

## Holy Week

*We begin the holiest week of the Church Year. During these upcoming days the climatic events of our salvation, namely the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, will once again be made present for us as the Church remembers those events.*

### **Monday in Holy Week—March 21**

*Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7 John 12:1-11*

Reflection: Mary took the most precious thing she had and spent it all on Jesus. Her love was not calculated but extravagant. Mary's action was motivated by her love for Jesus which is expressed in her gratitude. Mary was oblivious to all around her, except for Jesus. She took no thought for what others would think.

Jesus showed us God's love in giving his life for our sake. Today we reflect on how we show Jesus our love and gratitude. We reflect on how we allow the love of Jesus to touch our hearts and affect our lives.

*Prayer: "Give us, Lord, a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation, dullness in prayer. Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you and your grace, your tender compassion towards me. The things we pray for, good Lord, give us grace to labour for: through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Prayer of Sir Thomas More),*

### **Tuesday in Holy Week—March 22**

*Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6 John 13: 21-38*

Reflection: Today we are reminded of our need to consult and include Jesus in the pursuit of our goals. We need his strength if we are to complete the good we seek to do.

There may be a very good reason why Jesus cautioned Peter about trying to follow him into the passion before Jesus himself had risen from the dead. There may be a very good reason why we need to be very careful about setting goals for ourselves before we have spend sufficient time in prayer, reflection and worship in the presence of Jesus. It may be that we, like the first disciples, need to spend time with Jesus before we begin any important task.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, Help me to remember to spend time with your Son before I begin important projects in my life. I ask this in Jesus' name.*

### **Wednesday in Holy Week—March 23**

*Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9 Matthew 26: 14-25*

Reflection: “If Jesus knew that Judas would betray him, why didn’t he have Judas removed? Why didn’t he turn his back on Judas?” Jesus, in not turning Judas away from himself, reveals the God who not only desires to be with us when we do the “right” thing, but also the God who wants to be with us in all the aspects of our lives...even those aspects in which we've botched things up. In Jesus we do not meet a God who desires that we reach some state of perfection before he will be with us; rather we find a God who is willing to work with us as we journey through life as real flawed human beings.

In Jesus we find a God who desires to be with us as we make that journey. Our journey may at times be challenging. We may stumble and fall. We may even take a wrong turn or two along the way. God will not give up on us. God is determined to be with us and wants us to be with him.

*Prayer: Father, through your Son Jesus you are with me in all things. Help me to know that you are with me in my failures and mistakes as well as in my accomplishments and successes. I ask this in Jesus’ name.*

## The Three Days of Easter

*The Season of Lent has come to an end. During the days of Lent we have tried to “observe a holy Lent” and to be aware of God’s presence with us—by “self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, alms-giving and by reading and meditating on the word of God.” (Book of Alternative Services—page 282)*

*And now, beginning with Maundy Thursday and continuing through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter we enter into “The Paschal Triduum”—the three days of Easter as the historical event of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus through whom we have been redeemed is most celebrated in the Church. These three days are the culmination of the Church Year. A worship experience—a time spent with God that gives full expression to our identity as Christians who worship in the Anglican spiritual tradition.*

**Maundy Thursday March 24**—7:30 p.m. The Institution of the Lord’s Supper—Jesus’ new commandment that we love one another as he has loved us—Jesus journeys to Gethsemane.

*Readings: John 13:1-15 Matthew 26:17-46*

Reflection: We see the interdependence that exists between Jesus giving himself to us in the Eucharist and our call as his church to give of ourselves to others. It is in both actions together that Jesus is present with us.

*Prayer: Father, through your Son, you have become part of serving others. Help me to lay aside my personal agendas-- help me to go beyond an attitude of “what can I get out of this?”-- when I gather with others to be nourished by Jesus in the Eucharist. Help me to find Jesus in both the Eucharist and in the acts of care and service done by your Church*

**Good Friday March 25 —The Crucifixion of Jesus--10:00 a.m.**

*Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 John 18:1-19:42*

Reflection: The Passion account in John is a narrative of how the Word of God made flesh—Jesus—became immersed in all of human life.

*Prayer: Father, through the passion and death of your Son Jesus you revealed your willingness to be with me in the most critical aspects of human life. Help me to fully accept my humanity so as to be with Jesus in all that is human. I ask this in Jesus' name.*

**Holy Saturday March 26—Acceptance**

*Readings: I Peter 3:17- 22 Matthew 27: 57-66*

Reflection: From the conclusion of the Good Friday service until the Holy Communion at 5:00 on Saturday we observe Holy Saturday. In our spiritual tradition, we believe that on Holy Saturday Jesus “descended to the dead” (Apostle’s Creed) to proclaim the good news of salvation (1 Peter 3:19). No-one was or is or ever will be out of the reach of the saving power of Jesus. Jesus was, is and always will be the Saviour of the world, whose healing forgiving, reconciling love is accessible to all, across all time and all space. There is an icon that depicts Christ breaking down the doors of hell, grasping the wrists of Adam and Eve and lifting them victoriously toward heaven. Adam and Eve do nothing to help. Today we are reminded of a very powerful reality. God, in Jesus, revealed himself to be the God who can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Adam and Eve’s salvation, like ours, like all humanity’s-- is a gift from God in the person of Jesus. All we need do is accept the gift and let it affect our lives. Such acceptance is what we, as Christians, are about between Good Friday and Easter.

*Prayer: Father, through the resurrection of your Son Jesus, you are doing for me what I cannot do for myself. Help me to accept my limitations and imperfections, so that through such acceptance I can experience the victory of the Risen Jesus in my life. I ask this in Jesus' name.*

**Easter Sunday—March 27—The Resurrection of Jesus**

Saturday (March 26) 5:00 Holy Communion

Easter Sunday—8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Easter Monday—March 28—Community Dinner—12:45 p.m.**