

Holy Week and Easter Reading Guide: Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Welcome to this simple guide for walking through the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry and the hope of Easter. Read each passage in your own Bible, then pause with the short summary and question.

A NOTE ON THE SCRIPTURE

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

Palm Sunday

READ: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a young donkey as crowds welcome him with branches and praise. The scene presents a king who comes in humility, while the city begins to ask who he is.

Reflect: What kind of welcome might you offer Jesus in your daily choices?

Monday

READ: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19

Jesus challenges the misuse of the temple and teaches that it is to be a place of prayer. His actions show care for worship and for those who come seeking God.

Reflect: Where might you help make room for others to seek God?

THE JOURNEY / 01 OF 04

Readings for the middle of the week

Teaching, devotion and humble service

Tuesday

READ: Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

Jesus teaches that loving God and loving your neighbour belong together. His answer gathers the heart of the law into a way of life shaped by love.

Reflect: Which relationship could you approach with more patient care today?

Wednesday

READ: Matthew 26:6-16

At Bethany, a woman honours Jesus with costly perfume; soon after, Judas agrees to hand him over. Matthew sets an act of devotion beside betrayal, inviting readers to consider what faithful love costs.

Reflect: What might generous love look like in one practical action?

Maundy Thursday

READ: Luke 22:14-23; John 13:1-17

At the meal, Jesus shares bread and cup with his disciples and gives them a pattern of humble service by washing their feet. He knows betrayal is near, yet remains present with them.

Reflect: Where could you choose to serve someone quietly?

THE JOURNEY / 02 OF 04

The cross and the tomb

Grief, love and the stillness of waiting

Good Friday

READ: Luke 23:32-49

Jesus is crucified between two others. Luke describes his compassion, the darkness over the land and his death; the witnesses leave grieving and shaken.

Reflect: What does it mean to stay present with grief rather than rush past it?

Holy Saturday

READ: John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:62-66

Jesus' body is laid in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea, with Nicodemus helping. Matthew also describes the tomb being guarded. The day holds loss and uncertainty, with no visible sign yet of what is to come.

Reflect: How can you make space for someone who is waiting without easy answers?

A pause between sorrow and hope

THE JOURNEY / 03 OF 04

Easter Sunday

The first day of resurrection hope

Easter Sunday

READ: Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

The women find the tomb open and hear that Jesus has been raised; Luke recounts their report to the disciples. John tells how Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus and carries the news.

Reflect: What hope or new beginning do you need to carry into today?

A note on tradition

Christian communities may name and observe these days differently; this guide offers one simple reading path through the Gospel accounts.

A final pause

Return to the passages that stay with you. This guide can be read across the week or revisited at your own pace.