



Holy Week at Home

PALM SUNDAY

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Reflect: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people streamed from their homes and businesses to celebrate their King, taking branches from nearby trees and the cloaks off their backs to welcome him. Jesus's entrance into the City of Jerusalem was a bold proclamation of his claim to the throne and signaled the reign of the Messiah.

Pray: Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Do: Take time today to make your home ready for Holy Week. Just as the people welcomed Jesus with what they had, use the resources in your home and make space to encounter God. Set aside a holy space in your home. Decorate your door with a branch from outside. Have your very own parade throughout your house with branches, shouting Hosanna as you go from room to room. Be creative and use what you have to celebrate Christ our King and welcome him into your home.



HOLY MONDAY

Read: John 12:1-11

Reflect: Mary anointed Jesus's feet with an expensive perfume to display her love for God. How can you share your love for God and for neighbor today? What gift of love can you offer to someone, even while we are staying at home? How can you love your neighbors even when you can't be with them?

Pray: 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.

Do: Practice an act of extravagant love today. Send a note to someone. Offer your prayers and let someone know you prayed for them. Do something unexpected to help a member of your family.



HOLY TUESDAY

Read: John 12:20-36

Reflect: Jesus teaches the disciples that the kingdom of God is best described by self-sacrificial love. He then goes on to teach about his coming death and a voice from heaven proclaims God's glory in his death. Think about the things that you have given up during this time of staying at home. How are you sacrificing yourself, for the sake of others? How are you loving your neighbor?

Pray: 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.

Do: Make a list of the things you have given up for the sake of others during this time and post it where you can see it every day. Place a cross on or near the list, to remind you of Jesus's sacrifice for your sake. Do something that helps you give thanks to God for Jesus today.



HOLY WEDNESDAY

Read: John 13:21-32

Reflect: Judas was one of Jesus's closest friends. Jesus trusted him to take care of the money that financed his ministry. But Judas also betrayed Jesus, turning him over to the Chief Priests for 30 pieces of silver. Have you ever been betrayed by someone you love? How did it make you feel? What does it mean for Jesus to serve Judas communion, even though Jesus knew Judas had already betrayed him?

Pray: 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.

Do: Make a monetary donation to people in need right now. You could do that by giving to your church, to a local food bank, or another social service agency. Examine your budget and see if it aligns with your priorities and values as Christians.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

Reflect: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his disciples in the Upper Room for one last meal. As they entered, he knelt before them and washed their feet; a servant's task. After washing their feet, Jesus shared dinner with his disciples, and instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion. Why do you think that Jesus washed the disciples' feet? Where does God invite you to "wash the feet" of someone else? What does the sacrament of Holy Communion mean to you?

Pray: 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.

Do: Perform an act of service for someone today. Leave a note and a gift for your postal worker. Cook and share a meal with your family. Spend fifteen minutes in prayer thanking God for all who are working during these days. Pray for those who serve you and give thanks for the gift of God's love, given in Jesus.



GOOD FRIDAY

Read: John 18:1-19:42

Reflect: Jesus was sentenced to death, though he had done no wrong. For Jesus's disciples, his death felt like a defeat. How does reading this story make you feel?

Pray: 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.

Do: Take a walk and reflect on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and God's love for you. You may also choose to take the Scriptural Stations of the Cross document (found on your church website) with you on your walk.



HOLY SATURDAY

Read: Matthew 27:57-66

Reflect: After Jesus died, he was buried in a tomb. Holy Saturday is a day of stillness and waiting. The first disciples spent the day grieving the death of their teacher, in fear for their lives.

While we are staying at home, we are sometimes afraid and waiting to see what will happen next, like the first disciples. How are you handling the fear and uncertainty of our present circumstances?

How are you experiencing this time of waiting?

Pray: 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.

Do: Spend fifteen minutes in prayer. Tell God your worries, fears, and anxieties. Acknowledge the pain, brokenness, and fear that you feel. Take time today just to be still and wait.



EASTER SUNDAY

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Reflect: Alleluia! Christ is risen! On the first Easter, the women gathered at the tomb to anoint Jesus's body. Instead of finding the body of the Messiah, they found an angelic messenger, who proclaimed Christ's resurrection and sent them to share the good news with others. In this time of staying at home, where do you see signs of Christ's resurrection? How is God breathing new life into you and your home? Into the community around us?

Pray: Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Do: Find a way to celebrate today! Have dinner with your family. Call a friend and wish them a Happy Easter. Spend time listening to joyous music. Decorate your driveway with sidewalk chalk, proclaiming the resurrection. Tell someone the good news about Christ's resurrection and God's love.



This resource is provided to help you worship at home as we journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

You're invited to join us on Easter Sunday for a "Virtual brunch" through Zoom. Anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 10:25 a.m. bring your coffee and share some fellowship time with Central UMC in this zoom room:

<https://zoom.us/j/7035278844>

Please join Central UMC for a virtual worship experience on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

- Zoom Room: <https://zoom.us/j/469837706>
- Zoom by phone dial 301-715-8592, and enter Meeting ID: 469 837 706 #
- Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/cumcballston

This Holy Week at Home Guide was compiled by Rev. Lorrin Radzik of Rockport United Methodist Church in Rocky River, Ohio and Father David Radzik of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea, Ohio. Shared with permission.

Prayers for each day were taken from The Book of Common Prayer (1979). We wish you a blessed Holy Week as we remember Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

Rev. Lorrin Radzik

David R. Radzik

Pastor, Rockport UMC

Rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church