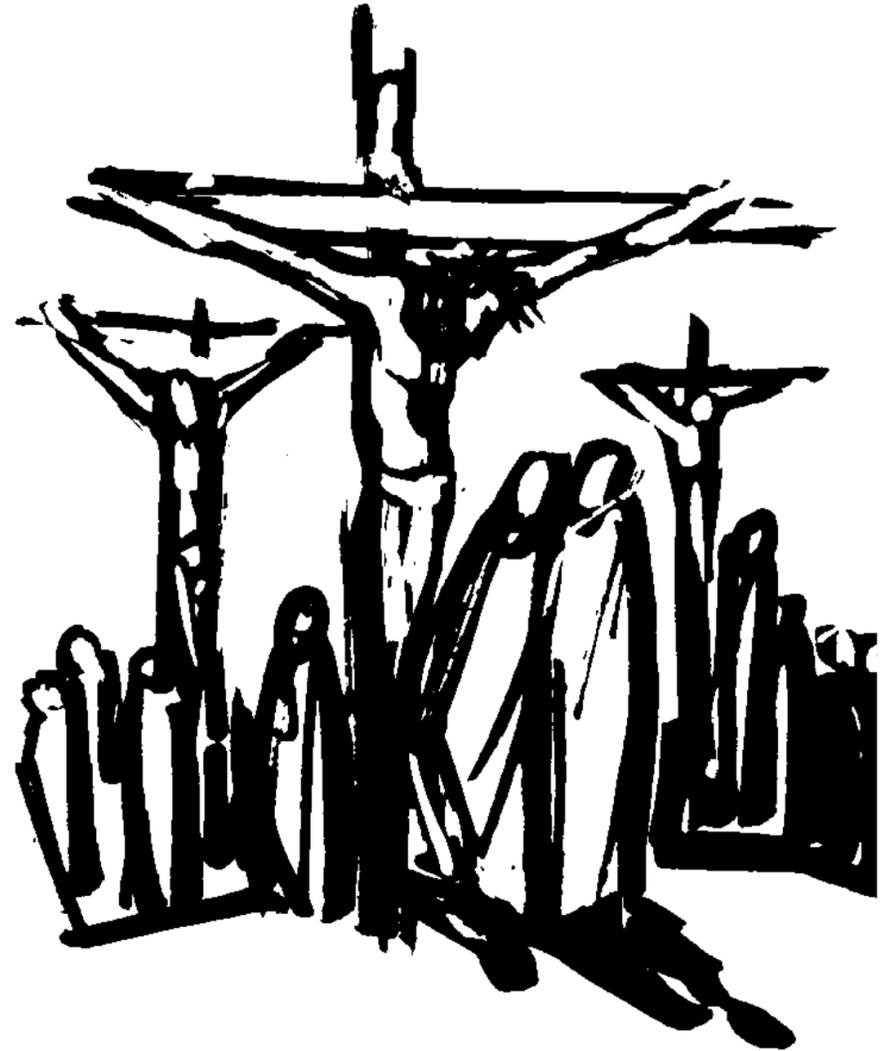


# Holy Week at Home



Inspiration for the “at home holy place” drawn from St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church and Campus Ministry, Boulder, Colorado.

Readings from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education of The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. Some of the appointed readings have been shortened to make them more accessible in a devotional format.

Prayers are drawn from *The Book of Common Prayer 1979* and *Daily Prayer for All Seasons 2014*.

Devotions for Palm Sunday  
to the Eve of Easter

This week we journey with Jesus toward the cross. We will walk dusty roads, smell the aroma of sweet perfume, sit with friends at the dinner table, and kneel alone in a shadowy garden and pour our hearts out to God; and we will do it all from within the confines of our own home.

Our homes are holy places. And yet, in the hustle and bustle of life, the holiness of our homes can be easy to ignore. Between the dirty dishes and the piles of laundry, the meals to be cooked and bathrooms to be cleaned, we can forget, we are dwelling in the midst of God's presence.

To help us re-capture and re-imagine the sacredness of our homes during these holy days, you are encouraged to take a few moments and create a "holy place," and altar, in your home. Your "holy place" does not need to be fancy or elaborate. In fact, simple is often best.

Perhaps a small side table, a windowsill, your bedside table, or even a corner of the table where you eat your meals. Whatever you have, whatever you create, is enough. Place a few items that help remind you of the presence of God in your "holy place:" a cross or a drawing of a cross, a Bible, or a candle. If children will be joining you in your home this Holy Week, invite them to also chose an item to place in the "holy place." Remember, keep it simple.

As we walk with Jesus this week, the "holy place" will be our sanctuary. You will be invited to add items to it each day as you reflect on Christ's immeasurable love for each of us, and for the whole world.

## **Palm Sunday**

### **Silence**

*Gather some branches from a garden or outside of your door, or something growing like a houseplant, and set them in your "holy place."*

### **Opening**

The pleased, O God, to deliver us. Make haste, Holy One, to help us.

### **A Reading, John 12:12-16**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

### **Silence**

*Wave your branches or a leaf from your living plant high in the air.*

### **Wonder**

How are you welcoming Christ into your world today?

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Monday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Place something fragrant, like perfume, scented lotion, a scented candle, or aftershave, in your “holy place.”*

### Opening

You lavish love upon us. Make us people of extravagant love

### A Reading, John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

### Silence

*Breathe in deeply the scent emanating from your “holy place.”*

### Wonder

How is God inviting you to care for yourself and others today?

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Tuesday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Place something that can grow, a seed, a grain of rice, or a bean, in your “holy place.”*

### Opening

You have called us in righteousness. Let us respond with justice.

### A Reading, John 12:20-26, 36

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

### Silence

*Consider the smallness of your seed, grain, or bean.*

### Wonder

What “seed” has God planted in your heart? What does it need to grow?

### The Collect of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Wednesday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Place a small dish or bowl in your "holy place."*

### Opening

In the fullness of our humanity, heal us, gracious Savior.

### A Reading, John 13:21-30

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved--was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

### Silence

*Place your fingers in your empty dish or bowl.*

### Wonder

What troubles your spirit?

### The Collect of the Day

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Thursday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Place a clean washcloth in your "holy place."*

### Opening

Teach us to seek your wisdom, as we embrace the folly of your love.

### A Reading, John 13:3-4, 12-17

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

### Silence

*Hold the washcloth in your hands.*

### Wonder

Whose feet is God inviting you to wash?

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*End your prayers today by gently removing every item from your "holy place" except the cross.*

## Friday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Consider the emptiness of your “holy place.”*

### Opening

Lord Jesus, as I watch and pray, remain here with me

### A Reading

Using your own Bible, read John 18:1-19:42

### Silence

*Consider again the emptiness of your “holy place.”*

### Wonder

How is God dwelling with you in the midst of emptiness?

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Saturday in Holy Week

### Silence

*Place a flower or the image of a flower and a new, unlit candle in your “holy place.”*

### Opening

Come darkness or light, I call on your name, holy Lord.

### A Reading, John 19:38-42

After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

### Silence

*Consider your flower, and imagine the garden from which it grew.*

### Wonder

How is God inviting you into new life?

### The Collect of the Day

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Leave the candle unlit until dusk*

## **At Dusk on Saturday night**

### **Silence**

### **Opening Prayer**

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to linger in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord in which, by virtue of our baptism into his death, into the hope of his resurrection, we celebrate the New Life we have received by his Mercy, awaiting the time when we may gather again around your holy altar.

Let us pray.

O God, you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Light the new candle*

### **The Exsultet**

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia

Amen.