

# HOLY WEEK: DAILY SELECTED SCRIPTURE READING

## SUNDAY



The discovery of Jesus' empty tomb by Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, who arrived at sunrise on the first day of the week to anoint his body. Upon finding the large stone already rolled away, they encountered a young man in a white robe who announced that Jesus of Nazareth had been raised and was not there, instructing them to tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was going ahead to Galilee. The narrative concludes with the women fleeing the tomb in terror and amazement, saying nothing to anyone because they were afraid. This passage serves as the original ending of the Gospel of Mark, famously omitting post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and instead emphasizing the initial shock of the empty tomb.

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week and occurring one week before Easter.

On this day, Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey (or colt), fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 regarding a humble king. Crowds welcomed him by spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road while shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" as recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

- Symbolism: Riding a donkey symbolized humility and peace, contrasting with the war horses of conquering kings.
- Timing: It is a movable feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter; for 2025, it was celebrated on April 13.
- Observances: Churches today commemorate the event with blessing and distribution of palms, processions, and readings of the Passion narrative.
- Significance: The event set the stage for the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, transitioning from the crowds' initial celebration to the suffering that would follow later that week.

**29-Mar**  
**Palm Sunday**

**Zech 9:9-17**  
**Isa 50**

**Ps 42**  
**Ps 118**  
**Ps 30**  
**Ps 145**

**Matt 21:1-11** : Triumphal Entry  
**Mark 11:1-11** : Triumphal Entry  
**Luke 19:28-40** : Triumphal Entry  
**John 12:12-19** : Triumphal Entry

# MONDAY



On Monday after Palm Sunday, Jesus went to the heart of Jerusalem. He went to the temple. Holy Monday (also known as Great and Holy Monday) is the second day of Holy Week, observed on March 30, 2026, in Western Christianity and April 6, 2026, in Eastern Christianity. It commemorates the events of the day following Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, specifically cursing the fig tree, cleansing the Temple, and responding to the questioning of his authority by religious leaders.

On Holy Monday, the primary events in Christ's life include cursing the fig tree and cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. According to biblical accounts, Jesus entered the Temple courts and overturned the tables of money changers, driving out those who had turned a "house of prayer" into a "den of thieves," while also cursing a fruitless fig tree as a sign of judgment on spiritual barrenness.

Key events and their significance include:

- The Cleansing of the Temple: Jesus expelled merchants and money changers, asserting the sanctity of worship and condemning corruption (Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–17).
- The Cursing of the Fig Tree: Jesus cursed a tree that had leaves but no fruit, which withered by the next day, symbolizing the judgment on religious hypocrisy (Matthew 21:18–19; Mark 11:12–14).
- Questioning of Authority: Jesus faced challenges from religious leaders regarding His authority, which He countered with parables and sharp rebukes.
- Evening in Bethany: After these confrontations, Jesus returned to Bethany to stay overnight with friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (Mark 11:19).

**30-Mar**  
**Monday of Holy**  
**Week**

**Isaiah 42**  
**Exodus 1**  
**Job 1:1-12**

**Ps 43**  
**Ps 71**  
**Ps 24**  
**Ps 36**  
**Ps 101**

**Matt 21:12-17** : Cleanses the Temple  
**Matt 21:18-22** : Jesus Curses the Fig Tree  
**Matt 21:33-46** : Parable of the Tenants  
**Luke 19:45-48** : Jesus Cleanses the Temple  
**Luke 20:1-8** : The Authority of Jesus Challenged  
**Luke 20:9-18** : Parable of the Tenants

## TUESDAY



On Tuesday, as Jesus walked back to Jerusalem from Bethany with His disciples, He passed a fig tree. Looking for and expecting to find fruit, He found only leaves. And so, He cursed the tree that was not fulfilling its purpose. When He came to the temple, in essence He also cursed the religious leaders who had the leaves of profession of religion, but no fruit of real faith and righteousness before God.

On Holy Tuesday, Jesus engaged in intense teaching, confrontation, and prophecy in the temple courts and on the Mount of Olives. Key events include the disciples discovering the withered fig tree, Jesus clearing the temple and confronting religious leaders about authority and hypocrisy, and delivering the Olivet Discourse regarding the destruction of the temple and the end times.

### Detailed Timeline of Holy Tuesday Events

- **Temple Confrontations:** Jesus engaged in debates with chief priests and elders regarding His authority, while denouncing the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees.
- **Parables of Warning:** He taught through parables such as the Ten Virgins and the Talents, emphasizing vigilance, stewardship, and judgment.
- **Olivet Discourse:** While sitting on the Mount of Olives, Jesus prophesied about the future destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming, urging His followers to remain watchful.
- **Preparation for Betrayal:** The day concluded with the plot against Jesus solidifying, as the religious leaders sought a way to arrest Him away from the crowds.

These events collectively highlight Jesus' zeal for truth, His final public teachings, and the escalating tension that led directly to His arrest and crucifixion the following day.

**31-Mar**  
**Tuesday of Holy**  
**Week**

**Isaiah 49**  
**Isa 42**

**Ps 51**  
**Ps 71**  
**Ps 10**

**Matt 23:1-36** : Seven Woes to the Scribes/Pharisees  
**Matt 24:1-2** : Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple  
**Matt 24:3-14** : Signs of the End of the Age  
**Matt 24:36-44** : No One Knows The Date or Time

## WEDNESDAY



There is no Biblical record of what Jesus and His disciples did on Wednesday of Holy Week. It is assumed He may have stayed in Bethany to rest, surrounded by friends who loved Him and believed in Him. Several days earlier, following the raising of Lazarus from the dead, Jesus attended a dinner in Bethany that was apparently held in His honor. It was served in the home of Simon, identified as a leper, whom Jesus must have previously cleansed. The Bible gives us a glimpse of a very beautiful and meaningful scene that took place there.

On Wednesday of Holy Week, the day is often referred to as the "silent day" or "Spy Wednesday" because the Gospels record no major public events or teachings from Jesus during this time, serving instead as a period of quiet reflection and preparation for the dramatic events to follow.

While the day is marked by silence, key events associated with this period include:

- **The Conspiracy:** The chief priests and elders plotted to kill Jesus, and Judas Iscariot went to them to agree to betray Him for thirty pieces of silver.
- **Anointing Flashbacks:** Gospel accounts (specifically Matthew 26:6–16 and Mark 14:3–11) recall the anointing of Jesus at Bethany and the plot of Judas as retrospective narratives set against this day.
- **Daily Teaching:** According to Luke 21:37–38, Jesus continued to teach daily in the temple courts, though the focus shifted toward the impending betrayal and arrest.

This day serves as a bridge between the public confrontations of Tuesday and the final Passover meal on Maundy Thursday, emphasizing the gravity of the betrayal and the inevitability of Jesus' sacrifice.

**1-Apr**  
**Wednesday of**  
**Holy Week**

**Isaiah 50**

**Ps 71**

**Ps 94**

**Ps 31**

**Ps 70**

**Matt 26:1-5** : The Plot to Kill Jesus

**Matthew 26:6-13** : Jesus anointed at Bethany

**Matt 26:14-16** : Judas to Betray Jesus

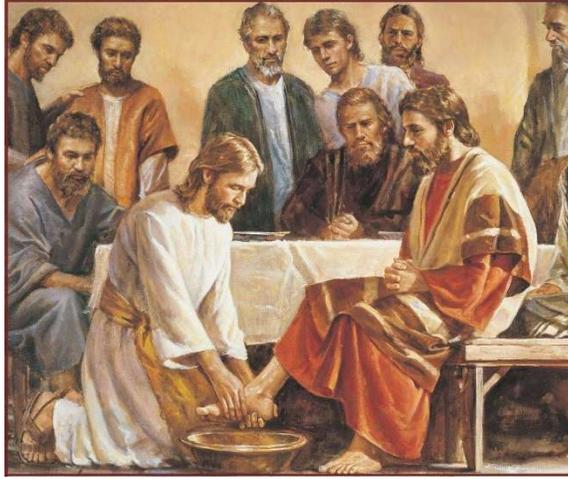
**Mark 14:10-11**

**Luke 20:41-47**

**Luke 22:1-6**

**“Spy Wednesday”**

## THURSDAY



If Wednesday was a time of rest in Bethany for Jesus, Thursday was the opposite. It was an intense time as the Cross drew nearer. On Thursday, Jesus celebrated Passover, He taught His disciples, He prayed in Gethsemane, then allowed Himself to be betrayed by one of His own disciples and arrested by soldiers sent by the religious leaders. Thursday of Holy Week, also known as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, is the fifth day of Holy Week and marks the beginning of the Paschal Triduum, the three-day period commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus celebrated his final Passover with his disciples, instituted Holy Communion, and performed the act of washing the disciples' feet as a model of humble service. This day marks the beginning of the Paschal Triduum (or Easter Triduum), the solemn three-day period leading to Easter Sunday that includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Key events and traditions observed on this day include:

- The Last Supper: Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples, predicting his betrayal by Judas and Peter's denial, while establishing the Eucharist as a remembrance of his body and blood.
- The New Commandment: Jesus gave his followers the "new commandment" to "love one another as I have loved you," from which the name "Maundy" (derived from the Latin *mandatum*) is taken.
- Foot Washing: Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, demonstrating servant leadership; many churches reenact this ritual today to symbolize humility and service.
- Agony in Gethsemane: Following the meal, Jesus prayed in deep anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest, surrendering to God's will despite his fear.
- Arrest and Betrayal: The day concludes with Jesus' betrayal by Judas and his subsequent arrest, setting the stage for the crucifixion on Good Friday.

**2-Apr**  
**Maundy Thursday**

**Exodus 12**

**Ps 74**

**Ps 115**

**Ps 116**

**Matt 26:26-29** : Institution of the Lord's Supper

**Matt 26: 30-35** : Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

**Matt 26:36-46** : Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

**Matt 26:47-56** : Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

**Mark 14:12-24**

**Luke 22:7-46**

**John 6:52-58**

**John 13:1-20** : Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet

**John 14:1-6** : I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

**John 18:1-11** : The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

## FRIDAY



Friday was horrific! The only reason it could be called good is because it was on this day that the Lamb of God was sacrificed to make atonement for your sin and for mine. Hebrews 9:22 states emphatically: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It was on Friday that Jesus shed His blood for our forgiveness. On His way to the Cross, He was subjected to three religious trials: one before Annas the former High Priest, one before Caiaphas the acting High Priest, and one before the full Sanhedrin. He then was put through three Roman trials; one before Pilate the Roman Governor, one before Herod the Galilean king, then back to Pilate. In a moment we'll pick up our story with Mark's summary of the Roman trials, but first, let's take a moment to consider a drama that played out during the religious trials of Jesus. While Jesus was being slapped, spit upon, and mocked inside the Palace of the High Priest, outside.

The Friday of Holy Week, known as Good Friday, commemorates the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ. According to the Gospel accounts, this day involved a series of trials, the scourging, the carrying of the cross, and the execution itself, which occurred approximately between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

Key events recorded for this day include:

- Trials: Jesus was subjected to multiple Jewish trials before Annas, Caiaphas, and the full Sanhedrin, followed by Roman trials before Pontius Pilate and Herod.
- Crucifixion: Jesus was crucified at Golgotha, where he died after the temple veil tore and darkness covered the land.
- Burial: In the evening, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen with spices, and laid it in a new tomb guarded by Roman soldiers.

This day marks the climax of the Paschal Triduum, serving as a somber time for reflection on Jesus' sacrifice and redemption, often observed through fasting, the Stations of the Cross, and solemn church services.

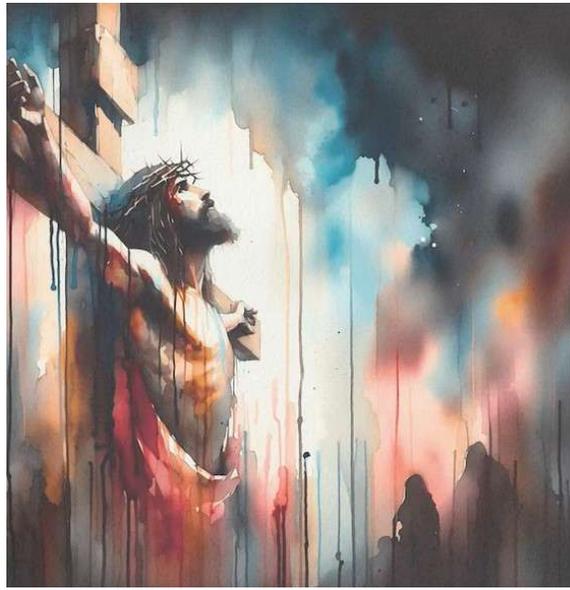
**3-Apr**  
**Good Friday**

**Isaiah 52**  
**Isaiah 53**  
**Zech 11**  
**Isa 50**

**Ps 94**  
**Ps 22**  
**Ps 40**  
**Ps 69**

**Matt 26:69-75** : Peter Denies Jesus  
**Matt 27:1-62** : Jesus Delivered to Pilate  
**Matt 27:3-10** : Judas Hangs Himself  
**Matt 27:11-14** : Jesus Before Pilate  
**Matt 27:15-23** : The Crowd Chooses Barabbas  
**Matt 27:24-26** : Pilate Delivers Jesus to be Crucified  
**Matt 27:27-31** : Jesus is Mocked

## SATURDAY



Saturday was a bleak day. A day of silence and stillness. A day when Jesus was isolated, confined. A day when God, literally, was dead. Yet the enemies of Jesus were very nervous and wanted to make sure He stayed dead and buried. Holy Saturday, also known as Easter Eve or Black Saturday, is the seventh and final day of Holy Week, falling between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In 2026, it is observed on April 4 in Western traditions and April 11 in Eastern traditions.

This day commemorates Jesus Christ's body lying in the tomb and his triumphant descent into hell (the Harrowing of Hell) to liberate the righteous dead. It is traditionally a day of somber silence, waiting, and reflection, with no Mass celebrated during the daylight hours in most Christian denominations, though some traditions like the Moravian Church decorate graves and the Syriac tradition honors the "Saturday of Light."

During Holy Saturday, the primary event in Christ's life is His burial and the period He lies in the tomb following His crucifixion on Good Friday. Christian tradition holds that during this day, Jesus descended into hell (or the realm of the dead) and that the Church waits in prayer and fasting, meditating on His Passion and Death while anticipating the Resurrection.

Key aspects of this day include:

- The Silence: It is often described as a "silent day" where the disciples were scattered, afraid, and grieving, and hope seemed dead.
- Church Observance: The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass, leaving the sacred table bare until the Easter Vigil, which celebrates the Resurrection.
- Spiritual Significance: The day represents a time of darkness, doubt, and anxiety, serving as a solemn pause before the celebration of new life on Easter Sunday.

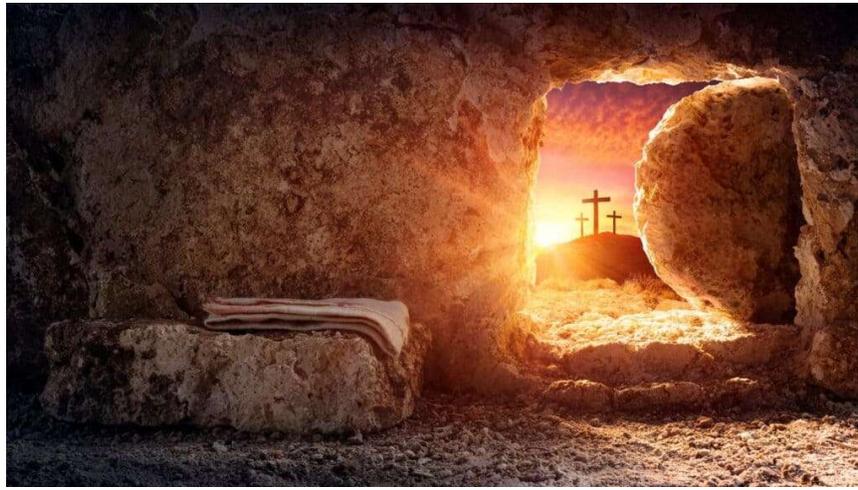
4-Apr  
**Holy Saturday**

**Job 14:1-14**  
**Lam 3:1-9, 19-24**  
**Baruch 3**  
**Ezekiel 36**

**Ps 116**  
**Ps 2**  
**Ps 4**  
**Ps 16**  
**Ps 24**

**Matt 27:32-44** : The Crucifixion  
**Matt 27: 25-56** : The Death of Jesus  
**Matt 27:57-61** : Jesus is Buried  
**Luke 23:50-56** : Jesus is Buried  
**John 19:38-42** : Jesus is Buried  
**Matt 27: 62-66** : The Guard at the Tomb  
**Acts 4:12** : Salvation in Jesus  
**Eph 1:7** : In Him we have Redemption  
**1 Peter 4:1-11** : Stewards of God's Grace

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**



This is Easter Sunday, the first day of the week, the day of resurrection. Following the horror of Jesus' arrest and betrayal, following the brutality of His torture and trials climaxing in His crucifixion and death, following the silence and stillness of the cold, lifeless tomb, Sunday brought the spiritual equivalent of a nuclear explosion. Because Jesus rose from the dead! He's alive! He's alive! Listen to the Biblical description... Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. Mary didn't know that according to Matthew.

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) marks the day Jesus rose from the dead, commemorating His victory over death and fulfilling the prophecy that He would rise on the third day following His crucifixion. The primary events recorded for this day include the discovery of the empty tomb by women such as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, the appearance of an angel who announced, "He is not here; he has risen," and the first encounters with the risen Christ by His followers.

- **The Empty Tomb:** On the first day of the week, shortly after dawn, women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body but found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, as described in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-10, and John 20:1-2.
- **Angel's Announcement:** An angel descended, causing an earthquake and terrifying the Roman guards, then instructed the women to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen and would meet them in Galilee.
- **First Appearances:** Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene, then to the women returning to the city, and later that evening to two disciples on the road to Emmaus who recognized Him while breaking bread.
- **Gathering of Disciples:** On the same evening, Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles (excluding Thomas), showing them His wounds to prove His physical resurrection and commissioning them with peace.
- **Subsequent Appearances:** Over the following 40 days, Jesus appeared to more than 500 followers, delivered sermons, and shared meals before ascending to Heaven.

**5-Apr**  
**Pascha (Easter)**

**Isaiah 53**  
**Jer 31**  
**Isa 25**  
**Job 19**  
**Daniel 12**  
**Ps 120**  
**Ps 16**  
**Ps 118**  
**Ps 30**  
**Ps 68**  
**Ps 47**

**Matt 28:1-10** : The Resurrection  
**Matt 28:11-15** : The Report of the Guard  
**Matt 28:16-20** : The Great Commission  
**Mark 16:1-8** : The Resurrection  
**Luke 24:1-12** : The Resurrection  
**Luke 24:13-35** : On the Road to Emmaus  
**Luke 24:36-49** : Jesus Appears to His Disciples  
**Luke 24:50-53** : The Ascension  
**John 20:1-10** : The Resurrection  
**John 20:11-18** : Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene  
**John 20:19-23** : Jesus Appears to the Disciples  
**John 20:24-29** : Jesus and Thomas