

### Monday April 06

Reading: John 12:1-11

**Verse 3: Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**

Women play an important role throughout Holy Week. They pastorally look after Christ, offering Him their comfort and tears during the most intense week of His life.

In the midst of all the fear and pain that Jesus goes through, the women remain faithful when the men run away. Their devotion will earn them the privilege of being the first to know of Christ's resurrection – they will be blessed by God for their faith and love.

When Mary pours out the expensive perfume and soothes Christ's weary feet with it, she is proclaiming that He is the most important person in her life. She is thankful for what Jesus had done – raising her brother from the dead – but she is also mindful that Christ the great Healer is human, too. He needs to be cherished and loved, cared for and comforted. This is why she does something beautiful for Him.

**Q: How do I love Jesus?**

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, let us serve and love You faithfully. Amen.**

### Tuesday April 07

Reading: John 12:20-36

**Verse 21: They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."**

This event that we read during Holy Week reminds us that our faith in Christ began in Judea & Galilee but quickly spread through Greece and eventually made its way to Rome. The Greeks who are looking for Jesus have heard some wonderful stories and so, like any other tourists, they want to see the real thing.

Jesus is heartened by this request. It means that His ministry of salvation is not just for His own people but for the entire world. His message is not just meant for some, but for all. Two thousand years later, we are the beneficiaries of this incredible gift of grace from God.

In a time when our world is facing pandemic, we should also remind ourselves that the spread of Christianity has allowed us to receive faith, hope, and love, even in the most trying of times. God sent His dearly beloved Son so that we would not perish, but have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Q: How has Christianity shaped me?**

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for saving the world. Amen.**

### Wednesday April 08

Reading: John 13:1-17

**Verse 1: It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

The last words of this verse speak to us about the deep love Jesus had for those closest to Him. He knew that He was about to be betrayed; He understood the fate that awaited Him and yet, despite it all, His capacity to love others never left Him. Once again, we come across the very human side of Christ – a man who dearly loved His family and friends.

This should give us all a great hope, for we are also dearly loved by Christ. Think about it, He proved His love for us because He was willing to sacrifice Himself for the mistakes we were yet to make! We hadn't even been born, but Jesus who loved us before Time began, was willing to lay down His life **for us!**

In the midst of all that is holy and sacred this week, there is nothing holier than the love Christ has for us. What a wonderful Savior! What an amazing love!

**Q: What does Christ's love mean for me?**

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your amazing and everlasting love. Amen.**

### Thursday April 09

Reading: John 13:21-32

**Verse 27: As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So, Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."**

This is one of the saddest incidents in the Bible. Judas, after being with Jesus on His ministry for three years, decides to betray the one person who could save him from this sin. It's a terrible event in human history, but it also reveals how mistaken we can be, especially when motivated by greed, power, or delusion.

Betraying Jesus is something that you or I would never wish to do, but sometimes when we cast aside His truth or teaching, that is exactly what we are doing. We betray His words and ways; we follow our own kind of faith; we make up our own ideas about what is right or wrong.

On his way to the Sanhedrin, Judas probably justified what he had chosen to do. It wasn't just about the money; he must have been angry or deeply disappointed with Jesus as a leader. He didn't want to be on the losing side...and yet, that's exactly where he landed.

**Q: Have I ever betrayed Jesus?**

**Prayer: Lord, forgive us for failing You. Restore us to Your love. Amen.**

### Friday April 10

Reading: John 19:17-30

**Verses 17-18: Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.**

The Romans executed Christ in the garbage dump. It was the filthiest place imaginable and they did this to shame Him completely. Apart from a few men, most of the women who loved Him dearly, His mother included, stood at the foot of His cross.

Jesus was bleeding profusely and his face must have been unrecognizable. He was naked and allowed no decency. He was God's child being sacrificed on the twisted altar of sin that we had made.

And yet, in that moment of suffering and humiliation, a new faith was born. Sin was paid in full and the debt we owed to God was redeemed. Christ gave everything so that we might be offered everything in return – the forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life.

**Q: What does the Cross mean to me?**

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You. Amen.**

### Saturday April 11

Reading: John 19:31-42

**Verse 42: Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.**

Two heroes enter the story – Joseph of Arimathea and the Pharisee Nicodemus. They both put their reputations and lives on the line by asking the Governor Pontius Pilate for Christ's body – a body of a traitor that was supposed to rot on the cross.

They gently took down Christ's body which meant they would have been unclean for the rest of the Passover Festival. Thus, they not only gave up their reputations, they also set aside their rich religious traditions which must have been deeply shocking to them.

Christ's body was placed in a nearby tomb. There was no time to do the usual preparations, although Nicodemus, like Mary earlier that week, brought some sweet-smelling nard to be rubbed on His body and take away the stench of death. There was nothing more anyone could do until the Special Sabbath was over.

**Q: Have we given up anything for Jesus?**

**Prayer: Lord, give us the courage to be faithful to You. Amen.**

### Sunday April 12

Reading: John 20:1-18

**Verse 18: Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.**

And so, we end up where we began with a woman who loved Jesus being blessed by Him in the Garden of Resurrection. Another Mary, from Magdala, has gone to the tomb because she cannot let go of Jesus. Even after His shameful death, Mary wants to do something to honor Him and respect His memory.

What she discovers is monumental and Who she encounters changes her life and our forever. Jesus is not dead. He is alive! The Cross could not destroy Him and Death could not contain Him.

Mary is the first woman to tell others that Jesus is alive. She boldly proclaims to the disciples, "***I have seen the Lord!***" Those words will change the world completely and down through the centuries, Christians will joyfully declare on this Holy Day:

***Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!***

**Q: What does this day mean for all of us?**

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, welcome! Amen.**

### Holy Week 2020

Daily Readings & Devotions  
Erin Presbyterian Church



### Sunday April 05 – Palm Sunday

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

**Verse 9: The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

As Holy Week begins, we are shown how fickle human beings can be. Today, the people cry out, "Hosanna! Save us!" but within a week they will be saying, "He saved others, so why can't He save Himself?"

**Q: Are we really any different?**

**Prayer: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
O Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.**