



This is a Spiritual Journey through Mark chapters 11-16 NAS-95

There are 40 Readings – *Covering Holy Week and Easter Sunday*

I encourage you to **Read** ➔ **Think** ➔ **Understand** ➔ **Apply**

See the back for our Lent and Easter Sunday Schedule

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Introduction: Dear friend in Christ: *Thanks for choosing to read through this booklet during the Church Year Season of Lent!*

This booklet focuses on Holy Week – *the climax of Jesus’ ministry!* Holy Week **✦**began on Palm Sunday and **✦**concluded on Holy Saturday. During the week: Jesus taught many things, then He was **✦**betrayed, **✦**arrested, **✦**put on trial, **✦**severely beaten, and **✦**crucified. Then, *after finishing His work to take away the sins of the world,* He laid down His life!

On the assigned days: ✓Read, ✓think about, ✓understand, and ✓apply God’s word. On our service days: Attend with an openness to learn and grow in your faith; then, more boldly live for Jesus and show love to others! *See the back for our Lenten and Easter Sunday schedule.*

The readings in this booklet will become the basis for 14 sermons – beginning on the weekend after Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday. *Please take this journey and invite someone to join you!*

Notes:

- We use *Roman time keeping*, so our days begin at midnight.
- Jews used *Jewish time keeping*, so their days began at sunset.
- The readings in this booklet:
 - They go from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday.
 - There are six readings per week – skipping the Sundays.
- As you are reading, keep in mind that we are taking the **7 days of Holy Week** and **stretching them out over 46 days!!!**

Holy Week

The Readings on Days 1 and 2 Happened on Palm Sunday

(For the Jews, Sunday began on Saturday at sunset.)

(We see this day as Saturday evening; Jews saw it as early on Sunday.)

Day 1 (We, 2/14) – Jesus Anointed at Bethany: [Even though this account is recorded in Mark 14, it most likely took place after sunset – at the beginning of Palm Sunday (see Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8).] **14:3** While [Jesus] was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper [who was possibly a relative of Lazarus and had been cured by Jesus], and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. ⁴ But some [including Judas Iscariot (John 12:4-5)] were indignantly remarking to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they were scolding her. ⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. ⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”

- Jesus knew what was coming soon – *His death* – and accepted it.
- Let us properly accept all that the Lord permits into our lives.



Day 2 (Th, 2/15) – Jesus' Triumphal Entry: 11:1 As [Jesus and His disciples] approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, ² and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission.

⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: “Hosanna [save us now]! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem *and came* into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

- 1,000 years earlier, David had been the greatest king of Israel.
- Now, the people expected Jesus, David's son, to liberate Israel!

The Readings on Days 3-4 Happened on Holy Monday

Day 3 (Fr, 2/16) – Jesus Curses the Fig Tree: 11:12 On the next day, when they had left Bethany [where they had stayed], He became hungry. ¹³ Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went *to see* if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And His disciples were listening.

- “Early unripe figs should have been present (c Mar/Apr), even though the main harvest season had not yet arrived (Aug/Sep). The leaves should have served as a reliable indicator for these early figs. If the early figs do not appear, neither will the later ones” (TLSB – The Lutheran Study Bible).
- Let us have both *the leaves AND the fruits of faith!*

Day 4 (Sa, 2/17) – Jesus Cleanses the Temple: 11:15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; ¹⁶ and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. ¹⁷ And He *began* to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS’? But you have made it a ROBBERS’ DEN.” ¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and *began* seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, they would go out of the city.

- The sacrificial system was *intended* to cause sorrow for sin and point ahead to the ultimate sacrifice of the Messiah.
- Have you corrupted something that God intended for good? How is God calling you to repent?

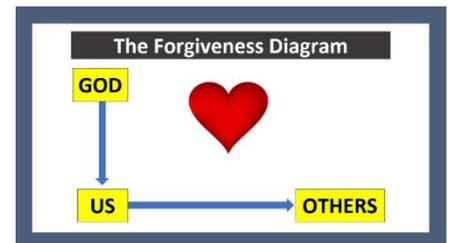
There is no reading for Sunday, 2/18.

The Readings on Days 5-22 Happened on Holy Tuesday

Let us be in awe as we read about Jesus’ monumental day of teaching!

Day 5 (Mo, 2/19) – The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree: 11:20 As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up [most die from the top down]. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter said to Him, “Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.” ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you. ²⁵ “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ *But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.*”

- The tree had no fruit. Does your saving faith have evidence? Y N
- Forgiveness is critical: *from God to us, and from us to others!*



Day 6 (Tu, 2/20) – The Authority of Jesus Challenged: 11:27 They came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, ²⁸ and *began* saying to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?” ²⁹ And Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and *then* I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me.” ³¹ They *began* reasoning among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ ³² But shall we say, ‘From men?’”-- they were afraid of the people, for everyone considered John to have been a real prophet. ³³ Answering Jesus, they said, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

- Authority is given to a police officer to write speeding tickets. Since the religious leaders had not given authority to Jesus to cleanse the temple, *they wanted to know who authorized Him.*
- As Christians, *we are authorized representatives of the Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)!*

Day 7 (We, 2/21) – The Parable of the Tenants: 12:1 And He began to speak to them in parables [which are earthly stories with heavenly meanings]: “A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT, AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. ² At the *harvest* time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive *some* of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers. ³ They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. ⁵ And he sent

another, and that one they killed; and *so with* many others, beating some and killing others. ⁶ He had one more *to send*, a beloved son; he sent him last *of all* to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'⁷ But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!'⁸ They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard."

⁹ "What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Have you not even read this Scripture: 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*'; ¹¹ THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES?'" ¹² And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.

- The religious leaders had already decided to put Jesus to death. Jesus could have backed down, avoided them, or told them what they wanted to hear; instead, *He told them the saving truth!*
- Are we avoiding someone? *Let us boldly speak God's truth!*

Day 8 (Th, 2/22) – Paying Taxes to Caesar: 12:13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. ¹⁴ They came and said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer [*give way*] to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? ¹⁵ "Shall we pay or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy [*knowing every heart – even yours and mine*], said to them, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at." ¹⁶ They brought *one*. And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" And they said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Render [*give*] to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed at Him.

- As Jesus knew their hypocrisy, He also knows ours; *let us repent!*
- **God has given us** life, health, abilities, possessions, family, eternal life, and more. **The government gives us** law and order, roads, etc. Let us think, understand, and rightly give!

Day 9 (Fr, 2/23) – The Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection: 12:18 *Some Sadducees* (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and *began* questioning Him, saying, ¹⁹ "Teacher, Moses wrote for us [*in Deut. 25:5-10*] that IF A MAN'S BROTHER DIES and leaves behind a wife AND LEAVES NO CHILD, HIS BROTHER SHOULD MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. ²¹ The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; ²² and so all seven left no children. Last of all the woman died also. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her."

²⁴ Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *passage* about *the burning bush*, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."

- Note: people do NOT become angels in heaven; instead, as angels never marry, so people will not be married in heaven.
- Note: people who die in Jesus are now alive with God!

Day 10 (Sa, 2/24) – The Great Commandment: 12:28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; ³⁰ AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'³¹ The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.”³² The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM;³³ AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

- Let us memorize, then meditate on those commandments!
- How is the Holy Spirit calling us to repent, to change, to begin to properly love God and love others?

There is no reading for Sunday, 2/25.

Day 11 (Mo, 2/26) – Whose Son Is the Christ? 12:35 And Jesus *began* to say, as He taught in the temple, “How *is it that* the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?³⁶ David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.’”³⁷ David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so in what sense is He his son?” And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

- Who is “THE LORD”? _____ Who is “MY LORD”? _____
- How is Jesus both David’s son and David’s Lord? _____

Day 12 (Tu, 2/27) – Beware of the Scribes: 12:38 In His teaching He was saying: “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and *like* respectful greetings in the market places,³⁹ and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,⁴⁰ who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”

- No matter what we say or do – *Jesus knows our true intentions.*
- Outwardly, *the scribes looked godly; in reality, they were evil.*

Day 13 (We, 2/28) – The Widow’s Offering: 12:41 And He sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

- We honor the LORD with our giving when we give in proportion to our receiving. *Giving a tithe works for everyone!*
- Receive 10, give 1; receive 100, give 10; receive 1,000, give 100.

Day 14 (Th, 2/29) – Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple: 13:1 As [Jesus] was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”² And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

- “Huge stone blocks, some measuring 37 ft long, 18 ft wide, and 12 ft high, and decorated with gold, were used to build Herod’s temple, one of the most impressive man-made structures of the ancient world” (TLSB).
- Was one stone left upon another? Find out on 3/2 or 3/3.

Day 15 (Fr, 3/1) – Signs of the Close of the Age – Part 1: 13:3 As [Jesus] was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,⁴ “Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”⁵ And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.⁶ Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He!*’ and

will mislead many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that is* not yet the end. ⁸ For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.”

- Since the 17th century, more than 40 notable people have claimed to be the Christ and have misled many.
- In 2023: 15,600 earthquakes – 4.0 or higher in magnitude. Right now, there are at least 32 conflicts in the world.

Day 16 (Sa, 3/2) – Signs of the Close of the Age – Part 2: 13:9 “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to *the courts*, and you will be flogged in *the synagogues*, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰ The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. ¹¹ When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit. ¹² Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”

- “Persecution is worsening: More than 365 million (one in seven) Christians face high levels of persecution for their faith – and persecution is becoming dangerously violent in countries on the World Watch List. Attacks on churches and Christian properties sky-rocketed in 2023, as more Christians than ever recorded faced violent attacks” (<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/persecution-trends/>).
- It is vital to endure to the end; *God will help us, trust in Him!*

There is no reading for Sunday, 3/3.

Day 17 (Mo, 3/4) – The Abomination of Desolation: 13:14 “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; ¹⁶ and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ¹⁸ But pray that it may not happen in the winter. ¹⁹ For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. ²⁰ Unless the Lord had shortened *those* days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, *He is* there’; do not believe *him*; ²² for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”

- Jesus announced a new desolation and destruction of the Jerusalem temple, which was carried out by the Romans in AD 70. That event ended all temple worship and sacrifice. But those desolations are but a taste of what lies in the future (TLSB).
- AD 70: Many ignored Jesus. Are YOU listening to Him today?

Day 18 (Tu, 3/5) – The Coming of the Son of Man: 13:24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, ²⁵ AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.”

- When Jesus comes, *the fourth day of creation will be undone!*
- Last day: The believers will be separated from the unbelievers.

Day 19 (We, 3/6) – The Lesson of the Fig Tree: 13:28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. ³⁰ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

- Winter: no leaves; Spring: buds and leaves: *Summer is near!*
- We are living amid the signs of the end; can you see them? Are you growing up in Jesus? Are you ready for His return?

Day 20 (Th, 3/7) – No One Knows That Day or Hour: 13:32 “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*. ³³ Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. ³⁴ *It is* like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. ³⁵ Therefore, be on the alert-- for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-- ³⁶ in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

- Even though many are falling away: “...let us... not [forsake] our own assembling together, ...but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Heb. 10:24-25).
- May these words keep describing you and me: “...we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul” (Heb. 10:39).

Day 21 (Fr, 3/8) – The Plot to Kill Jesus: 14:1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away [on Thursday]; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize [Jesus] by stealth and kill *Him*; ² for they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people.”

- They wanted to seize Jesus unexpectedly, *like baiting a fish*.
- They also feared the people because many believed in Jesus.

Day 22 (Sa, 3/9) – Judas to Betray Jesus: 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. ¹¹ They were glad when they heard *this*, and promised to give him money. And he *began* seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.

- Judas, *one of the twelve*, heard Jesus teach and saw His miracles for years, *yet he betrayed Him*⊗.
- If you are in Christ and growing, *give thanks to God!* If you are slipping away, *ask the Holy Spirit to move you to repent!*

There is no reading on Sunday, 3/10.

Holy Wednesday

(Nothing is recorded.)

The Reading on Day 23 Happened on Holy Thursday

(We call it “Maundy Thursday” when the text is *John 13* – Jesus washing feet.)

Day 23 (Mo, 3/11) – Preparing the Passover Meal: 14:12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover *lamb* was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?” ¹³ And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”

¹⁵ And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there.” ¹⁶ The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

- **Lambs:** Sacrificed on Thursday afternoon, eaten after sunset.
- The man offered his guestroom; what are you offering to Jesus?

The Readings on Days 24-39 Happened on Good Friday

(For the Jews, Friday began on Thursday at sunset.)

Zechariah 3:9: “I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”

Day 24 (Tu, 3/12) – Eating the Passover Meal: 14:17 When it was evening [near the time of sunset] He came with the twelve. ¹⁸ As they were reclining *at the table* and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me-- one who is eating with Me.” ¹⁹ They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, “Surely not I?” ²⁰ And He said to them, “*It is* one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. ²¹ For the Son of Man *is to* go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been good* for that man if he had not been born.”

- Jesus, *being the host*, probably reclined at the head of the table with a disciple to His left and to His right; *one of them was Judas*.
- God did not cause Judas to betray Jesus, *but He knew he would*.

Day 25 (We, 3/13) – Institution of the Lord’s Supper: 14:22 While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, “Take *it*; this is My body.” ²³ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

- It is essential to combine the contents 1 Corinthians 10:16 with the words of institution to rightly understand what we receive.
- The Lord’s Supper is the New Testament Passover!

Day 26 (Th, 3/14) – Jesus Foretells Peter’s Denial: 14:26 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.’” ²⁸ But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ²⁹ But Peter said to Him, “*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not.” ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.” ³¹ But *Peter* kept saying insistently, “*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were saying the same thing also.

- The other gospel accounts record much more of what happened and what was said in the Upper Room, *but Mark is concise*.
- Peter was confident that he would not deny Jesus. But “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

Day 27 (Fr, 3/15) – Jesus Prays in Gethsemane: 14:32 They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here until I have prayed.” ³³ And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” ³⁵ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. ³⁶ And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.” ³⁷ And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Keep

watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. ⁴¹ And He came the third time, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

- **Gethsemane:** “Walled garden where olives were pressed for oil.”
- **Think:** Jesus knew what was going to come upon Him that day – *betrayal, arrest, abandonment, trials, flogging, and crucifixion!*

Day 28 (Sa, 3/16) – Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus: 14:42 “Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!” ⁴³ Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, *who were* from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁴⁶ They laid hands on Him and seized Him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by [*that is, Peter (John 18:10)*] drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as *you would* against a robber? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but *this has taken place* to fulfill the Scriptures.” ⁵⁰ And they all left Him and fled.

- **The religious leaders:** They should have understood how Jesus lined up with the Scriptures; instead, *they wanted to kill Him*☹!
- Hypocrites are actors; *let us be sincere in our words and deeds!*

There is no reading on Sunday, 3/17.

Day 29 (Mo, 3/18) – A Young Man Flees: 14:51 A young man was following Him, wearing *nothing but* a linen sheet over *his* naked *body*; and they seized him. ⁵² But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

- Many believe the “young man” was Mark.
- Mark was not an apostle *but worked closely with Peter.*

Day 30 (Tu, 3/19) – Jesus Before the Council – Part 1: 14:53 They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. ⁵⁴ Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. ⁵⁶ For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against Him, saying, ⁵⁸ “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’” ⁵⁹ Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

- Like many corrupt trials today, *the leaders decided the result and the punishment BEFORE THE TRIAL EVEN STARTED!*
- Two consistent witnesses were needed, *but they failed!*

Day 31 (We, 3/20) – Jesus Before the Council – Part 2: 14:60 The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” ⁶¹ But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?” ⁶² And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” ⁶³ Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem

to you?” And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers received Him with slaps *in the face*.

- They never considered if Jesus’ amazing claim was true☹.
- Many today reject Jesus without considering His claim☹.

Day 32 (Th, 3/21) – Peter Denies Jesus: [See Day 26 to read about Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s denial.] **14:66** As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁶⁸ But he denied *it*, saying, “**I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.**” And he went out onto the porch, and a rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is *one* of them!” ⁷⁰ But again **he denied it**. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are *one* of them, for you are a Galilean too.” ⁷¹ But he began to curse and swear, “**I do not know this man you are talking about!**” ⁷² Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he began to weep.

- We can deny Jesus in many ways: By ♦remaining silent, ♦not forgiving, ♦not attending, ♦not loving, ♦not giving, ♦etc.
- Denying is very serious: See [Matthew 10:32-33](#); [Mark 8:38](#)

Day 33 (Fr, 3/22) – Jesus Delivered to Pilate: **15:1** Early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to [Pilate](#) [the Roman Governor]. ² Pilate questioned Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him, “*It is as you say.*” ³ The chief priests *began* to accuse Him harshly. ⁴ Then Pilate questioned Him again, saying, “Do You not answer? See how many charges they bring against You!” ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer; so Pilate was amazed.

- The Jewish leaders did not mention blasphemy to Pilate; instead, they mentioned “King of the Jews” to *try to get his attention*.
- Who were the magi seeking? The “King of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2).

Day 34 (Sa, 3/23) – Pilate Delivers Jesus to be Crucified: **15:6** Now at *the* feast he used to release for them *any* one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷ The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection [against the Romans]. ⁸ The crowd went up and began asking him *to do* as he had been accustomed to do for them. ⁹ Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰ For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd *to ask* him to release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Answering again, Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify Him!” ¹⁴ But Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him!” ¹⁵ Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

- Pilate was hoping to release Jesus, *whom he saw as innocent*.
- Pilate was responsible for justice *but gave in to the crowd*.

There is no reading on Sunday, 3/24.

Day 35 (Mo, 3/25) – Jesus Is Mocked: **15:16** The soldiers took Him away into the [palace](#) [courtyard] (that is, the [Praetorium](#)) [the governor’s official residence], and they called together the whole [Roman cohort](#) [normally including 600 troops]. ¹⁷ They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; ¹⁸ and they began to [salute] Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ They kept beating His head with a reed, and

spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. ²⁰ After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

- Purple: royal robe imitation; crown of thorns: sadistic imitation.
- “He was despised [treated disrespectfully, dishonorably, shamefully], and we did not esteem [rightly consider] Him” (Isa. 53:3).

Day 36 (Tu, 3/26) – The Crucifixion – Part 1: 15:21 They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross. ²² Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³ They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them *to decide* what each man should take. ²⁵ It was the third hour [9 AM] when they crucified Him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against Him read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

- “He did not take it” – “Jesus was nailed to the cross without any drugs, fully experiencing the Law’s punishment for the sins of the world” (TLSB).
- Crucified at 9 AM; laid down His life at 3 PM.

Day 37 (We, 3/27) – The Crucifixion – Part 2: 15:27 They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. ²⁸ *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with transgressors.”* ²⁹ Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking *Him* among themselves and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. ³² Let *this* Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

- God in flesh – *for their eternal benefit*, yet so many insulted Him: By-passers, chief priests, scribes, and the two criminals ☹.
- Does YOUR life insult Jesus, or do YOU love and obey Him?

Day 38 (Th, 3/28) – The Death of Jesus: 15:33 When the sixth hour [noon] came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour [3 PM]. ³⁴ At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they *began* saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶ Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. ³⁸ And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” ⁴⁰ There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom *were* Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and *there were* many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

- Our sins separated us from God: “...your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...” (Isa. 59:2).
- To save us, Jesus was separated: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...” (Gal. 3:13).

Day 39 (Fr, 3/29) – The Entombment of Jesus’ Body: 15:42 When evening [just before (or after) sunset] had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea [possibly located about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem] came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned

him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵ And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the *mother* of James were looking on to see where He was laid.

- By God's grace, Joseph "gathered up courage" and "asked for the body of Jesus" – *which identified him as a follower of Jesus.*
- List the things that identify YOU as a follower of Jesus: _____

Holy Saturday

(Nothing is recorded in Mark; see Matthew 27:62-66.)

Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord

Day 40 (Sa, 3/30) – The Resurrection: **16:1** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. ⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. **He has risen**; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.'" ⁸ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- Excruciating death, *but then the greatest news: "He has risen"!*
- "...tell...Peter" – *the one who denied Jesus*, that forgiveness is available! **Let us share that good news and call for repentance!**

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This is our Lenten and Easter Sunday Schedule

Ash Wednesday (2/14): services at 11 & 7

Every Weekend:

- Saturdays: class at 3:00; service at 4:00
- Sundays: service at 9:00; Bible Class and Sunday School at 10:30

Every Wednesday, except Holy Week: services at 11 & 7

Every Wednesday, except Ash Wednesday: free meals at 12 & 6

Holy Week (3/24 – 3/30):

- Holy Thursday: services at 11 & 7
- Good Friday: services at 11 & 7
- Holy Saturday: *NO BIBLE CLASS*; service at 4:00

Easter Sunday:

- Service at 9:00
- Free Breakfast at 10:30

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