

MARCH 28-30, 2024  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY



*Jesus gives a new commandment.*

## HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The crucifixion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

*He [Jesus] came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:6-7 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Holy Week:**

Holy God, in the betrayal, abandonment, suffering and death of Jesus we see the depth of your love and mercy; give us faith to trust in your saving work through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, as you give us this food, also give us hearts and minds to receive your saving work with gladness and your call to love and serve others with boldness. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the power of Christ's love be your strength.



MARCH 28-30, 2024  
HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

*Great God, Your Love  
Has Called Us*

## HOLY WEEK MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you hear the word "service," who or what comes to mind?
- How is washing dirty feet an example of Jesus' service and power?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Maundy (meaning *commandment*) Thursday identifies the day Jesus gives a new commandment and is the beginning of Jesus' glorification. Since John 2:4 when Jesus told his mother, Mary, "*My hour has not yet come,*" he made it clear that there would be for him a defining moment in his future. That moment, that hour, has now come. It is the night of Jesus' betrayal by Judas when Jesus gives a new commandment to love one another as Jesus has loved them. The example of that love is seen in washing the disciples' feet. Peter thought it was too humiliating for a teacher to stoop so low. Jesus said that later Peter would understand. That delayed understanding would come with Jesus' glorification through his death, resurrection, and ascension. Later, Peter—and the other disciples—would discover that Jesus would stoop even lower and yet rise even higher. Jesus' humiliation from the cross sets the stage for his followers to understand loving service as the height of glory in Jesus' realm.

*Discuss:* How does Jesus' example of loving service encourage you to serve?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, it is your will to save us through your steadfast love; help us to live Jesus' commandment to love that others may know of your glory and saving work. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Holy Week Readings and theme for this week, how can you serve others with a loving heart?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Read John 18:1–19:42 or for children, read about the betrayal and death of Jesus in a storybook Bible. At the point in the reading when the death of Jesus is described, snuff out the candles and sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

*Then pray:* **Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms in love for us. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love and serve others. Amen.**

