



**Holy Week**

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**Scripture Reading and  
Reflection Booklet**

## Purpose

This Holy Week booklet is designed to help you reflect on Jesus' last week and ultimately his death for our sins. Our sins cost him *everything*. He had to pay a heavy price to redeem us. So, this week is a chance to reflect on our personal sin and the effect it had on him.

For each day, begin by reading the account from Matthew's gospel of the last day of Jesus' life. As you read it, pay attention to all the details. We want to see, and more importantly, to *feel* what it cost him. Put yourself in his situation. *Feel* the internal pain of all that he goes through: the pain of betrayal, desertion, mocking, beatings, being shamed, being doubted, being lied about, being put on a trial unjustly, having false charges brought against him, and being sentenced to death though innocent.

Then reflect on the Scripture that follows. Each day's Scripture reading talks about our sin. Read through the verses prayerfully, asking God to speak to you about the sins that you most struggle with. Circle words. Underline phrases. Then write a brief reflection on your thoughts. Perhaps it will be a confession or a request for inner transformation. Again, see the ugliness of that sin and feel the weight of it; for it was on the cross that he bore the weight of our sin and took the penalty of our sin upon himself.

But we also want to *feel* and *internalize* the reality of the forgiveness that he bought for us on the cross! Remember that in his death, he was not only ❶ taking care of my **objective guilt** (the legal verdict of "guilty as charged" and "deserving of punishment") but also ❷ taking care of my **subjective guilt** (the ongoing feelings of guilt and shame and regret for our past sins). That subjective part can be the hard part to remember. But the reality is that Jesus died so that our hearts can be "*cleansed* from a guilty conscience" so that we might have "*confidence* to enter the Most Holy Place" and can "*draw near* to God *with... full assurance.*" This week, remind yourself that Jesus was not only dying for my initial access and acceptance but also for my *ongoing, experiential* access and acceptance!

If we truly accept this, then our approach to God would be one of *boldness*. A boldness that is not based upon my own merit or performance but only on the Cross... on Jesus' work and his merit! So, this week as you read, spend some time reflecting on the Scriptures that communicate in word pictures the depth of the forgiveness that we receive in Jesus! **And through that, let us reclaim the absolute sufficiency of the blood of Christ for both my objective and subjective guilt!**

We strongly encourage you to come to out **Maundy Thursday service on Thursday at 7:00 pm**. Join us as we observe communion on the same night Jesus had his last supper. If you come, bring your booklet with you. We also encourage you to take **The Journey to the Cross** that we will have open **on Friday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm**. We believe that both will enhance your reflections this week and prepare you for a grand celebration on Easter Sunday!!!

## Sunday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus' Arrest

Matthew 26:47-50, 55-57: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.


In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled.

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Colossians 3:5-10: Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

 Reflection/Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 34:22: The Lord will rescue his servants; **no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

## Monday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

Matthew 26:59-60, 62-68: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.


Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.

Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?"

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2 Timothy 3:2-5: People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power.

 Reflection/Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Micah 7:19: You will again have compassion on us; **you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.**

## Tuesday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14, 22-23, 26: Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.


Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

Then he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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Romans 1:29-32: They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

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Psalms 103:12: *As far as the east is from the west*, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.


## Wednesday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus is Scourged

Matthew 27:27-31: Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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Ephesians 4:25-31: Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

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Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

## Thursday Reading and Reflection


### Jesus on the Cross

Matthew 27:32-44: As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

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Galatians 5:19-21: The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

 Reflection/Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Job 14:16-17: Surely then you will count my steps but not keep track of my sin. [My offenses will be sealed up in a bag; you will cover over my sin.](#)



**Attend the 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service** where we will remember Jesus last supper and will have communion. [Bring your booklet with you](#) as your reflections will play a part in the service.

## Good Friday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus’ Death

Matthew 27:45-50, 54-56: From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthan?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”


And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

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Proverbs 6:16-19: There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

 Reflection/Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Attend the Journey to the Cross in the church’s main auditorium.** It will be open from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Follow Jesus’ path toward the cross and reflect upon the price he had to pay to offer forgiveness for your sins.

## Saturday Reading and Reflection

### The Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:57-61: As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

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Mark 7:15-23: Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them.

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."



Reflection/Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jeremiah 31:34: "No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

## Easter Sunday Reading and Reflection

### Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20: After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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Colossians 2:13-14: At one time you were spiritually dead because of your sins.... But God has now made you spiritually alive with [Jesus]. **God forgave us all our sins. He canceled the unfavorable record of our debts against Him and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.**

Romans 4:25: Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.

**Give thanks to God for his forgiveness of your sins and the new life he has given you. Rejoice in Jesus' death and especially in his resurrection!**

Romans 6:4: We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.