

# **16 Reflective Holy Week Prayers**

## **To Remind Us of the Beauty of the Cross**

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Holy Week and What does the Bible Say about Holy Week?



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**Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Philippians 2:8



*God's Elect Ministries*

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# Holy Week

## Holy Week Prayer

is a practice Christians find helpful to focus our thoughts and prepare our hearts during the time we mark the most pivotal events of our [faith](#). In these years impacted by social-distancing and pandemic modifications of our worship traditions, it's more important than ever to develop a personal tradition of prayer and meditation during this holy time. It can be helpful to connect with a small group of like-minded believers to pray together in person or virtually.

***[“What Is Holy Week and What does the Bible Say about Holy Week?”](#)***

Traditionally, Holy week begins each year with a celebration of Palm Sunday. Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy (or Spy) Wednesday follow. Then the week intensifies with [Maundy Thursday](#), Good Friday, Holy (or Black) Saturday, and finally, Resurrection Sunday—Easter!

[Palm Sunday](#) commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling Messianic prophecy from [Zechariah 9:9](#) and recorded in [Matthew 21:1-11](#), [Mark 11:1-11](#), [Luke 19:28-44](#),

The primary event of [Holy Monday](#) recorded in all four gospels is [Jesus' clearing the temple](#) and chastising the moneychangers. ([Matthew 21:12](#), [Mark 11:15](#), [Luke 19](#), and [John 2:13-17](#)).

On [Holy Tuesday](#), Jesus and His followers traveled to the Mount of Olives where He delivered [the Olivet Discourse](#), touching on the destruction of the temple and signs of the end of the age. This is recorded in all four gospels, as well. ([Matthew 21:23–Matthew 24:51](#), [Mark 11:20–Mark 13:37](#), [Luke 20:1–Luke 21:36](#), and [John 12:20](#)).

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We have one biblical story from what many refer to as “silent” Wednesday. [Matthew 26:6-13](#) describes a woman anointing Jesus with expensive perfume at the home of Simon the Leper in Bethany. Immediately after this, Judas struck his deal to betray Jesus to the Pharisees (which is why some traditions refer to it as “Spy” Wednesday).

On [Maundy Thursday](#), we know Jesus washed His disciples’ feet, celebrated the Passover with them, and retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, faced with the agony of the cross that lay ahead. It was there in the garden that Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. Read about the events of this day in [Matthew 26:17–75](#), [Mark 14:12-72](#), [Luke 22:7-62](#), and [John 13:1-38](#).

Jesus’ arrest and trial began in the early morning hours of [Good Friday](#). It was on this day, He faced Pontius Pilate, Herod, the crowd demanding His crucifixion, the betrayal of Peter, and abandonment by His followers. He was mistreated, beaten, flogged, and eventually crucified in our place. He was laid in the tomb provided by [Joseph of Arimathea](#). These events are recorded in [Matthew 27:1-62](#), [Mark 15:1-47](#), [Luke 22:63-23](#), and [John 18:28-19](#).

On Saturday, Jesus’ body lay in the tomb. It was through His death He paid the price for our sin, but He defeated death. Read about this day in these passages: [Matthew 27:62-66](#), [Mark 16:1](#), [Luke 23:56](#), and [John 19:40](#).

On Easter morning, the women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body to find the stone was rolled away and Jesus had risen from the dead as He said He would. We celebrate His resurrection every year with joyful worship! Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to life eternal. The gospel writers record these events in [Matthew 28:1-13](#), [Mark 16:1-14](#), [Luke 24:1-49](#), and [John 20:1-23](#).

### **Why Is it Important to Prepare Our Hearts for Easter?**

Jesus’ actions during Holy Week are the culmination of generations of longing for the coming Messiah—God’s promised Redeemer. As we prepare to celebrate His resurrection, we are reminded that our forgiveness was bought with a price. We humble ourselves and recommit our lives to Jesus and to proclaiming His kingdom come to our generation and the next. [Prayer positions us](#) to be open to the work of His Holy Spirit in our lives and to revive our hearts in Christ.

# Holy Week 2021

Year	Holy Week starts on	Holy Week ends on
Holy Week 2016	Sunday March 20, 2016	Saturday March 26, 2016
Holy Week 2017	Sunday April 9, 2017	Saturday April 15, 2017
Holy Week 2018	Sunday March 25, 2018	Saturday March 31, 2018
Holy Week 2019	Sunday April 14, 2019	Saturday April 20, 2019
Holy Week 2020	Sunday April 5, 2020	Saturday April 11, 2020
<b>Holy Week 2021</b>	<b>Sunday March 28, 2021</b>	<b>Saturday April 3, 2021</b>
Holy Week 2022	Sunday April 10, 2022	Saturday April 16, 2022
Holy Week 2023	Sunday April 2, 2023	Saturday April 8, 2023
Holy Week 2024	Sunday March 24, 2024	Saturday March 30, 2024
Holy Week 2025	Sunday April 13, 2025	Saturday April 19, 2025
Holy Week 2026	Sunday March 29, 2026	Saturday April 4, 2026

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## 16 Prayers for Holy Week

### One for Each Day, Morning and Evening

March 28, 2021

#### Palm Sunday:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, Your Word is true, and You are faithful. You promised salvation through the Messiah and today we remember that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of our promised Redeemer. We acknowledge our need for salvation from our sins and rejoice that Jesus is our Deliverer. We celebrate Him today as King and ask that His Kingdom come in our lives, too. We praise You now and will praise You throughout the coming day, in Jesus' name. Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, thank You that Jesus came humbly, riding on a donkey, proclaiming peace. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for peace in our times. Make us instruments of your peace and guide us in the ministry of reconciliation. Our hearts bring loved ones to mind who have yet to acknowledge Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for their own sins. May they find peace in You as we have, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Chronicles 16:11

Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.

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March 29, 2021

## Holy Monday:



**Morning prayer:** Father God, Jesus declared that Your house would be a house of prayer. We are [like living stones being built up as a spiritual house](#). Remind us today to pray without ceasing. This morning we confess our need for you and bring all our cares and concerns before Your throne. May we bring You honor and glory today with our thoughts, words, and actions. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Evening prayer:** Father God, we remember Jesus' prayer from the cross for forgiveness for those who placed Him there. Thank you for bearing our sins and forgiving us every day. Tonight, we forgive the people who have sinned against us. Fill our hearts with the love, mercy, and grace that held You on that cross for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### 1 John 5:15

**And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him.**

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**March 30, 2021**

**Holy Tuesday:**



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, You promised a [Messiah](#) and He came, just as You said. We trust that we can count on His promised return when we will join Him forever. Make us people whose word can be trusted and who are faithful, in love, to You, to our families, and to our neighbors. Increase our faith and boldness to proclaim the truth of Jesus to the world. In His Name, we pray, Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, as our day ends, we recall the cross and the obedience Jesus demonstrated at Calvary. We fall so far short in our attempts at obedience but because of Jesus, we can confess our sins and know You are faithful to forgive. Tonight, we rest in that faithful forgiveness and thank you, again, for your plan of redemption. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Ephesians 1:18**

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people,

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March 31, 2021

## Holy Wednesday:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, as [the woman in Bethany](#) anointed Jesus with perfume, so we demonstrate our devotion through praise today. You are holy and just. You are beautiful and wise. You are merciful and full of grace. We praise the beautiful name of Jesus. We rejoice in You today and in Your Son. In Jesus' name, we pray, full of praise, Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, As Jesus offered Himself for us on the cross, so we offer our lives to You. Make us [the aroma of Christ](#). May the words we speak, the actions we take, and the inner workings of our hearts bring You joy. May our prayers rise like pleasing incense to Your throne. We live for Christ who died for us and lives forevermore. In His name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## Mark 11:24

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.



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April 1, 2021

## Maundy Thursday:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, Jesus demonstrated humble service in washing the feet of the apostles and humble obedience in submitting to Your will. May we be like Him today as we serve those around us and live for You. We humble ourselves before You. Show us how to live sacrificially and to extend ourselves for the poor, for the outcast, and for those who suffer around the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, tonight we remember [the agony of Jesus](#) as He wept and prayed in Gethsemane. How He faced betrayal and desertion by those closest to Him. How He was mistreated, falsely accused, and beaten. How He was silent before His accusers and suffered all, to bring us life. We are humbled and full of gratitude. We are awed and full of love. We surrender all to You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Psalm 17:6

I call on You, my God, for You will answer me; turn Your ear to me and hear my prayer.

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April 2, 2021

## Good Friday:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, how can we thank you enough for the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross of Calvary? Your plan of salvation is beautiful, and we rejoice that You've made a way for us to be in a relationship with You and to live with You forever. How we long for the world to know the truth and to participate in the redemption of Jesus Christ! We intercede this morning for all who don't know You that they may hear the gospel and that their hearts would be fertile soil to receive the truth of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, tonight we are awed at the mystery of Christ's death and all that He accomplished for us on the cross. We are humbled at such amazing love that gives all so that we might live. Jesus announced on the cross that "It is finished" and so tonight, we rest in faith that His sacrifice covers our sins. His grace is sufficient for us and for that we are truly thankful. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Matthew 5:44

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

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April 3, 2021

## Silent Saturday:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, we can't begin to understand the mystery of this day when Jesus' body [lay in the tomb](#) and the disciples waited together in wonder and in prayer. For all those times when we can't see You at work, for all the hours of waiting between prayers and answers, for all the times we walk by faith, we thank You that You're patient with our restless wondering. You are at work even when we don't see. Increase our faith, in Jesus' name. Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, tonight we come before You with silence. In the stillness, may we sense Your presence and know You are near. Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. We know this full well. He demonstrated His love on the cross and we receive that love tonight. We praise You and honor You in silence and in peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## 2 Chronicles 7:14

**if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**

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April 4, 2021

## Resurrection Sunday—Easter:



**Morning Prayer:** Father God, we rejoice! With all creation, we rejoice in You, in Your Son, and in Your Holy Spirit! Jesus is alive and we celebrate His life. His life is eternal, and we live because of Him! May Jesus' resurrection be apparent in our life today and every day! Hallelujah! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! In Jesus' name, we pray and rejoice! Amen.



**Evening Prayer:** Father God, our desire is for You today and every day. As Holy Week draws to a close, we renew our commitment to live for Jesus, who died for us and rose again. May our lives testify to the truth of Jesus and point the world toward His sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection, and to His anticipated return. Maranatha, Lord Jesus! Come soon. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### Romans 12:2

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.**