

2025 DEVOTIONAL
HOLY WEEK & EASTER



MCLEAN
PRESBYTERIAN



CAPITAL
PRESBYTERIAN
HERNDON



DAILY DEVOTIONAL
Holy Week & Easter 2025

ABUNDANT LIFE

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

Holy Week is a week-long celebration in the Christian faith, marking the last week of Jesus Christ's life on earth. It starts on Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and ends on Easter Sunday, celebrating his resurrection. This period is considered to be of utmost significance as it celebrates key events in the life of Jesus, including his crucifixion and death on Good Friday. For many Christians, Holy Week provides a time for reflection and repentance, as well as a time to give thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus and the hope that his resurrection brings.

USING THIS DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

The purpose of this guide is to give our church a supplemental resource for mid-week worship and discipleship during the 2025 Holy Week and Easter season. The content follows our theme for Holy Week: "Abundant Life". This theme draws from John 10:10 which says that Christ came into the world so that we could have life, abundant life.

This Holy Week, we will see all the different ways that God has brought us abundant life — through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior.

As a church family, we will step into the last days of Jesus life on earth and reflect on his deep love and sacrifice for his people. Holy Week is a time to be humbled, to weep, and to rejoice. This devotional offers us an opportunity to be formed by God's word and to join together each day in prayer, confession, and worship.

Feel free to use these materials for personal devotions, family worship, with your Community Group, or in other gatherings. Each day, there is one devotional reflection written by a member of McLean Presbyterian or Capital Pres Herndon — based on a passage that shows how Jesus has brought abundant life into the world. Each day there are prayers, and songs, and Scripture passages to align our hearts with God's word.

As we walk through Holy Week, it's my prayer that we will find a deeper joy in the life that Jesus has bought for us through his life, death, and resurrection. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners so that we may have eternal, abundant life. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,



Micah Shelton

Pastoral Intern for Worship

TIPS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

If you are working through this devotional as a family, here are some ways you can get everyone involved:

1. Give each person responsibility to lead or read one section of the devotional.
2. Listen to a song or sing together from our “Abundant Life” playlist and encourage kids to move as they feel led! God put the wiggle in them!
3. Draw/create symbols. Kids are often visual learners. As a family, draw a picture or make a Lego creation related to the Scripture story for that day. Be creative!
4. Set a regular time. It is best to have a set time to do this devotional every day. Whether at the start of the day before everyone begins their work, or at the dinner table, strive to be consistent in doing this devotional together.

PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 13

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 19:28-40

ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH PRAISE

Join us in worship as begin our Holy Week sermon series!

- at McLean Presbyterian Church: 9am & 10:45am
- at Capital Presbyterian Herndon: 10:45am

Then, find some time on your own to read and meditate on Luke 19:28-40.

ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:9b

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the
highest.

PRAY

Lord, as we reflect on your humility, may we be
shaped by your word and convicted of our need for
you. In Christ name, Amen.

READ

John 13:1-20

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

by Micah Shelton, Pastoral Intern

What wonder of wonders, what love is this;

That Christ would die for me!

His goodness, his merit, his righteousness,

This sinner's only plea.

—Lyrics from “All My Boast Is in Jesus”

(Songwriters: Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Bryan Fowler)

On this Monday of Holy Week, we have just celebrated Palm Sunday. Christ marched down the main road and the people of Jerusalem proclaimed him king! For three years, Jesus taught, performed miracles, and proclaimed repentance for the coming kingdom of heaven. He gained followers and walked into Jerusalem with all of the respect and honor of a king. He deserved honor and praise, riches and power — but what wonder is this? In this passage, the King performs the work of a servant.

In verse 3, John wrote that, “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God...” Jesus knew that he was King, and yet he knelt before his disciples and washed their feet. Peter is astounded: he cannot comprehend that the Messiah would take on the role of a servant. Peter knew his feet were disgusting; he had been walking in sandals on dusty roads for the entire day. What a scandal that Peter’s King would try to clean Peter’s feet!

Jesus is showing Peter that he is willing to humiliate himself in order to wash Peter of more than just dirt. Christ the King tells his servant that he, Christ, would serve him, Peter.

Just like Peter, we need to be washed — and plain

water is insufficient to make us clean. Holy Week reminds us of our great need to be washed of our dirt and filth.

When we consider the darkest corners of our heart, we probably react like Peter: “How could this good and mighty king want to come anywhere near all this dirtiness that I see in me?” Christ responds to this and tells us through his word: “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

What a wonder that the God of the universe would stoop to our level, see our dirt, and still choose to love us. “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). It is astounding that we could receive so much from so great a King. As we go further into Holy Week, we will rejoice and mourn because our Savior stooped so low to serve us and to serve his Father.

He will pour out his blood to wash us and cleanse us of all of our sin. Through selfless and painful service, Christ will usher his people into new and abundant life. Christ the great King will be humiliated and betrayed, but he will triumph. In the greatest act of service in the history of the world, our King died for us. He has brought us out of darkness into new and abundant life. May we all see his sacrifice and believe deeply that we have been washed by the blood of the Servant King who death could not defeat.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests,

but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 139

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting! For, I know that I choose my own way and do not look to your glory. Forgive me Lord and help me to walk in the light of repentance.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mark 10:43b-45

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

SONGS

Use the QR code to access our church Holy Week & Easter playlist and queue these songs today:

- “In Christ Alone”
- “Only a Holy God”
- “Is He Worthy?”
- “All My Boast Is in Jesus”



ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH LOVE

CALL TO WORSHIP

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on the life of your Son, we ask for a deeper and richer belief in your love for us. We pray this by your Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

READ

John 13:31-35

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

by Dasha MacDonald, Missions Intern, Capital Fellow

In just a few days, we will be remembering a day known as Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin *novum mandātum*, meaning “new commandment.” This commandment is given in John 13:34, where Jesus instructs his disciples to “love one another.” At first glance, this commandment does not exactly seem new. After all, the call to love one’s neighbor resonates throughout the Old Testament, and Jesus himself previously urged us to love even our enemies. So, what makes this particular commandment stand out, and why is it singled out for such a special observance? The answer, as any child in Sunday school could tell you, is both simple and profound: Jesus.

This command comes shortly after the Last Supper, when Jesus, having just washed the feet of his disciples, watches Judas walk out to betray him. *Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.* Other commands call us to love — sometimes even to love as we love ourselves — but to love as Jesus loves us is not only new, but it is infinitely more.

How does he love us? He strips away his outer garments, ties a towel around his waist, and kneels to wash the filthy feet of his followers. He does this for his betrayer the very night before his betrayal. The disciples are only beginning to experience the depth of Jesus’ love — a love that will be revealed in its fullness the following day, when the veil between heaven and earth is torn, and we witness the ultimate expression of his love: his death on the cross. It is through this act of love that our hope on this earth is realized. The newness is not in the call to love, but in the very nature of the love itself.

Jesus tells the leaders of the early church that they

will be known by their love for one another. This reminds me of one of my favorite biblical images in 1 Corinthians 2:15-17, where Paul describes believers as the “aroma of Christ.” We are meant to be a fragrance of love, so that no one may encounter us without encountering love — and through it, encountering Christ. Blessed are we that the Savior of the world would choose to reveal himself through us, frail and imperfect as we are, and through our love for one another, make himself known in this world!

Fixing our eyes on Jesus and his love enables us to love one another well. In that love, we become a Church marked by unity, living abundantly as he intended. During this season of waiting — both in the rhythm of the liturgical year and throughout our lives — I invite you to reflect with me on what it means for the body of believers to love in a way that sets us apart. Thankfully, we have the perfect example to follow.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD

Matthew 22:37-40

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

REFLECT

“Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God — to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting — of the love which brought the Son of God’s love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory — that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced — which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love

will eternally embrace you.”

—Richard Baxter

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalms 25:6-7, 11, 16-18

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

For your name’s sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

SONGS

Use the QR code to access our church Holy Week & Easter playlist and queue these songs today:

- “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”
- “How Deep the Father’s Love”
- “His Mercy is More”



ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH FORGIVENESS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 116:5-7, 12-14

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

PRAY

Lord, open our hearts this day to receive your word.
Convict us where we need to be convicted. Show us
grace where we need to be forgiven. We ask that we
may see Jesus more through your word, O God. In
his matchless name, Amen.

READ

Matthew 26:17-29

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

by Justin Gentry, Pastoral Intern

There is something about stories of betrayal that captivate our attention. Whether it is the famous “Et tu, Brute?” uttered by Julius Caesar in William Shakespeare’s play, Anakin Skywalker’s turning from Obi-Wan Kenobi to the dark side of the Force in the *Star Wars* movies, or Edmund being coaxed into the clutches of the evil White Witch in C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, betrayal strikes a chord deep within our hearts. This is because we live with the effects of

the Fall imprinted upon our souls. We are all too familiar with betrayal because we all have broken relationships with our Heavenly Father, and now we long to make things right. We long for something to cover our sins, to restore us to the intimate relationship with God that we once enjoyed, we long for forgiveness. How then does forgiveness come?

For more than a millennium, the people of God asked themselves the same question, yet looked to the sacrificial system to provide the answer. In the Exodus, the Lord delivered his people through sacrifice, requiring the blood of a lamb to be applied to the doorposts of each household to save them from God’s judgment. So great was this salvation that a Passover meal was celebrated each year to commemorate their redemption. Yet, various other types of sacrifices were required to worship God at Mount Sinai. More blood needed to be spilled in order to account for the depth of Adam and Eve’s betrayal. Had this redemption from Egypt made everything right? Would the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats really be sufficient to assure full restoration with God? Was the Passover meal a sign of the forgiveness that the people of God were ultimately looking for? You’ll need only a cursory study of the covenant-breaking of Israel throughout the Old Testament to learn that the effects of their betrayal still lingered in their hearts, even up to the time of Jesus.

Even in this passage, the people of God are still wrestling with the theme of betrayal and long for an assurance of full forgiveness. The scene picks up with the disciples eating the Passover meal with Jesus: he tells them that one of them will betray him. Jesus wants to press the issue right in the middle of dinner; he chooses to have this conversation, with these people, at this time — over a meal. Why? Because he wants to provide a definitive answer to

the question of how we are to be fully restored to a right relationship with God. Jesus wants to take the Passover meal of the old covenant and transform it into a sacramental meal in the new covenant — to assure his people that the forgiveness that it signifies does indeed lead to abundant life with the Father.

And I wonder: this Holy Week, are you perhaps struggling with the effects of turning from God in sin? Perhaps you feel that your betrayal of the Father is too great and prevents you from being fully restored into a relationship with God. Perhaps you, like the Israelites, know that you have been forgiven — yet still struggle to believe that in the day-to-day. The answer for you, for me, and for all of us is to come to the table. Our passage instructs us to take and eat Christ's body; to remember that Jesus's body was broken for us. Our passage instructs us to take and drink his blood; to be reminded that Christ is the true Passover lamb whose blood (and his blood alone) can restore us to a right relationship with God. For the Lord has promised that if we do, he will remember our sins no more. Come to the table to taste, to touch, to smell, and to see that forgiveness in a meal. So, this Holy Week, let us feast with our Savior. And let us rejoice in him until the day that we shall dine with him face to face in his Father's kingdom.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD

Psalms 103:10-14

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who
fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from
us.
As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear
him.
For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

REFLECT

"I know not who you are, or what you have been in time past, but I say, come to Christ by faith and you shall be freely forgiven. Think not for a moment that you have some great thing to do before you come to Christ. Man's idea is to make his peace with God by repentance, and then come to Christ; the gospel way is to receive peace from Christ first of all, and begin with Him. Man's idea is to amend, and turn over a new leaf, and so work his way up to reconciliation and friendship with God: the gospel way is first to be friends with God through Christ, and then to do His will. Come, willing to take what Christ offers, and not fancying you can give anything in return."

—JC Ryle, *Excerpts from Old Paths, Being Plain Statements on Some of the Weightier Matters of Christianity* (1877).

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory and grace, we are your people and are called to be the very body of Christ in this world. We come to you and are mindful that our thoughts are not hidden from you and our secret sins are known by you. Lord, forgive our sinful thoughts, words, actions, and inactions. Help us to remember the blood of Christ which cleanses us and to believe in the grace that subdues all sin. Amen.¹

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONGS

Use the QR code to access our church Holy Week & Easter playlist and queue these songs today:

- "Jesus Paid It All"
- "All I Have is Christ"
- "We Bring Our Sins to Jesus"



¹ Adapted from "New Beginning" in *The Valley of Vision*

ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 34:1-4, 8

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall
continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble
hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his
name together!

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and
delivered me from all my fears.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

PRAY

Father, what a gift it is to be able to come to you
in prayer and in your word. Teach us to pray with
Jesus. Help us to mourn and to rejoice on this
Maundy Thursday. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

READ

Matthew 26:26-46

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

by Irene Lyons, Stephen Minister

I love this time of year. The earth is beginning to
wake up after its long winter slumber. Signs of
spring are everywhere: leaves are beginning to
bud on trees; birdsong is filling the air; grass is
beginning to lose its “winter coat”; and crocuses
and daffodils are unfurling their beautiful blooms,
adding their burst of vibrant color to the symphony
of spring happening all around us. The garden is
coming alive again, welcoming the warmer days
with a joyful profusion of sights, sounds, and smells.

During this time of year, as I work in my garden,
in the midst of this glorious sensory banquet, I am
struck by the juxtaposition of a different garden.
Face down in the Garden of Gethsemane, his soul
overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,
Jesus agonizingly prayed three times for his Father
to remove this cup from him. But ultimately, he
submits to his Father’s will: “Yet, not as I will, but
as you will.” His heart-wrenching example vividly
demonstrates the purpose of prayer in our lives.
In the words of Warren Wiersbe: “The immediate
purpose of prayer is accomplishing God’s Will on
earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal
glory of God.”

In the depths of his despair, Jesus turns to the One
who is in control of all things, seeking comfort and
the strength to submit to his will. How many times
have we fallen to our knees, praying for guidance,
strength, and peace after the diagnosis, health scare,
death of a loved one, job loss, or other crisis? Left
to our own devices, without our eyes on him and
our heart attuned to his gentle voice, we fall in the
face of overwhelming challenges. But we have a
Savior who willingly enters into our distress and
offers strength through himself. When we pray for

his will to be done, trusting his purpose for us (no matter how difficult or challenging), we enter into his peace and the assurance that he will not leave us or forsake us.

Prayer is a gift, designed by our Heavenly Father to keep us in communication with him, submitting to his will for our lives, and, ultimately, strengthening our trust in him. It is a privilege that is possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross; reminding us that we have a sovereign God who is working all things out for our good, and for his eternal glory.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD

Isaiah 42:1-4

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

Psalms 73:23-28

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire
besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“O God the Father of heaven, have mercy upon us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy
upon us. God the Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.

Be merciful to us and spare us, O Lord. Be merciful
to us and deliver us, O Lord.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil — deliver
us, O Lord. From the wiles of the devil and from
everlasting death — deliver us, Lord. Lord Jesus, by
the mystery of your holy incarnation, by your holy
nativity, by your baptism, fasting, and temptations —
deliver us, O Lord.

By your agony and bloody sweat, by your cross
and passions, by your death and burial, by your
resurrection and ascension, by the coming of the
Holy Spirit, the Comforter—deliver us, O Lord.
Amen.”

— *Martin Bucer*¹

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 1:11-12, 14, 16

[Jesus] came to his own, and his own people did
not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who
believed in his name, he gave the right to become
children of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For from his fullness we have all received, grace
upon grace.

SONGS

*Use the QR code to access our church Holy Week &
Easter playlist and queue these songs today:*

- “Before the Throne of God Above”
- “Psalm 34 (Taste and See)”
- “Be Thou My Vision”
- “His Glory and My Good”



¹ Retrieved from: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* by Jonathan Gibson

ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH SUFFERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 John 3:5, 16

You know that Jesus appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us.

PRAY

Lord, today as we remember the death of our Savior on the cross, fill us with a new awe at the coming of everlasting life through undeserved death. Help us to believe that you came to take away our sins and teach us to be even more dependent on your grace. Amen.

READ

Matthew 27:32-50

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

by Dan Beilman, Associate Director of Worship

Today he is suspended on a Tree, who suspended the earth upon the waters. A crown of thorns was placed on the head of the King of angels. He who wore a false purple robe, covered the heavens with clouds. He was smitten who, in the Jordan, delivered Adam. The Groom of the Church was fastened with nails, and the Son of the Virgin was pierced with a spear.

—Antiphon for Holy Thursday Evening

When a Scripture passage like Luke 27:33-50 becomes familiar, we tend to overlook its emotional punch. If you haven't read it yet, read first the text from the Orthodox liturgy above, and let it guide you as you read the passage from Luke. Note the irony found throughout.

Is there a particular paradox that jumps out at you?

Contradictions can elicit contrary emotions. What do you feel today as you consider Jesus, the Son of

God, crucified? Sorrow — that your sins required such suffering and sacrifice? Or joy — that Jesus accomplished the victory that would grant you forgiveness, healing, and abundant life? Or perhaps you experience both at the same time, leading you to wonder at the mystery of it all

Or, perhaps, you feel unmoved; for you, it's yet another Holy Week which fails to stir your imagination or evoke any emotion or result in any kind of lasting spiritual transformation. The noise and busyness of a job or a family or distraction-upon-distraction crowd out any time to truly consider what was accomplished on your behalf a couple millennium ago.

The Good News of Good Friday is that there is no amount of emotion that makes you worthy of God's approval, nor is there any lack of feeling that disqualifies you from his love. This leads us to yet another paradox: "All the fitness he requires is to feel your need for him."¹

In a sermon on abundant life, Charles Spurgeon said:

If, therefore, you are enabled to come and cast yourselves upon the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, you have immediately that eternal life, which all your prayers and tears, repentance, and church-goings, and chapel-goings, and sacraments, could never bring to you. Jesus can give it you freely at this moment, but you cannot work it in yourself. Thou mayest imitate it and deceive thyself, thou mayest garnish the corpse and make it seem as though it were alive, and thou canst galvanise it into a spasmodic motion, but life is a divine fire, and thou canst not steal the flame, or kindle it for thyself; it belongs to

¹ Lyric from *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, written by J. Hart (1759)

God alone to make alive, and therefore I charge thee look alone to God in Christ Jesus. Christ has come that we may have life; if we could have obtained life without his coming, why need he come? If life could come to sinners apart from the cross, why nail the Lord of Glory to the shameful tree? Why thy bleeding wounds, Immanuel, if life could come by some other door? ... Away, then, from thyself, O trembler! Seek not the living among the dead! Search not in the sepulchre of self for the life divine. The life of men is in yonder Saviour, and whosoever believeth in him shall never die.²

For those of us who sit today in joy and sadness at the foot of the cross, and for those who feel nothing at all, the charge is the same: Believe. Trust.

And then, God willing, let us wonder.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD

Isaiah 53:3-4

He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and
as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

REFLECT

But when our wickedness had reached its height, and it had been clearly shown that its reward, punishment and death, was impending over us; and when the time had come which God had before appointed for manifesting His own kindness and power, how the one love of God, through exceeding regard for men, did not regard us with hatred, nor thrust us away, nor remembered our iniquity against us, but showed great long-suffering, and bore with us, He Himself took on Him the burden

² Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "Life More Abundant," January 4, 1874. The Spurgeon Center for Biblical Preaching at Midwestern Seminary, accessed March 19, 2025, <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/life-more-abundant/>

of our iniquities, He gave His own Son as a ransom for us, the holy One for transgressors, the blameless One for the wicked, the righteous One for the unrighteous, the incorruptible One for the corruptible, the immortal One for them that are mortal. For what other thing was capable of covering our sins than His righteousness? By what other one was it possible that we, the wicked and ungodly, could be justified, than by the only Son of God? O sweet exchange! O unsearchable operation! O benefits surpassing all expectation!

—Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy God, as we come to the cross of your Son Jesus, we are confronted by the darkness of our sin. It is because of our rebellion against you that Christ became a curse for us. There is no part of our lives that is untouched by sin — our thoughts, our motives, our words, and our actions are all affected by it. We know that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Lord Jesus, forgive us of our sin and cleanse us of our guilt. We are overwhelmed by your compassion towards us, that you would come to our rescue, endure our curse, and bear our punishment. By your Spirit, create in us new and humble hearts so that we would forsake our sin and hold fast to our Savior. Amen.³

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Colossians 1:21-22

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

SONGS

Use the QR code to access our church Holy Week & Easter playlist and queue these songs today:

- "Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call"
- "Come to Me"
- "Never Shakes Never Will"



³ Adapted from "The Precious Blood" in *The Valley of Vision*

HOLY SATURDAY | APRIL 19

MEDITATION: PSALM 22 ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words
of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts. On
you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother’s womb you have been my
God.
Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet —
I can count all my bones —
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming
generation;
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a
people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 20

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 28:1-20 ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH BELIEF

As we come to Easter Sunday, let us rejoice in Christ today! Together, may we find a deeper joy in the life that Jesus has bought for us through his life, death, and resurrection. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, so that we may have eternal, abundant life. Thanks be to God!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Join us in worship as we celebrate the resurrection of our King:

- at McLean Presbyterian Church: 9am & 10:45am
- at Capital Presbyterian Herndon: 10:45am

MCLEAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1020 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101

mcleanpres.org/easter



CAPITAL PRESBYTERIAN HERNDON

1545 Dranesville Road
Herndon, VA 20170

capitalpresherndon.org/easter

2025 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE • APRIL 13

9am & 10:45am | McLean Presbyterian Church

10:45am | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS • APRIL 14-18

9am-8pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

Monday through Friday during Holy Week, visit the Fellowship Hall for a self-guided, interactive experience intended to help you reflect on some of the last days and moments of Jesus' life on earth.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE • APRIL 17

7pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

7pm | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

A communion service with gluten-free bread & juice.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE • APRIL 18

12pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

The Sanctuary will remain open afterwards for personal meditation.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE • APRIL 20

9am & 10:45am | McLean Presbyterian Church

10:45am | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

No regular classes or programming on Easter Sunday.

McLean Presbyterian Church
1020 Balls Hill Rd; McLean, VA
mcleanpres.org/easter



Capital Presbyterian Herndon
1545 Dranesville Rd; Herndon, VA
capitalpresherndon.org/easter