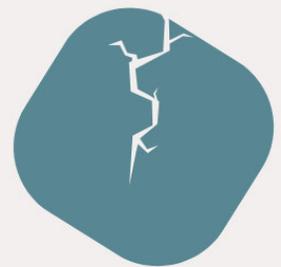
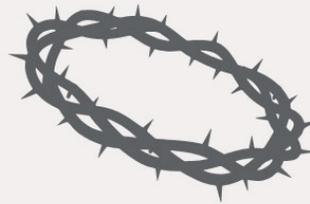


2026 DEVOTIONAL  
HOLY WEEK & EASTER



PEACE

TO YOU





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DAILY DEVOTIONAL  
*Holy Week & Easter 2026*

PEACE TO YOU

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## WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

Holy Week is a week-long celebration 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 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.

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## 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:** Let one person lead the call to worship, another choose a song of adoration from the playlist (see #2), share the reading of the Scripture passage, and invite everyone to read the prayers of confession, illumination, and response.
  2. **Listen to the songs together from our “Holy Week and Easter 2026” playlist** and encourage kids to move as they feel led — wiggles and all!
  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 for consistency.
  5. **Use the ASK acronym — Ask. Share. Keep it going:** Each day has a section giving guidance on how to begin a conversation with your children about the themes of the passage. Feel free to adapt these suggestions to fit the age and stage of your children, but these frameworks are given to help engage our younger church members in meaningful discussion during Holy Week.
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## USING THIS DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

The purpose of this guide is to give our church a supplemental resource for mid-week worship and discipleship during Holy Week. The content follows our sermon series: *Peace to You*. This theme draws from a number of texts in the gospels where peace is a primary benefit of Christ's work on the cross. This Holy Week, we will see all the different ways that Christ's work brings peace — not just peace with God, but a peace that touches every part of life, including our relationships. This peace is not sentimental; it assures us that all things have been, and one day will be, set right through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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 invites us to slow down, sit under God's word, and be shaped together.

Feel free to use these materials for personal devotions, family worship, your Community Group, or other gatherings. Each day, we will focus on one passage that shows how Jesus has brought peace to the world.

There is one devotional reflection written by a member of Mclean Presbyterian or Capital Pres Herndon based on the passage of the day. Accompanying that reflection is a brief liturgical guide shaped by the gospel's movement of gathering, hearing, responding, and being sent.

As we walk together toward Easter, it is my prayer that we will find deeper joy in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Furthermore, our hope as a church is that we will be personally encouraged to be sent out to live as peacemakers until Christ returns to usher in the fullness of peace that his sacrifice secured. Until that day, we hold fast to Jesus' words in John 14:27:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

In Christ,



Justin Gentry  
*Pastoral Intern for Worship*

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## PALM SUNDAY | MARCH 29

### **SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 12:12-36**

#### PEACE TO YOU

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

- At McLean Presbyterian Church: 8:45am & 11:15am
- At Capital Presbyterian Herndon: 10:45am

Then, find some time on your own to read and meditate on John 12:12-36.

## THE NEED FOR PEACE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Adapted From Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 85:8-9*

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.

Let us hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

### ADORATION

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



- “Rejoice the Lord is King”
- “O Worship the King”
- “May the Peoples Praise You”
- “Hosanna”

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful Father, we come to you in need of forgiveness. Though we long for the day of salvation, we desire our own kingdom to come. Though we profess loyalty to your ways, we seek our own wills to be done. Though we praise your reign with our lips, we resist your rule in our hearts. Forgive us, Lord. And by your Spirit, teach us the things that make for peace. Help us to seek your kingdom and your righteousness as we journey with you to the cross. Amen.

*Take a moment now to go to the Lord in silent confession.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Isaiah 53:3, 5*

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. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Adapted from a prayer by John Bradford*

Father of Mercies, light up my mind, that I may only see those things that please you. Blind me to all else. Help me to always walk in your ways, and grant that nothing else would be light or pleasant to me. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: LUKE 19:41-48

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

*Authored by Annie Riggins – Member of the Board of Women at McLean Presbyterian*

Only twice in the Gospels is Jesus described as weeping. Famously, in the shortest verse of the Bible, “Jesus wept” (John 11:35) over the death of his friend, Lazarus. Here, in Luke 19, we find the second instance. Moments after his triumphal entry into Jerusalem — a loud celebration filled with praise to Jesus, heralding him as the true king — Jesus weeps. He weeps because he knows the true state of the peoples’ hearts. He knows their malleability; on Sunday, they praise him as king, but by Friday they will demand he be hung on a cross. He knows the deception which can so easily ensnare them. And he knows the consequences of their spiritual blindness.

What specifically causes Jesus to be so moved here? “Would that you, even you, had known on this

day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes...” Jesus weeps for the people’s spiritual blindness, because in a few short days they will choose to walk away from the only source of true life. They will trade God’s promise of everlasting peace for the false promise of earthly redemption. They will look for Jesus to be their earthly king providing earthly security against earthly enemies. And when he doesn’t come with military might but sacrificial silence under the foot of Rome, they will reject him. They will reject the peace their hearts truly desire.

This is no new story, though. From creation to the exodus to exile and up to this point — the week before Jesus’ death — God’s heart has burned for his people. His purpose has always been to offer his people redeeming love and everlasting peace. And the people continually walk away, ignoring “the things that make for peace.” Throughout the entire drama of Scripture, the Lord called, and the people did not listen. Jesus even stood among them in flesh, yet they did not see. Even before their ultimate rejection comes, the people show how gravely they misunderstand the presence of God. In verses 45 and 46, Jesus finds them treating the temple — the place of God’s presence among them — as a strip mall. A cheap trade for God with us. Verse 48 tells us that “the people were hanging on his words,” but did they really hear? They did not know the things that make for peace, because they did not see the Prince of Peace before them.

What about us? Where are we missing “the things that make for peace?” How would you fill the blank: If I only had \_\_\_\_\_, I would be at peace. Jesus offers us something better than any earthly item that could fill that blank: his redeeming love that safeguards us for everlasting peace. And he weeps for us when we miss it, when we spend our lives groping for the things that make for shallow, earthly, temporary senses of peace.

One of the many mysteries and miracles of the cross is that Jesus, knowing the way we misunderstand

and reject him, still went to the cross to make the trade we would never choose to make on our own. Where we trade his promises for shallow peace, he trades his life for ours.

This week of all weeks, hear Jesus in tears before his Father yearning for us to receive his peace. He has given us his very self on the cross, “For he himself is our peace...” (Ephesians 2:14).

## MEDITATION

Take a moment to meditate on Jesus’ weeping as he entered Jerusalem at the beginning of the passion week. What does Jesus’ response reveal about the peace he came to bring and why that peace would lead him to the cross?

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

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 our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Ask about the passage:** Ask your children to imagine what it would be like to meet their favorite superhero. What would he or she sound like, look like, and act like?

**Share your thoughts:** Share how Jesus wept because when he came into the world to rescue his people, he didn’t sound, look, or act like the way many were hoping. Explain how the people in the passage were looking for a hero who could fix their problems right away, but Jesus came as a Savior to rescue them from sin and make peace between them and God.

**Keep it going:** Take time to pray together as a family and ask the Lord to show you what he is really like this Holy Week. Ask him to help you see more of your need for him and the saving peace he came to give.

## THE WAY OF PEACE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 55:6-7, 12*

Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy  
on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.  
You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.

### ADORATION

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



- “Before the Throne of God Above”
- “His Mercy is More”
- “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty King, we who have resisted your rule, come to you in need of forgiveness. You went to great lengths to make a way of peace for us, yet we think little of your salvation. We are full of self-righteousness, self-reliance, hypocrisy, and unbelief. If it were not for your patience and mercy, we would deserve your condemnation and wrath. Forgive us, Lord. And by the power of your Spirit, give us faith to believe and to rest wholly in your salvation. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

*Take a moment now to go to the Lord in silent confession.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Romans 5:1*

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Adapted from a prayer from The Apostolic Constitutions*

God Almighty, would you give me now an undefiled body, a pure heart, and a watchful mind? Grant me the knowledge that always points to the truth, as well as the influence of the Holy Spirit for gaining and enjoying that truth, in your peace and assurance. I ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 12:44-50

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

*Authored by Linda Bonness – Member at McLean Presbyterian*

How do we get peace? From a worldly perspective, we get peace by reducing the noise and stress in our lives. We take away things and people that produce anxiety and keep our minds spiraling. We seek the quiet stillness that can be so elusive with the frenetic pace of life. However, John 12:44-50 shows us that the biblical idea of true peace is much deeper.

Often, I think of peace as transactional: if “X” happens or is resolved, then it will bring me peace. When I had young children, I relished the quiet moments at night after they went to bed. The house was at “peace” after a day of continual noise and activity. However, the New Testament’s focus on peace is on Jesus. At his birth (Luke 2:14), the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men.” Isaiah 9:6 tells us, “And he

will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” In Romans 5:1, we are told that “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is clear from our passage that peace is far more than the absence of conflict or struggle; it is believing in Jesus’ work on the cross as our way to peace, so that we may have a relationship with the God of the universe.

The amazing thing is that Jesus accomplishes this peace from the inside out through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus provides peace that transcends my circumstances. Augustine said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” (*Confessions*). Yes, Lord, my heart is restless! It is easy to be distracted by relationships, medical conditions, finances, jobs, academic pursuits, or even a desire to make a positive difference in the world. These things are not trivial, but none of them will bring true and lasting peace. Our peace can only be found in Jesus. Charles Spurgeon wrote that “Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ.” I often long for resolution to my present trouble, yet even without resolution, if I place my trust in Christ and rest in him, he will give me his peace through the fruit of his Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Are you anxious about what the future holds? Run to Christ and trust in his work on the cross. The Lord God Almighty, who holds the world in his hands, will provide for your needs as he gives you true and lasting peace (Philippians 4:7). Meditate this week on the incredible gift of peace with God you have been given through Jesus. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27). As we prepare for Easter Sunday, let us focus on our true peace, which comes only through belief in Jesus’ work on the cross.

## MEDITATION

As Christ marches towards the cross, imagine the tone of the message he is announcing. Take a moment to meditate on the urgency with which he would have proclaimed the peace he came to bring.

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

Assist us mercifully with your grace, Lord God of our salvation, that we may go forth with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts by which you have promised us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Ask about the passage:** Ask your children to think about a time that they were given an urgent message. What are the consequences of listening to that message or ignoring it? Whether it be a last call for seconds at lunch, or the need to watch out for impending danger, we all know that urgent messages have consequences for how we respond.

**Share your thoughts:** Share how our passage is one of Jesus’ last words to the public, and in those words, he gave an urgent message to the whole world — peace with God is found through believing in Jesus, who is one with the Father, and who came to offer salvation to the world.

**Keep it going:** Take time to turn this passage into a drama. Divide up the verses (vs. 44-45, 46, 47-48, 49-50) and have different members of the family read their part. Think through which verses require a tone of pleading and others of warning. Then pray and ask that the Lord would give your family a new awareness of the urgent message of salvation this Holy Week not only for yourselves, but to see the need to share it with others as well.

## THE BETRAYAL OF PEACE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 139:1-3; Psalm 41:8-13*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;  
he will not rise again from where he lies."  
Even my close friend in whom I trusted,  
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.  
But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,  
and raise me up, that I may repay them!  
By this I know that you delight in me:  
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.  
But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.  
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen.

### ADORATION

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



- "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"
- "Psalm 139: Far Too Wonderful"
- "Psalm 62"
- "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, from whom nothing is hidden, and all is laid bare, we come to confess our sins. O Father, though we sit at your table, our hearts are far from you. O Lord, though our outward actions seem faithful, they are controlled by distrust, deceit, and fear. O Spirit, though we seek your peace, we place our hope in systems, parties, money, and self-protection rather than surrendering ourselves to

you. In all these ways we betray you and settle for a lesser peace than the one you came to bring. Forgive us, Father, Son, and Spirit, and teach us to trust in your peace, rather than in our own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Take a moment now to go to the Lord in silent confession.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Ephesians 2:13*

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open my eyes Lord, that I may behold marvelous things in your word. Convict me where I need to be convicted. Call me back from where I have strayed. Strengthen my trust in you and your ways. Increase my love for Christ this hour. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: LUKE 22:1-6

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

*Authored by Keith Roberts – Member at Capital Presbyterian Herndon*

Each year during Advent, we light a candle and reflect on peace. Most years, the peace that we picture is small and gentle: a quiet house with the tree lit, fresh snow before anyone has driven on it, or the 10-second pause and smile after finding a front-row parking space at Costco.

Those moments are not wrong. But they can train us to think of peace as something soft and personal: something meant to make our lives feel easier for our mental health. However, the peace that Scripture describes is different. It is not built on comfort or calm. It is positional. And it is costly.

In Luke 22, people are gathered for their own holiday celebration: Passover — a meal that remembers deliverance through sacrifice. Yet, in the middle of that sacred memory, plans are made to silence Jesus. Religious leaders fear losing control. A close friend chooses apparent certainty over trust. All involved believe that they are protecting peace.

These are not supervillains in a Marvel comic. They are people like us, maybe more than we want to admit.

The chief priests feared disruption more than they trusted truth. The stability of the temple, the nation, and their way of life felt fragile, and Jesus seemed to threaten it all. They worried about unrest, backlash, and losing what little order they had managed to preserve. We recognize that instinct when we cling to order, stay quiet to avoid conflict, and convince ourselves that protecting what we have matters more than listening for what God is doing.

The chief priests also lived inside an echo chamber where questions were unwelcome. We risk the same posture when we surround ourselves only with voices that agree; when being right matters more than loving well.

Judas was different. A friend. Following his Rabbi had become unpredictable, and trust felt too costly. So he chose a smaller peace, one he could count and control. We do the same whenever we place our hope in systems, parties, money, or self-protection rather than surrendering ourselves to Christ.

Knowing all of this, Jesus still came. He saw our betrayal before it happened. He knew our fear and distrust. And still, he emptied himself. He took the form of a servant. He walked the path of obedience all the way to the cross.

This is where real peace begins. Not with control or comfort, but with Christ giving himself for people who would rather manage their own safety than trust God fully.

As we remember the cross this week, we are invited to let God redefine peace for us. Not something we manufacture or defend, but something we receive. And then, like Christ, carry that peace into the world with humility.

The peace that betrays clings tightly to power and comfort. The peace of Christ loosens our grip and asks that we love our neighbor as ourselves. And in that loosening, we journey toward a peace that is beyond anything we can imagine.

## MEDITATION

As our devotional reminds us, “the peace that Jesus came to bring is not built on comfort and calm. It is positional. And it is costly.” Take time to consider how you need Christ to show you what true peace looks like this Holy Week.

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Father, as we have been fed by your Holy Word, strengthen us to do your will. Help us to receive the peace you have given to us and to carry that peace into the world with humility. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Ask about the passage:** Ask your children: “Think about a time when a friend told someone else your secret, broke a promise, or chose themselves over helping you. How did that make you feel?”

**Share your thoughts:** Share how our passage shows that one of Jesus’ friends chose his own gain over loyalty to Jesus. Highlight how Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him. Then share that Jesus still chose to go to the cross to die for betrayers like us and to offer them forgiveness.

**Keep it going:** Take time to make a craft reflecting the themes of this passage. Cut out a small paper heart. Ask your children to draw or write something that hurts when others break their trust. Then cut out a larger heart and place it over their small one. Share that Jesus’ love covers all these hurts and betrayals — both when people betray us or we betray others.

## THE PATTERN OF PEACE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 113:1; Philippians 2:5-8*

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! 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.

### ADORATION

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



- “Your Will Be Done”
- “In Christ Alone”
- “Come Away from Rush and Hurry”
- “Before the Throne of God Above”

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Adapted from the Worship Sourcebook*

King of heaven, we come to you in need of forgiveness. You came down to take a servant’s role. You knelt at the feet of your friends. You gave us a meal to remind us of your self-giving love. You have called us to love one another as you have loved us. Forgive us, Lord, for not practicing the humility you modeled. Forgive us for not loving as you have loved. Forgive us for wanting to be served rather than to serve. Amen.

*Take a moment now to go to the Lord in silent confession.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Colossians 1:19-20*

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Adapted from a prayer by John Owen*

Blessed Jesus! We long more fully and clearly to behold your glory, according to your pattern, prayer, and promise. Enable us to do so in your word today that we may behold and be changed more into your likeness. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 13:1-20

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

*Authored by Lulu Wernick – Member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls D-Group*

Holy Week asks us to sit with a hard question: how do you have peace when everything is about to fall apart? Jesus, who knew exactly what was coming, answered that question by washing his disciples’ feet. Christ had such complete faith in his Father that he was full of peace, even as his death approached. But how is such peace possible? In our world that is so full of suffering and noise and the need to get things done, peace feels light years away. We are so far from it that it is even hard to understand what peace feels like. We think of it as “serenity” or “harmony,” and wish that we could feel like that even for a moment.

But the peace that Jesus displays the night of the Passover is so far from this superficial serenity. It is a peace full of purpose. Without delay, he takes a basin of water and begins to wash his disciples’ feet. After days of trekking across Israel wearing sandals, Peter is understandably embarrassed! His King

acting like a servant is shocking to him. Yet it is in this pouring out of his love that Jesus teaches him, and us, what peace really means. The suffering that Jesus knows he will endure does not stop him from giving everything he has to us. He does not retreat into himself. He does not get angry or feel bitter at the disciples for not understanding his suffering. His purpose until the last is to give everything he has of himself.

As we reflect on John 13:1–20, let us realize that this is one of God’s gifts to us: the ability to live a life loving others. This is a calling we all share! We are not meant to spend our days worrying about our futures, nor are we supposed to sit back, relax, and not care. God placed us in a community and we have the honor and duty of serving others. He showed by example that the greatest can kneel in love to the lowliest. Serving one another looks different for each of us — for some, it is by giving time; for others, sharing wisdom; and still others have the ability to physically care for others. But each act of serving our neighbor helps us learn to live a life of purposeful peace, just like Christ.

## **MEDITATION**

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took the form of a servant and calls us to do the same. Jesus’ peace is never stagnant, but purposeful. It was given not only for our comfort, but so that we might go and serve. Amidst the busyness and difficulty of daily life, how does Jesus’ example both encourage and challenge our willingness to serve this Holy Week?

## **PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may we go forth strengthened to serve, empowered to love, and guided to steward the peace you have given us. May you receive all the glory as we do so. Amen.

## **FOR FAMILIES**

**Ask about the passage:** Ask your children to think about the greatest king or queen they can imagine. What do they look like? What do they sound like? How do they spend their time?

**Share your thoughts:** Then, share how our passage shows that Jesus, the greatest King of all, took the place of a servant to extend peace to us. Even knowing that he would be hurt and die soon, Jesus knelt to serve. Highlight the fact that Jesus also calls us to follow his example out of love for God and others.

**Keep it going:** Take time to paint or draw two pictures: one of an exalted King and one of a lowly servant. Explain that Jesus was both a king and a servant and then write out a few ways that you can seek to serve your family and friends over the next week (e.g., praying for a friend, helping with the dishes, or intentionally welcoming a new student at school). Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may have the mind of Christ as you live considering his servanthood to God and others.

## THE PRICE OF PEACE

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 85:10-13*

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.  
Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.  
Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

### ADORATION

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

- “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
- “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”
- “Man of Sorrows”

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Adapted from “The Precious Blood”*



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 give us peace. By your Spirit, create in us new and humble hearts so that we would forsake our sin and hold fast to our Savior. Amen.

*Take a moment now to go to the Lord in silent confession.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Isaiah 53:3, 5*

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. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Adapted from a prayer by Zacharias Ursinus*

Heavenly Father, may you grant us to comprehend your holy Word, that our old man with all his vices may be crucified more and more each day, and that we may offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, to the glory of your holy name and to the edification of our neighbor, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 19:16b-30

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

*Authored by Deb Perry – Member at McLean Presbyterian*

When they crucified Jesus, it was the very worst torture the Romans had been able to invent. They beat him, they mocked him, they put nails through his hands and feet. They raised the Son of God up on a tree so that he could see the very ones he came to save turning away from his love. But the very heart of heaven was torn in two when his Father turned his own face away. That was the greatest cost paid at the cross.

There is so much we don't know about what Christ suffered between the moment he gave up his spirit and the moment when he made himself alive again in triumph. But we know this: in the moments before he died, Christ, God the Son, saw his own Father

turn from him. In anguish, he cried out, “God, why have you forsaken me?”

Of course, he knew why. This was the plan from before the foundation of the world. The Father and the Son covenanted together that the Son would go down to re-fight the battle that Adam had lost against temptation. They covenanted that, being without sin of his own, the Son would be able to take onto himself the sins of every generation since Adam, and every generation to come.

They also knew that the weight of that sin would come between them, and that the Father would turn away and allow the Son to take our place as outcasts from Paradise and from the arms of God.

That was the deepest horror of the crucifixion.

John wrote that “after this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished” asked for a drink. Something was so necessary to say that Jesus asked for the drink he had refused before. Sour wine sucked from a sponge at the end of a broken branch wet his mouth. And he declared some of the most important words in history: “It is finished.”

All of the work was done. The blood of the eternal Son of God was enough to give life to every death-bound human. His perfect obedience was enough to cover the sin of Adam and every man, woman and child after him. Enough love had been poured out to cover every unfaithful creature who paid no heed to their Creator. Nothing else would be needed for all of eternity to restore me, and you, and the thief who died beside him, and the very ones who crucified him, and all of mankind, to the paradise we lost in Eden.

It was finished.

## MEDITATION

Linger for a little while longer at the foot of the cross. Take time to count the cost of peace, a peace willingly embraced by the Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit. Along the way, stop to thank the Lord for his sacrifice, and reflect on the weight and darkness of the sin that he bore for us.

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*From The Book of Common Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, Cross, and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; peace and rest to the dead; to your holy Church unity and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Ask about the passage:** Ask your children what they would pay all the money in the world for. Then ask them to explain why it would be worth the cost.

**Share your thoughts:** Explain that in today’s passage we see the greatest price ever paid. Because of our sin, our relationship with God was broken. But in love, God sent his Son, and Jesus willingly gave his life on the cross to restore us. When Jesus said “It is finished”, he meant that all that was needed for our restoration was accomplished. This relationship with God is not something earned, it is freely given to all those who trust in Jesus for salvation.

**Keep it going:** Make or draw a cross together. Write things down on the cross that we know are wrong as a family. Afterwards, remind your children that Jesus came to die for these sins and that they are forgiven in believing in him. Then pray and ask the Lord to help us see the great cost of our sin and the even greater love that he showed at the cross.

# HOLY SATURDAY | APRIL 4

## MEDITATION: PSALM 22 PREPARING FOR PEACE

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Holy Saturday is a time to wait, to sit in silence, to be reminded that God is working even in the unseen, and to prepare our hearts for the joy of resurrection. Take time to read Psalm 22. Stop to pray and meditate anytime you are struck by this passage. Then further your reflection and meditation by reading the accompanying devotional.

### 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.

## **DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION**

*Authored by Erin Rodewald – Member at McLean  
Presbyterian*

Peace is hard to come by some days. Another professional door slams shut. An unwanted diagnosis lands in your lap. A child turns away. A parent slips out of reach. Betrayal. Fear. Rejection. Pain. Sometimes, we find ourselves sitting in the dark wondering if peace is even possible.

On Saturday, after that horrible Friday when Jesus was nailed to a cross, the disciples found themselves in profound darkness. They must have had so many questions: What happened, Lord? What does this mean? Why? Where are you, God?

Even though we live on this side of the cross — knowing that the resurrection has come — we still can find ourselves sitting in darkness with many of the same questions on our lips. How then do we prepare for peace? How do we survive Saturday and find grace in the promise of Sunday? Psalm 22 offers a roadmap, even as it points to Christ.

Notably, Psalm 22 begins not with peace but with lament. The psalmist boldly pleads, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” It is a plea for the ages, for all who are tormented by grief, fear, and pain. That includes Jesus, who cried these same words from the cross. Peace does not begin with mere dismissal of the despair that grips us; it starts with its honest recognition. Name the heartbreak.

Share it with God. Saturday is real; our cries to God must be real as well.

Indeed, the psalmist gives full voice to lament, allowing for the deep and honest admission of sorrow. He lingers, but by God’s grace does not remain, and nor should we. Rather, lament gives way to reflection as we ponder that which we know to be true about the faithfulness of God. “In you our fathers trusted: they trusted and you delivered them.” Raw emotion can plunge us into darkness. But we can prepare our hearts for peace by recalling with intentionality all that God has provided. It may feel forced at first, but when we anchor ourselves on his promises, we are reminded that God is good. He loves us. He is faithful. He has a plan. Gradually a shift begins, and like the psalmist, we prepare for peace by inviting God closer: “Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.”

Finally, to pierce the darkness and prepare for the peace that passes all understanding requires reverence. “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you...For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.” What started with lament, ends in praise. Psalm 22 does not change our suffering, but it helps us reshape our response as we wait on the Lord. It reminds us to speak honestly, remember faithfully, and praise continuously. Because of Jesus, Saturday is never the end. We will climb out of its gloomy shadows into the full light and grace of Sunday.

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5

## THE POWER OF PEACE

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

*He is risen! He is risen indeed!*

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 20

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

- At McLean Presbyterian Church: 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am
- At Capital Presbyterian Herndon: 10:45am



# 2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## **PALM SUNDAY SERVICE • MARCH 29**

8:45am & 11:15am | McLean Presbyterian Church

10:45am | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE • APRIL 2**

7pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

7pm | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

*A communion service with gluten-free bread & juice.*

## **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE • APRIL 3**

12pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

*The Sanctuary will remain open afterwards for personal meditation.*

## **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE • APRIL 5**

8:30am, 10am, 11:30am | McLean Presbyterian Church

10:45am | Capital Presbyterian Herndon

*No Discipleship Hour classes or regular programming on Easter Sunday.*

## **A NIGHT OF BEAUTY: THE STORY OF JESUS APRIL 5**

7pm | McLean Presbyterian Church

*In a relaxed setting, hear the stories of Jesus' life through selected Bible readings – with live music, visual art, and delicious food to enjoy throughout the evening.*

