

Holy Week
READING PLAN

FROM THE
CROSS TO THE
EMPTY TOMB

WEEK OF MARCH 30 - APRIL 5, 2026

1 PETER

2:24

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK

*“He himself bore our sins
in his body on the cross, so
that we might die to sins
and live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have
been healed.”*

1 PETER 2:24

Spend a few minutes each day repeating this verse aloud slowly.
Ask the Lord to make it true in you, not merely known by you.

Holy Week

WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY MARCH 30TH 2026 THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH 2026

FROM THE CROSS TO AN EMPTY TOMB

Holy Week invites us to slow down and walk carefully through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry. These are not merely the closing scenes of a tragic story. They are the climactic moments in the saving work of God. What unfolds between the upper room and the empty tomb is the very center of the gospel. Jesus does not stumble into suffering as a victim of circumstance. He walks toward the cross with full awareness, complete authority, and unwavering love. Every word, every step, every act of surrender reveals the heart of God for sinners.

This week we will trace the movement of Christ from table to garden, from trial to crucifixion, from burial to resurrection. We will see His humility, His obedience, His sorrow, His courage, His sacrifice, and His triumph. We will also be confronted with the deeply personal reality that the events of Holy Week are not simply historical moments to admire from a distance. They demand a response. The cross exposes our sin, but it also reveals God's love. The resurrection declares that sin, death, and hell do not have the final word. In Jesus, forgiveness is offered, shame is defeated, and new life is made possible.

As you read this week, resist the urge to rush ahead to Easter morning too quickly. Sit with the weight of the betrayal, the loneliness, the injustice, and the suffering. Let the darkness of Good Friday make the dawn of Resurrection Sunday shine even brighter. Holy Week reminds us that the God who entered Jerusalem in humility, hung on a cross in love, and rose from the grave in power is still the One who meets us today. He is not only the Savior of the world. He is the Savior who gave Himself for us.

HOLY WEEK READING PLAN

1 PETER 2:24

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

The King Who Comes in Humility

READ

John 12:12–19; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:19–29; Philippians 2:5–11; Luke 19:41–44

REFLECT

Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a war horse, but on a donkey. He comes not as the kind of king many expected, but as the kind of king humanity truly needed. The crowd shouts with joy, waves branches, and declares His praise, yet many still misunderstand the nature of His mission. They want liberation without surrender, victory without repentance, and a kingdom without a cross. Jesus receives their praise, but He also sees beyond the surface. Luke tells us that as He approaches the city, He weeps. Even in His triumphal entry, sorrow is present, because He knows how quickly public celebration can turn into public rejection.

Holy Week begins by reminding us that the kingdom of God does not arrive in the ways we naturally imagine. Jesus is not driven by spectacle, ego, or force. He comes in humility, peace, and obedience. The same Christ who rides into Jerusalem as King will soon kneel to wash feet, submit to betrayal, and carry a cross. His authority is real, but it is clothed in gentleness. His glory is genuine, but it is revealed through surrender. To welcome Jesus rightly means receiving Him as He truly is, not merely as we wish Him to be.

QUESTIONS

- Are you welcoming Jesus for who He truly is, or only for what you hope He will do for you?
- What does Christ's humility reveal about the kind of King He is?

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

The Table of Love and Betrayal

READ

John 13:1–30; Exodus 12:1–14; Psalm 41:9; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Romans 5:6–8

REFLECT

The upper room is filled with tension. Jesus knows that His hour has come. He knows the cross is near. He knows one of His closest followers will betray Him. Yet in this moment, instead of protecting Himself, He stoops to wash the feet of His disciples. This act of lowly service reveals the shape of His love. It is patient, self-giving, and entirely undeserved. Even Judas, who is already moving toward betrayal, is not outside the reach of Jesus' kindness in the room. The table becomes a place where both grace and treachery are present at the same time.

There is something deeply searching about this passage. It reminds us that proximity to Jesus is not the same as surrender to Jesus. Judas shared meals, heard teaching, witnessed miracles, and still chose darkness. At the same time, the table also reminds us that Jesus does not give Himself only to the strong and faithful. He gives Himself to weak, confused, inconsistent disciples. Holy Week invites us to examine our hearts honestly. It also invites us to marvel at the fact that Christ's love does not shrink back even when betrayal, denial, and failure are in the room.

QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus' posture at the table teach you about His love?
- Where do you need to let Christ search your heart more honestly this week?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

The Agony of the Garden

READ

Matthew 26:36–46; Luke 22:39–46; Hebrews 5:7–10; Psalm 42:1–11; Isaiah 53:3–6

REFLECT

Gethsemane gives us one of the most vulnerable windows into the humanity of Jesus. He is sorrowful, distressed, and deeply burdened. He does not rush toward suffering with emotional detachment. He feels the full weight of what is before Him. He prays honestly. He asks if the cup might pass. Yet ultimately, He yields Himself to the will of the Father. This is not weakness. It is perfect obedience. In the garden, Jesus does what Adam failed to do. He submits His will entirely to God, even at unimaginable cost.

Many believers find comfort in the honesty of Gethsemane. Jesus knows what it is to grieve, to dread pain, and to carry overwhelming sorrow. He is not distant from human anguish. Yet the garden also shows us that prayer is not merely the place where our circumstances are changed. It is the place where we are strengthened to remain faithful to God in the midst of them. Jesus rises from prayer resolved to obey. The garden reminds us that surrender is rarely easy, but it is always holy.

QUESTIONS

- What does Gethsemane teach you about Jesus' obedience and humanity?
- Where is God inviting you to trust Him even when obedience feels costly?

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

The Innocent One Condemned

READ

John 18:28–40; John 19:1–16; Isaiah 53:7–12; 1 Peter 2:21–24; Acts 3:13–15

REFLECT

The trial scenes of Holy Week are filled with irony. The innocent Christ is treated as guilty, while guilty men pronounce judgment upon Him. Pilate knows Jesus has committed no crime, yet he caves to public pressure. The crowd chooses Barabbas over Christ. The religious leaders, who should have recognized the Messiah, reject Him. Every part of the scene reveals the disorder of the human heart. Truth stands before them in flesh and blood, and they choose falsehood. The Holy One is condemned so the unholy may be spared.

Yet even here, Jesus is not helpless. John's Gospel repeatedly emphasizes His authority. He is not dragged unwillingly into suffering. He lays down His life. He remains composed while others rage around Him because He knows the cross is not an interruption of God's plan but the fulfillment of it. This is what makes the injustice of the trial so profound. Human beings are doing their worst, and God is accomplishing His saving best. The condemnation of Christ becomes the pathway for our acquittal.

QUESTIONS

- How does the injustice of Jesus' trial deepen your understanding of His sacrifice?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus was condemned in your place?

Good
FRIDAY

APRIL 3, 2026
It Is Finished

READ

John 19:16–37; Psalm 22:1–31; Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Colossians 2:13–15; 2 Corinthians 5:21

REFLECT

Good Friday confronts us with the horror of sin and the wonder of grace. Jesus is beaten, mocked, pierced, and lifted up before the world. The One through whom all things were made hangs on a cross under the weight of human rebellion. Yet John makes clear that even in death, Jesus remains in control. He knows the Scriptures are being fulfilled. He speaks intentionally. And when He cries out, “It is finished,” He is not admitting defeat. He is declaring completion. The work the Father gave Him to do has been accomplished.

The cross is not simply an example of love. It is an act of atonement. Jesus bears sin, absorbs wrath, and secures redemption. The debt we could never pay is paid in full by Him. The record that stood against us is canceled. Good Friday forces us to abandon any shallow view of salvation. We were not rescued by inspiration, but by substitution. Christ did not die merely to move us emotionally. He died to save us decisively. That is why the cross remains at the center of Christian faith and worship.

QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus’ declaration, “It is finished,” mean for the way you relate to God?
- How does the cross expose both the seriousness of sin and the greatness of grace?

SATURDAY APRIL 4, 2026

The Silence of the Tomb

READ

Matthew 27:57–66; John 19:38–42; Lamentations 3:21–26; Psalm 130; Romans 6:3–11

REFLECT

Holy Saturday is the day of silence, waiting, and unresolved grief. Jesus has been buried. The stone is in place. The disciples are scattered. Hope seems buried in the same tomb as Christ's body. This is the day between promise and fulfillment, the day when God seems quiet. Scripture does not rush us past this moment, and neither should we. There are seasons in life that feel like Holy Saturday—times when what God has promised seems hidden, when prayers feel unanswered, and when darkness seems to have the upper hand.

Yet even in the silence, God is not absent. Holy Saturday teaches us that divine activity often continues even when human sight cannot perceive it. The grave is not the end of the story, though it feels final in the moment. Waiting is one of the hardest spiritual disciplines because it forces us to trust God without visible evidence. But the silence of Saturday makes the triumph of Sunday even more glorious. The God who seems still is often preparing resurrection.

QUESTIONS

- Where in your life are you living in the tension of Holy Saturday right now?
- How does this day encourage you to trust God when you cannot yet see what He is doing?

Easter
SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026
The Stone Is Rolled Away

READ

John 20:1–18; Matthew 28:1–10; 1 Corinthians 15:20–26; Romans 8:9–11; Revelation 1:17–18

REFLECT

Easter morning shatters the silence of the grave. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Death has not held Jesus. The resurrection is not merely a hopeful symbol. It is a historical, bodily, world-changing event. Christ is alive. The same Jesus who was crucified now stands as the risen Lord over sin, death, and hell. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb in grief and leaves with a commission. The disciples move from fear to astonishment. Everything changes because Jesus is not in the grave.

The resurrection means more than life after death. It means that the power of the age to come has broken into the present. It means forgiveness is real, hope is alive, and the new creation has begun. It means the cross worked. It means the Father accepted the Son's sacrifice. It means those who belong to Christ do not merely survive death—they will be raised through Him. Easter is not the end of the Christian story. It is the beginning of resurrection life.

QUESTIONS

- What does the resurrection of Jesus change about the way you face fear, suffering, or death?
- Where do you need the hope of the empty tomb to reshape your heart today?