

Spiritual Practice

Imaginative Reading: “Holy Week”

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*

Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26



Imaginative Scripture Reading allows us to experience Scripture as if we were there; walking where others walked and experiencing God in a fresh way. Follow the steps below to practice Imaginative Scripture Reading each day of Holy Week: Start by being silent - just be still and listen for God’s voice. Read the passage. Pay attention to the details and picture yourself in the story asking the following questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you feel? Physically - are you warm, cold?
- What do you smell?
- What do you hear?
- What do you feel emotionally?
- Where are you in the story? Which character did you identify with most?
- Allow your whole person to identify with the story.
- What is God showing you about yourself?
- What is God showing you about him?

After reading the passage slowly a few times, spend some time being still. Don't try to manufacture answers - just be still and listen. What is Jesus saying to you? Journal what you hear from God.

How are you experiencing his presence?

Where do you feel challenged?

Do you sense an invitation from God? How will you respond?

With whom could you share what God is saying to you?

Conclude in silence, listening for God’s voice of promise, love and affirmation.

Palm Sunday: Jesus’ Triumphant Entry – Read Luke 19:28-40

Reflection: Consider how or if you truly worship Jesus as your King. Is your worship as exuberant when life is hard and trials seem to never end?

Monday: Jesus Clears the Temple – Read Luke 19:41-48 and 20:1-8

Reflection: *What needs to be cleansed in your own life in order to honor Jesus?*

Holy Tuesday – Read Luke 20:9-47

Reflection: *Have there been times when Jesus' truth has seemed harsh to you or hard to follow. Did you grumble and back away? Did you question him?*

Spy Wednesday – Read Luke 21

Judas betrayed Jesus, delivering him into the hands of the Roman authorities.

Reflection: *How do your own selfish desires or faulty thinking that you know better than God lead you astray?*

Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper – Read Luke 22:1-65

Maundy is an old English word for washing. It reminds us how Jesus lowered himself — literally and figuratively — to wash his disciple's feet. Then they celebrated Passover, recalling when God, through Moses, delivered their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. The night before, they put the blood of a lamb on the door mantle so the angel of death would pass them by. This foreshadows how Jesus will deliver us from the slavery of sin through his death on the cross as the Lamb of God. Then in the garden, Jesus prayed for strength to endure what was to come.

Reflection: *As you consider the events of this evening, end your day in focused prayer, staying alert to God's voice.*

Good Friday: Jesus' Crucifixion – Read Luke 22:66-71 & 23

Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known.

Reflection: *Attend a Good Friday or walk through the Stations of the Cross at a nearby Abbey. Allow yourself to fully experience the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on our behalf.*

Saturday: Silence – Read Luke 23:50-56

Jesus' body lay in its tomb, throughout Saturday, which was the Sabbath. This was considered a day of silence.

Reflection: *On this day of rest, meditate and reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on your behalf.*

Easter Sunday: Resurrection Day! – Read Luke 24 & John 20

Awaken with a song in your heart! Your Savior is Risen — He Is Risen Indeed!