

# HOLY WEEK

2022



# Holy Week 2022

Thank you for taking the time to join us during this Holy Week. Holy week is Jesus' final week among us before his death, burial, and resurrection. It is a time for us to reflect upon his life and ministry while eagerly looking forward to the culmination of his ministry on Easter morning. It's a time that gives us the opportunity to draw near to God and reflect upon our spiritual condition at this time.

This devotional guide has been written to give you time to focus upon the coming celebration of Easter. Each day has a brief devotion and space for you to write out what God is saying to you after reading each day. All you'll need for this is a bible, a pen, and an open heart.

We've also provided daily videos available on facebook and youtube that you can watch each day to learn a bit more about Holy Week and see the ministry of Jesus in action. We encourage you to watch these each day to better understand the timeline of this week.

These devotions have been written by local pastors in park circle.. Each of these men have spent a great deal of time writing these devotions so that you might be blessed by the word of God. If you have a moment, say thank you to the following men:

Bryan Ayer  
Walter Brigman  
Hayden Jacobs  
David Johnson  
Jeremy Mullen  
Brett Pagan  
Mark Timmons  
Craig Tuck

## How to use this guide

As you are reading this advent season, you may be wondering: how can I use this guide to its fullest extent?

Our recommendations are simple.

First, take a few minutes each day and spend time reading both the guide and the passage the devotion is based on  
Second, ask a few simple questions after reading and write down the answers. The questions are:

What am I called to do after reading this?  
Who am I called tell this truth to?  
Where am I called to go because of this passage?  
When am I going to go do this?  
Why is this truth important to my life?  
How am I going to live differently because of this truth

Finally, take a few minutes after reading and writing to pray. Ask God to fill you with his spirit and live in accordance to his word.

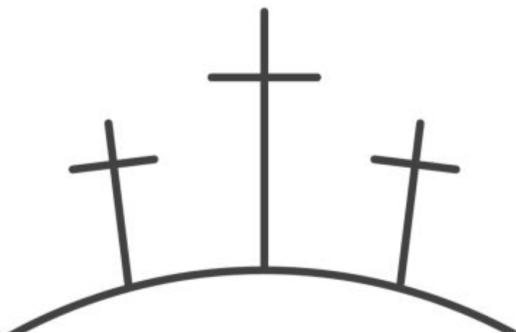
Blessings to you and your family this advent season

# Good Friday

Each year, we are honored to partner together in the annual Good Friday service here in Park Circle. It's a beautiful, moving service where we reflect upon the 7 sayings of the cross. These words are directly from our savior and teach us much as we study what he felt we needed to hear in the final moments of his life.

This is a special service that we would love to have you attend with us. We will be at Friendship Baptist Church on April 15th beginning at 6:30pm. There is no childcare but we invite all families to join us and sit together as opportunity for discipleship for the family.

If you have questions about the service, please reach out to us at [parkcirclechurches.com](http://parkcirclechurches.com) and we would be happy to help you!



7th Annual Park Circle Good Friday Service

## 7 Sayings of the Cross

April 15th  
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Friendship Baptist Church chapel  
5032 Lackawanna Blvd.  
N. Charleston SC 29405



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# April 11: Monday

Read: Matthew 21:22-22; Mark 11:12-19;  
Luke 19:45-48

Monday can be a day filled with frustration. It's typically the start of the work week for a lot of people. The weekend is over and now school and work and such start all over again. As we prepare ourselves for Resurrection Sunday, we can look to it with hope as we ready ourselves to celebrate the risen Savior.

In Mark chapter 11:12-20, we have an account of Monday's events of Jesus' journey to the cross. Jesus and his twelve disciples leave Bethany and Jesus is hungry. He looks out and sees a fig tree bearing leaves, but there is no fruit. Jesus after a closer look recognized that which looked good was barren. Jesus in the presence of his disciples curses the tree. He speaks to the tree and says, "may no one ever eat fruit from you again."

We noticed from a distance; this tree looked good. For the life of the tree had been spent producing luxurious foliage. It looked like a healthy tree, but it was not. The task of a fig tree is to produce figs, not leaves. So, this fig tree became an illustration to His disciples that the nation of Israel had all the necessary things to bear spiritual fruit, but did not. There was a lot of religious activity, but it wasn't making a difference. They weren't bearing fruit. They were not worshiping. They were not showing the light of God to those that were in darkness.

Most Christians who are like this fig tree have a root problem. They have never been planted deep enough in God's Word or in his service to get rooted properly. Shallow roots will lead to less nutrition which will cause lack of fruit.

We are the fig tree. The owner is God. He has planted us here and keeps a check on us. Jesus is the gardener. He is the one who cares for us. He intercedes on our behalf; He gives us special attention and feeds us through his Word. We can't blame the gardener who did all He could to nourish us, or the owner who was willing to extend grace and an abundance of love toward us. We can only blame the fig tree who would not produce for the owner.

May we be reminded that God has done everything for us to flourish and bear fruit. This Friday we will commemorate the day that Jesus hung on the cross. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for us to escape the wrath of God and all He seeks is for us to bear fruit.

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# April 12: Tuesday

Read: Matthew 21:23-26:5; Mark 11:27-14:2; Luke 20:1-22:2; John 12:37-50

44 And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

John 12:44-46

The relationship between light and darkness is one that the Christian should understand. The two are in constant view within the scriptures. In the beginning, God spoke and there was light. Adam and Eve, tempted by the serpent, ate of the forbidden fruit and darkness entered the world. Once dwelling in the light of the garden, now they dwelled in the darkness of exile. With the dark shadow of slavery weighing on the people of Israel, a light came through a burning bush that called Moses to go and deliver the people. The scriptures are saturated with the images of a looming darkness that appears to be conquering all, only to give way to a marvelous light that cannot be overcome.

The truth of the word tells us that all humanity dwells within the darkness. We are born into darkness, we live in darkness, and if we die without faith in Christ, we die in darkness. Yet, Jesus proclaims in this passage that He came as LIGHT and anyone who believes in Him will not remain in darkness. This is the power of the gospel; Jesus stepped into darkness and died a death that we deserved to die. Though he died, he rose in glorious light to defeat sin and death for eternity. That same light of life is now available for all who would believe in Jesus and submit their lives to Him. Are you in darkness? Do you long for this light? Take hold of this free gift of grace through faith in Jesus.

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# April 13: Wednesday

Read: Matthew 26:6-16; Mark 14:3-11;  
Luke 22:3-6

On Wednesday of Holy Week, we see Jesus continuing his ministry during the last week. In the passages referenced, we see that Jesus is being honored by members of the gathered crowd. He is anointed with oil as if he is being prepared for the grave. Those present had no idea of the foreshadowing present.

Even as he is being exalted and honored, Satan is at work in the hearts of men. Shortly after Jesus is anointed, Judas makes the decision to sell him out for 30 pieces of silver. This man, who had walked with Jesus for 3 years as part of his close disciples, chose to give his teacher's life away to enrich himself.

We see evidence of the fickleness of the human heart. John Calvin once wrote that "the human heart is an idol-factory". We will find something to worship; it just doesn't take much to tempt us to run away into sin. Judas gives into his idol-factory and offers Jesus up as a sacrifice to the chief priests to satisfy the desires of his heart.

You and I struggle with our idol-factory as well. We struggle to be faithful to the work that Jesus has done in our lives. The cure to this struggle is not to work harder or be more faithful. No, the cure is to rest, to lean into the one we have our faith in. We need to preach the gospel faithful to ourselves that it's not by our power, but by his. This Holy Week, would you commit to seeking out the Lord's power in your life to cure your heart of idolatry?

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# April 14: Thursday, part 1

## Read: John 13:1-20

In the first verse of this passage, one cannot help but see Jesus's love for His disciples. Knowing the time had come, he chose to spend this last Passover meal not in having His disciples comforting himself for what He was about to endure but rather in love serving those he would soon be leaving.

In trials or times of uncertainty, it is extremely easy to lose sight of God's calling on our lives. In our time of testing, we tend to believe that our mission will continue once our suffering or trial has ended. Due to our hardship, we often feel entitled to wait until life becomes normal again before considering serving.

Yet amid anguish, the scripture tells us that Jesus desired to love his disciples well. He got up from the table and proceeded to wash His disciple's feet. Jesus served in both good times and the bad. He never let his suffering distract him from God's will. In the same way, when we serve while suffering, we exemplify Christ.

We exemplify His sacrificial love.

In every way, Jesus laid down his life. In life, he spent His time serving. In His passion, He became a lamb for the slaughter. Out of His great love, He served even when facing death. In what way can we better show the love of Christ than serving when it hurts?

Maybe you are going through a hardship right now. Have you have allowed your anguish to be your focus? No matter what you are facing in life, I encourage you to pick up the towel and wash one another's feet. In this type of sacrificial service, those watching will know you are a follower of Christ.

Stay strong in the Lord. Stay faithful in service. Exemplify Christ.

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# April 14: Thursday, part 2

Read: Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31;  
Luke 22:1-23; John 13:1-38

John 13:1

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

The night before Jesus is crucified, right on the brink of his betrayal, we see him leading and loving his people. He knows that his time to depart has come. He knows he is leaving them alone during what will be a very difficult couple of days. And thus, in love, he cares for them right up until the end.

Jesus makes all the arrangements to ensure that he can partake of the Passover Meal with his disciples.

During the meal, he gives them a heads up on what is to come so that they are not surprised, and no doubt, to remind them that neither is he. And he teaches them the importance of what he is about to do in going to the cross on their behalf. He gives them a meal that will become part of their weekly gatherings, to ensure that they focus on his death and come back to it over and over again. And, he promises that he will see them again.

John says, "he loved his own to the end." And today, he continues to do so. If you are united to Christ by faith, he will love you all way to the end, and he will never leave you or forsake. He has made all the arrangements to ensure that he will eat with you on that day when he will again drink the fruit of the vine with us in his Father's kingdom (Matthew 26:29).

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# April 14: Thursday, part 3

Read: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52;  
Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-2

As Jesus arrives at the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives, he can look west across the Kidron Valley and see Jerusalem. He knows what lies ahead, and has come to pray to the Lord. Judas is betraying Jesus, and the chief priest's men have their plans with his information. The rest of the disciples seem blind to the danger of which Jesus continues to warn. In the midst of all of this, Jesus remains focused.

Jesus focuses on the will of the Father. Knowing what lies ahead, he acknowledges that he does not want to suffer, but asks the Father if there is any other way. The plan of the Father and the Son is clear to him – the Son took on flesh for this very reason, to suffer for us. Yet while acknowledging his fear of it, he still submits his will to the plan. Jesus faced a final turning point, and he focused his heart and mind onto the sacrifice.

Jesus also focuses on the Scriptures. He speaks to Judas, the crowd, and the disciples to make it plain that even the betrayal fulfills God's Word. We know Jesus had the Old Testament scriptures on his mind. Over the next day, as he suffers, Jesus quotes from Daniel 7 and Psalm 22. He almost certainly thought Isaiah 53 – the prophecy of the suffering servant. He was the one to suffer to pay for sins and to complete the righteousness of God!

When we think of God's disposition toward us, what do we imagine? Do we think he is disappointed or angry? Do we imagine that he is ashamed or frustrated? We ought to remember the plan of the Father and the Son. We ought to remember the courage and love of Jesus. If Christ loved us this much then – knowing everything we deserve and what it would cost him – will he abandon you now?

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# April 15: Friday

Read: Matthew 27:1-61; Mark 15:1-47;  
Luke 23:1-56; John 18:28-19:42

**21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **1 Peter** 2:21-23

There was a price that only Jesus could pay being the only One who is fully human and fully God. He was and is the only way to a reconciled right relationship with God through His death, burial and resurrection. His suffering brought peace and hope for all who have and who will place their faith in Him.

As Jesus was tried before the religious and governing leaders, His disposition was in willing submission to His Father's will which mean that He willingly denied His own human will of contending for His rights amidst a great injustice. The unjust accusations by the governing authorities led to a great insult as Barabbas the thief was acquitted and released and Jesus the innocent was condemned and apprehended in his place.

This willing submission to His Father's will called for great sacrifice and ultimately death.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that Jesus left us "*an example, so that you might follow in His steps.*" (1 Peter 2:21b) We cannot be disciples of Jesus unless we "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him" (Matthew 16:24). Jesus speaks more directly to His followers regarding the cross we are called to take up as He states, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

We can only be reconciled to God on the terms of the One who is both perfectly righteous and is our Sovereign judge. There must be an ultimate sacrifice of self-will and surrendering death to self-righteousness. This is the only way to lose in order to gain. Our unrighteousness leaves us guilty before a holy God and this guilt is completely removed through faith in the perfect righteousness that is imputed to us through Jesus.

When we maintain the same disposition of humility and self-sacrifice by which we were accepted into a reconciled relationship with God, we are best equipped to engage with temporal injustices that we encounter within situations and relationships. The example that Jesus gave us to follow while suffering injustice was marked by complete trust in the One who is ultimately in control and by a willing forgiveness over ignorance of others who seek to destroy us.

Divine justice was appropriated to the problem rather than the guilty as the wrath of God did not get unhinged on the entire world but rather fell completely upon His own Son. May the saving grace of undeserved favor that rescued us be the enabling grace that we extend beyond all who wrongfully judge us. God knows and He will settle all things one day. Until then let's look out for the greater good that our readiness and willingness to forgive others be the way we entrust ourselves to the One who is in control.

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# April 16: Saturday

Read: Matthew 27:62-66; John 19:31-42

It's Saturday, the day of waiting. The scriptures don't present much detail on the events of this day. We know that it's the Sabbath, so it's the day of rest. Jesus has died. There is mourning and sadness. The teacher is no longer alive. The disciples have scattered into hiding. The stone is rolled in front of the tomb where Jesus lays. All hope seems lost. Jesus said he would rise from the dead Sunday. Would it really happen? The anticipation, fear, and waiting had to be difficult. On that Holy Saturday everything seemed to stand still. God's people waited. What would happen next?

How do you handle waiting? If we're honest we don't like it, do we? In today's world especially where everything is at our fingertips, we can easily have a package from amazon the same day or next depending on when it's ordered. We don't like waiting. We aren't patient people. We've allowed the culture to dictate this for us. Yet, as God's people we are called to wait. We are called to wait on the Lord. We are called to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). The Lord doesn't always answer immediately, does He? He answers according to His perfect time and perfect will, so we wait.

For the Christian we are in a period of waiting even now. We wait between the already and the not yet. Jesus has already defeated sin and death when he died on the cross and resurrected from the grave. He's already ascended to Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God and waits for the Father to send Him back. We wait for the not yet. We wait for Jesus' triumphant return when He comes to establish His eternal Kingdom. The question is...how are you waiting? Are you waiting expectantly and eager to tell the world of what He's done? Make the most of it. Make the most of the time we wait for His second coming. Much like that day of waiting on Sunday to come, we wait for His return!

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# April 17: Sunday

Read: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10

On Sunday, the church will gather around the world to celebrate, what is perhaps the defining moment of our faith, the resurrection. We will rejoice in wonder and awe that our savior lives! No matter how long we've been a believer, Easter brings a special hope and wonder that captivates us every year.

The hope, joy, and wonder we feel this day is not an accident. On Easter, Jesus steps out of the tomb, whole and healthy. He lives while our sin is dead; he stepped out of the grave and left our sin behind. It is this moment that proves he is precisely who he and the scriptures proclaim he is. We feel these emotions because we have seen the supernatural, God himself, break into the darkness to bring light and life to us.

Easter is a beautiful day, a mountaintop experience for Christians. As you rejoice with your church and celebrate Easter dinners with many family pictures, I pray that the Monday after would still show the radiance of the savior. Do not let the memory of the love and joy you felt for him grow dim and cold through the passing of time and the effort of the world. Continually preach the gospel message to yourself, reminding yourself of the words of Paul

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

Sing these words to yourself each day to remind you of the resurrected savior who lives and moves in our world today. Be blessed today; Happy Easter!

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