



HOLY WEEK

Monday, April 2, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 22

Words of desperation, suffering and lament begin this plea to God. In the final week of his life, Jesus knew the terrible things that awaited him in Jerusalem; yet he went, bowing his will to his Father's. Yet, like the psalmist, he also was confident that God would sustain him and would be glorified through his suffering.

REFLECT-

- Mark this psalm in your Bible so that you may turn to it when suffering touches your life and remember that Jesus drew from it for comfort when he hung on the cross (vs. 1), suffering so that your sins might be taken away forever.

PRAY-

Loving Father, help me to have faith that you are always with me and will never leave me without your comfort and strength. Amen.

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

READ- Old Testament: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

The prophet Isaiah describes vividly the rejection and suffering that Jesus, God's Chosen One, would experience. He predicted that God would reconcile himself with sinful human beings through the sacrifice of one who had no sin.

REFLECT-

- If you are a parent, would you be willing to sacrifice your life for that of your child? The God of the universe did just that for each of us. He took on human form and died a cruel death on a cross so that we might be reconciled with him in right relationship.

PRAY-

Thank you, Father, that you suffered in our place so that we might know the depth of your great love for us. Amen.

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus shared a simple Passover meal with his disciples and gave them a sacrament to remind them of his suffering and death, so that they might never forget what that sacrifice meant for them – forgiveness of sins and eternal life. A loaf of bread, a cup of wine – simple things, yet made holy by Christ words and actions.

REFLECT-

- Is taking communion meaningful to you or is it simply going through the motions of an empty ritual? Really listen to the words of the liturgy next time and as you take the bread and juice, remember Jesus' suffering and death – for you and the whole world – and how much he loves you.

PRAY-

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

Holy Thursday, April 5, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

As the time drew short for Jesus with his disciples, he modeled for them one last time what it means to truly love God and one another. Humility and service to God and others is core of God's desire for his people.

REFLECT-

- In what ways do you embrace humility, obedience and service in the way you live? In the ways you spend your time and your material resources and how you treat other people, do you embody that servant spirit that Jesus exemplified on his last night with the disciples? What needs to change so that you can do that more fully?

PRAY-

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to live into Jesus' commands to love one another with my time and resources. Amen.

Good Friday, April 6, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 18:1 – 19:42

The account of Jesus' arrest, trial, flogging, crucifixion, death and burial in John's gospel is detailed and heart-wrenchingly descriptive. We can feel Jesus' courage and his compassion for his disciples, who would abandon him, and his mother who was with him till the end.

REFLECT-

- At the end of this passage, it seems that all is lost; the disciples surely felt that this man for whom they had given up everything, this miracle worker and prophet whom they thought was the Messiah, was dead and gone – leaving them without hope. Sit with that feeling desolation and despair for a few moments.

PRAY-

O God, be with me when I feel that everything I know and love and hoped for has been taken away. Comfort me and give me your peace. Amen.