jesus Takes Up His Cross
Arrival at Calvary, by Gustave Doré, 1866

Station Four: Simon of Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross

Tuesday, March 31 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21

2) Reflection: Jesus, weakened by the flogging, cannot make it up the hill with His cross. He stumbles and falls, the wooden beams of the cross pressing Him to the pavement. The Roman soldiers see Simon of Cyrene entering through the Lion's Gate. "You," they exclaim. "Help this man." Simon reluctantly bends to help. He lifts the cross to his back, staring intently into the face before Him, crown of thorns pressed into his forehead, rivulets of blood running down a swollen face. "What if they confuse me, carrying this cross, for this man, and crucify me?" He stands and takes up the cross and follows Jesus to the hill of crucifixion.

Jesus had challenged His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let Him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Simon of Cyrene, though not bearing the weight of our sin, bears the weight of this wooden cross. In this moment Simon—a man alongside Jesus, bearing a cross—is a portrait of a true disciple.

What does it mean for us to follow the Lord by taking up our cross daily? What sacrifice of service is too great for you to bear?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, Simon of Cyrene was commanded to take up the cross of your Son, to carry the instrument of His death, as an aid for the Lord. What are you calling us to, that is a sacrifice too great for us to bear, that can only be borne by your Holy Spirit strengthening us? Open our ears to hear your voice. Move our hearts to your service. Help us to pick up the cross you call us to carry so you may be lifted up before all people. To the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

5) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station Four: Simon of Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross
Simon the Cyrenian Compelled to Carry the Cross with Jesus, by James Tissot,1886-1894

Station Five: Jesus Warns the Lamenting Women

Wednesday, April 1 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Luke 23:27-31

2) Reflection: A crowd forms as Jesus makes His way to Golgotha, among which are a group of distraught women. Throughout his ministry, Jesus respected and honored women in a manner often beyond the norm of His time. Now is no different, as he addresses them tenderly, "Daughters of Jerusalem."

However, His point is not to console, but to redirect and warn. Lamentation should not be directed at Him, but at the startling reality that Jerusalem kills her Savior. And one should not wail because God allows judgment to fall upon his innocent Son ("the green wood," v. 31). Rather, one should be warned that if this be the case today, then how much worse will that judgment be that falls upon the rebellious and impenitent nations in the future ("the dry wood," v. 31)?

The lesson is twofold: First, Jesus, even on His way to death, thinks of others—worried we humans may still not see things as they really are. Second, either the judgment of the Righteous God falls on Jesus instead of us, or, if we reject the Son, there is a far worse judgment to come.

What do you think concerns Jesus most when He looks at your life, or your neighborhood, today? What might He say to you, the us?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *O Righteous God, judge of all mankind, we acknowledge your right to uphold the scales of justice. We pray that the judgment for our sins, wrongdoings, and evil, would be poured out on Christ and His cross, so that in the judgment to come, we might find shelter under your wings of mercy. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station Five: Jesus Warns the Lamenting Women
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem, relief in Church of Our Lady Across-de-Dyle, by P. J. de Cuyper

Station Six: Jesus Nailed to the Cross

Wednesday, April 1 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Luke 23:32-33

2) Reflection: They arrived at the place, the place of death. Execution by the Roman authorities. Stripped naked. Arms spread wide. Spikes 7 to 9 inches long, driven through the base of the hands. Nailing Jesus to the wooden beam. Lifted on the patibulum, hanging by His hands; the cross piece fixed to the stripe; feet nailed to foot plate. Time seeming to stand still; each breath a tortuous battle. A criminal to the right and to the left. The innocent man in the middle. The power of sin and death now nailed to a tree in the body of the Savior.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? We all were there. Our sin and guilt affixed in His body on the gibbet. All history absorbed in one moment on a hill outside the walls of Jerusalem. The grief of the Father and the Spirit as the Son absorbed the punishment due all mankind.

We were all there, but which thief might we be? The one mocking, or the one asking to be remembered by the Lord when He comes into His kingdom? Look inside your heart. Is there any part of life you're holding back from the Lord? In holding back, we mock the Lord as being insufficient to cleanse us completely.

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Prayer: *Heavenly Father. Forgive my obstinacy. My holding back. Search me. Know all of me and bring the healing balm of your Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, thank you for taking my place and the punishment I deserve. Renew a right spirit within me, so I may be with you in your Kingdom. Amen.*

5) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station Six: Jesus Nailed to the Cross
Jesus is Crucified, by Gustave Doré, 1891

Station Seven: Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothing

Thursday, April 2 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Luke 23:33-35; John 19:23-24

2) Reflection: In all likelihood and in keeping with Roman practice, Jesus was crucified naked. A related detail, which at first seems superfluous but all four Gospels include, conveys that Jesus' executioners cast dice for his clothes (Mk 15:24; Mt 27:35; Lk 23:34; Jn 19: 23f).

At a historical level, this detail becomes important when we realize it's a fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus is the forsaken man of Psalm 22, written one thousand years prior: "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots," (Jn 19:23 = Ps 22:18). Though things seem to have spiraled out of control, they are in fact unfolding "according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Ac 2:23).

At a heart level, the detail of the soldiers gambling becomes especially moving when we hear Jesus' concurrent words: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). Jesus sees more than hardened Roman soldiers when He looks down upon these seemingly callous men; He sees people made in the image of God, who, though embedded in a web of their society's evils and their own wrongdoing, still find themselves under the shadow of the Cross—where even the most unlikely of us find mercy.

Do you know anyone who seems so very far from God? Do you know that Jesus is willing to forgive them, too?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *O Lord Christ, your eyes seem always to hold mercy. Look upon us, when we are at our worst and most blind, as you did these soldiers, praying that God the Father would have mercy upon us. And Lord Christ, teach us who receive such mercy, to learn from you to also love our enemies. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Ivory Candle

Station Seven: Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothing
Jesus is Stripped of His Garments, relief in St. Antoine Church, Brussels

Station Eight: Jesus Promises the Kingdom to the Thief

Maundy Thursday, April 2 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Luke 23:39-43

2) Reflection: One criminal mocks and rails, ridiculing Jesus, "Save us and yourself if you are the Christ." Like many people, he wants God to lift him from his situation. He really doesn't care about Christ. He only cares about getting off this cross and escaping death. The other criminal, however, sees Jesus. He recognizes the justice of his punishment and the injustice of Christ's punishment. He is the guilty one; Christ, the innocent one. He then makes an amazing request, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Oftentimes we want God to act to placate our situation. We just want God to fix it. Jesus is not the fix-it man. He is our redeemer from sin and death. The second thief saw Christ for who He was and with his dying breath asked to be received into His kingdom. Christ, in agony on the cross, promises this man life with Him. Death where is your sting? (1 Co 15: 55)

Do you trust Jesus in life and in death? Reflect on what it means to be invited by Jesus into His kingdom.

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we deserve your condemnation, but in your mercy, you have forgiven us by the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ. We confess your lordship over our life and pray you would receive us into your eternal kingdom. In your name we pray. Amen.*

5) Practice

- Attend Maundy Thursday Service (7 p.m.)
- Light Ivory Candle

Station Eight: Jesus Promises the Kingdom to the Thief
Christ and Robber, by Nikolai Ge, 1893

Station Nine: Jesus Addresses His Mother and Beloved Disciple

Good Friday, April 3 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: John 19:25-27

2) Reflection: It seems that Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, passed away at some point before Jesus' public ministry. From the cross, therefore, Jesus cares for His mother by entrusting her to the disciple, who "from that hour ... took her to his own home" (v. 27). But there is almost certainly deeper symbolism at work here.

From its opening, John's Gospel announces that God is making a new family, "children of God, born not of blood or flesh, nor the will of man, but of God" (Jn 1:12f). This creation of a new family would be by the Spirit ("born of water and the Spirit," Jn 3:5) and awaited the pouring out of that Spirit when Jesus was glorified/crucified (Jn 7:38f). These promises start to burst into reality as Jesus's blood comes forth as living and renewing water. And the last act the dying Christ does is to place His mother and friend (John) into a new family.

We cannot miss that the goal of the Gospel is family. Long ago, David promised wandering Israelites that "God sets the lonely in families" (Ps 68: 6). Surely the deeper meaning of Jesus's care for His mother is to remind us all that the Church is no new institution; it's a new home.

How have you felt God's family in the local church? Who might you encourage this Sunday as we gather, remembering that Christ has given us to each other.

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *"I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" (Ep 3:14f), and ask, Jesus, that as you placed your mother and beloved disciple into a new family, that you would deepen and strengthen the familial bonds of brothers and sisters in Christ. May the lonely find a home in Your Body, the Church, O Lord. And may I, O Lord, become a brother or sister in Christ for those who long to belong, for your glory, and for the sake of your new family, the Church. Amen.*

6) Practice

Station Nine: Jesus Addresses His Mother and Beloved Disciple
Crucifixion Seen from the Cross, by James Tissot, 1890

Station Ten: Jesus Cries out to His Father

Good Friday, April 3 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Matthew 27:45-46

2) Reflection: Death spreads through Jesus's body. The sin of the world, now fully upon Him, and the consequences of that sin, kill not only his body, but separate his soul from his Father. The forsakenness of human sin is now fully experienced by Jesus. The moment He dreaded in the Garden, which caused His sweat to drop as blood, is now realized. He cries out in despair.

How ominous our situation to be forsaken by God because of our sin! We go about our daily lives oblivious to the consequences of sin. Jesus's cry of despair should shake us to our core. If we fully realized the forsakenness of our sin, we would likewise cry out in despair. But praise God for this moment in history, because we can now hold onto the promise expressed by Paul, "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 Co 5: 21). His cry of dereliction and rejection is our cry of redemption.

What does this "God-forsakenness" that Jesus experiences tell us about the consequences of sin?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Prayer: *Jesus, as we hear in our souls your cry of despair, let us also hear the words of forgiveness, that we might truly repent of our sin, so the fullness of your grace may be received in our bodies. We invite your Holy Spirit to cleanse us, to heal us, to renew us so that we may know we are not forsaken by God, but welcomed into His Kingdom, through your sacrifice on the cross. Amen*

5) Practice

- Attend Good Friday Service (12 p.m. or 7 p.m.)
- Light Black Candle
- Friday Fast (eat a simple family meal of rice and water and consider donating a meal to The Lamb Center in Fairfax, *thelambcenter.org*)

Station Ten: Jesus Cries out to His Father
The Three Crosses, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1653

Station Eleven: Jesus Finishes His Work and Breathes His Last

Holy Saturday, April 4 | Morning

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: John 19:28-30

2) Reflection: The question lurks in the back of your mind, "Have I done enough to be confident that God accepts me and will help me? Or, have I messed up too many times (just this week!) to merit His favor?" Stop asking this question; it's a dead end. Instead, emblazon these three words of Jesus across your conscience: "It is finished" (Jn 19: 30)!

The Greek word translated as "finished" also conveys the sense, "complete." Used here as the last thing Jesus says before he dies, "it is finished/complete" means something like this:

> All that the prophets foretold (2 Co 1:20), all that God sent Jesus to do (Jn 6:38), all that is necessary for you to be forgiven, hope-filled, joyful, accepted-by-God (2 Co 5:21), everything needed to set everything that's wrong, right (Cl 1:20), has been accomplished by this one man's life and sacrificial death.

And Jesus knew it. Which is why he asked for a drop of wine to loosen His tongue in order to muster the strength to address the question that we're wondering late at night: "Enough has been done," Jesus says, "by me, for you, to eliminate forever the question of whether or not God loves you." Saint Paul might add, and "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things" (Ro 8:32)?

What is necessary for you and me to have peace with God, to know that He hears our prayers and is acting for our eternal best, in Christ, "is finished." Is there anything more you need to do for forgiveness than Jesus has already done? No, "it is finished."

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

4) Practice Memory Verse
In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. **Ephesians 1:7-8**

5) Prayer: *Daily, O God, my conscience worries that I have not lived well enough to merit your mercy and love. May the words of your son, "It is finished," become the answer of my heart, any time I feel I have not lived sin-free long enough to know your care. And may these words of Jesus from the cross, forever remind me that my life with you is a gift, and may I be grateful for it. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Black Candle

Station Eleven: Jesus Finishes His Work and Breathes His Last
Christ on the Cross (from the Isenheim Altarpiece), by Matthias Grünewald, c. 1512-1516

Station Twelve: Jesus Laid in the Tomb

Holy Saturday, April 4 | Evening

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Matthew 27:57-61

2) Reflection: He died and was buried." We confess His true natural death in the Creeds. Why is that important? It demonstrates that Jesus was fully man, not a ghost, not an apparition. He did not just pass out on the cross, as some claim. Just as every crucified person died, so Jesus died. Joseph of Arimathea takes His body. He physically handles it, wraps it in grave clothes, and places it in his own tomb, and seals it with a rock. This is not some made up story. A real person, a real body, is placed and sealed in a real tomb. It is witnessed by Mary and other women, who had followed Jesus through Jerusalem to Golgotha and watched His suffering and death on the cross. At this point, things seem final. The Messiah sealed in a tomb. Not to be seen again. However, in three days, things would change forever.

At times we may act like Jesus is dead. We fail to trust Him completely; we fail to obey Him completely; we resist His transformation of our hearts. We are a practical, independent people. We can do things ourselves. So, we act like He is dead, in the tomb. But Jesus commands us, as He did Lazarus, "Come out! Take off the grave clothes" (Jn. 11:43f.). Come out to new life in Him. Remove the grave clothes of clinging sins. Be renewed. His death purchased new life for us. Let us live into the fullness of new life in Him. Are you living like Jesus is dead or alive?

3) Sing Hymn
My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman (1664)

Scan here.

5) Prayer: *Heavenly Father, fill this body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, so we might have new life in us through the promise of life we have in your Son, Jesus Christ. Forgive those times we have acted like you are dead and in the tomb through our lack of trust, disobedience and unrepentant sin. Cleanse us. Renew us. Fill us with your Spirit. In the name of your Son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

6) Practice

- Light Black Candle
- Pre-make Resurrection Rolls (See recipe on p. 32)

Station Twelve: Jesus Laid in the Tomb
Deposition of the Cross (copy), by M. Cock, 1797; original by Caravaggio

Easter Sunday: Resurrection

Sunday, April 5

The Daily Form

1) Read Daily Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

2) Practice Memory Verse

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.
Ephesians 1:7-8

3) Sing Hymn

"My Song is Love Unknown, John Crossman 1664)

Scan here.

4) Prayer (Collect for Easter Sunday)

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

5) Practice

- Attend Easter Service (Sunrise, 8:45, or 11 a.m.)
- Light White Easter Candle
- Little Feast: Enjoy Gold Reece's Cup
- Easter Feast: Resurrection Rolls (See recipe on page 32)

Easter Resurrection Rolls

These Easter Resurrection Rolls are a fun and simple way to prepare a meaningful Easter Sunday surprise helping families reflect on and celebrate the Easter feast. Consider making them on Good Friday or Holy Saturday, covering them with plastic wrap, and then popping them in the oven on Easter morning to celebrate the empty tomb!

Prep Time: 5 minutes **Cook Time:** 10 minutes
Total Time: 15 minutes **Servings:** 8 rolls

Ingredients

- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- water
- cinnamon & sugar mixed together in a bowl

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375ºF. Read John 19 while the oven is pre-heating. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
2. Unroll crescent dough and separate each triangle.
3. Have children dip marshmallow in water. The marshmallow symbolizes Jesus, who is pure and without sin. Roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture.
4. Place marshmallow in the top of the crescent roll and roll into a crescent roll shape, then secure the sides by tucking them under and pinching them closed. (Don't worry about how they look! They will be yummy!)
5. Place on prepared cookie sheet and repeat with remaining 7 rolls.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside. Read John 20:1-19 while the rolls are baking.
7. Let cool for a few minutes and then let the children pick a roll to open up. The marshmallow has disappeared; the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen!