

Holy Week with Matthew: A Journey to the Heart of Our Faith

During Holy Week each year, we enter most deeply into the foundation of our faith—the Christian mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we revisit the events of that final tumultuous week in his life, we are plunged by memory and ritual into the mystery that not only revealed and defined the meaning of his existence, but also reveals and defines the meaning of our own. His story is our story, and what happened to him is the pattern for what is now happening and what will happen to us.

There are four different gospel versions of that final week. This year, we concentrate on Matthew’s formulation of the meaning of the Christian mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. In chapters 21–28 of his Gospel, Matthew reveals that the path of Jesus’ life moves from his public ministry of preaching, teaching and healing in service to God’s kingdom through his death on the cross at the hands of his hostile opponents to his resurrection to new life by God’s power. This mystery is the formative pattern that identifies the meaning of both his life and ours as his disciples. His story is our story too.

“Could You Not Watch One Hour with Me?” (Mt 26:40) A Reading Plan for Holy Week

This Holy Week, set aside one hour each day to be with Matthew as he reveals to you his understanding of the mystery of Jesus life, death and resurrection. Each day, find a quiet place and time to use your Bible to read the following passages from Matthew’s Gospel and, if you wish, consider one or more of *Some Basic Questions for Exploring Any Scripture Reading* (p. 29):

PALM SUNDAY	CHAPTER 21	TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE
MONDAY	CHAPTER 22	FINAL QUESTIONS FROM OPPONENTS
TUESDAY	CHAPTER 23	FINAL “WOES” AND WARNINGS
WEDNESDAY	CHAPTERS 24–5	JESUS’ FINAL TEACHING DISCOURSE TO THE DISCIPLES
HOLY THURSDAY	CHAPTER 26	THE LAST SUPPER & NIGHT TRIAL
GOOD FRIDAY	CHAPTER 27	THE ROMAN TRIAL & CRUCIFIXION
HOLY SATURDAY	CHAPTER 28	EMPTY TOMB, RESURRECTION & FINAL COMMISSION