

Holy Week

Palm Sunday — Triumphal Entry - after spending the Sabbath in Bethany with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Jesus journeys up the hill to Bethphage where His disciples obtain a donkey, so He can enter Jerusalem “riding upon an ass.” Fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy and indication that He comes in peace. Believers spread their garments before him and waved palm branches, shouting “Hosanna to the Son of David, Hosanna in the highest.”

- * Read Matthew 21: 1-11 and Luke 19: 35-38
- * Watch the *Triumphal Entry* (LDS bible videos)
- * Easter Tree - Cut branches to bloom inside and decorate your Easter Tree with ribbons, eggs, and small images of the Savior’s life.

Monday — Second cleansing of the Temple - 3 years from the first cleansing in which He referred to the temple as “My Father’s house.” This time He calls the temple, “My house.” Then He heals the blind and lame. Blighting of the Fig Tree - symbolic of Christ’s detest for hypocrisy and proof that He had power over life *and* death. He returns to Bethany.

- * Read Matthew 21: 12-16, Mark 11:17, and Matthew 21: 17-22
- * Watch *Cleansing of the Temple*
- * Easter Walk - nature treasure hunt for items that represent parts of the Easter story (see Deborah Rowley’s picture book called “Easter Walk”)

Tuesday/Silent Wednesday — Jesus is questioned at the temple mount by the temple hierarchy (Scribes and Sanhedrin), the Herodians (sought to bring down any other religious leadership), the Sadducees (faction of the Jews that disagreed with the Pharisees - particularly on the doctrine of Resurrection, believed only in the written law - not the oral law), and finally the Pharisees (self-assumed teachers - strict observance of the written and oral law). Jesus teaches many parables, instructs His disciples, gives the Olivet Discourse, laments over Jerusalem, returns to Bethany to prepare for the events ahead, stays with Simon the leper and woman anoints His head.

- * Tuesday: Read Luke 20: 1-20, Mark 21: 28-34 and Watch *Christ’s Authority is Questioned, Render unto Caesar*, and *The Greatest Commandment*
- * Wednesday: Read Mark 12: 41-44, Matthew 23: 23-30 note JST, Matthew 23:27-29, Matthew 24 (Olivet Discourse/Signs of Second Coming - reference Mark 13 and D&C 45), Mark 14: 3-9
- * Watch *The Widow’s Mite*, *Ten Virgins*, *Parable of Talents*, and *Ye Have Done it Unto Me*
- * Attend the Temple or walk Temple grounds

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) — The Last Supper or Passover Meal - held in large upper room in Jerusalem. Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper instituted. The Savior washes the feet of His disciples. Judas is revealed as betrayer. Jesus offers high priestly or intercessory prayer (John 17). Leaves upper room for the Mount of Olives. Enters the Garden of Gethsemane where He takes upon himself the sins of all mankind, bleeds from every pore, and begins the “awful Atonement.” He is arrested and taken for trial.

- * Read Mark 14: 12-26 note JST, Luke 22: 19-39, John 13 - 17 / Matthew 26: 36-56, Mark 14: 32-50, Luke 22: 41-46
- * Watch *The Last Supper*, *Intercessory Prayer*, and *Gethsemane*
- * Prepare and eat a Passover Meal (modified or traditional versions of Seder available online), sing a hymn, offer some kind of selfless service reminiscent of the washing of feet and the Savior’s great love evidenced through His suffering.

Good Friday — Illegal trial before Annas Caiaphas (the high priest) - Jesus is accused of sedition. Later He is charged with blasphemy, the most serious charge in Jewish law. The cock crows and the Lord’s

prophecy of Peter's denial is realized. Jesus is delivered to Pilate, the Roman Governor, so an official decree of death can be issued (capital punishment had been taken away from the Sanhedrin.) Pilate, upon finding no fault in Jesus, pawns him off to Herod. (Jesus was a Galilean and Herod was the vassal over the Galilean province.) Both Herod and Pilate are in Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus does not answer Herod and is returned to Pilate, who is willing to let Him go free, as it is the custom to release one prisoner during Passover, but the people call for Barrabas to be released. "His blood be upon us and our children." Pilate is convinced to move ahead with the crucifixion. Jesus is scourged. Way of the Cross — Jesus makes the long walk to Golgotha, with aid from Simon of Cyrene. Crucifixion — Jesus is crucified and nailed to the cross. About noon there is a great earthquake that rends the veil of the temple. And then darkness. Three hours later Jesus says "into thy hands I commend my spirit" and gives up the ghost. Joseph of Arimathea petitions for Jesus' body and it is taken down from the cross before the Sabbath and incompletely prepared for burial, then laid in the tomb.

- * Read Matthew 26: 47-75, Luke 22:48, John 18: 4-12 / Matthew 26: 1-25, John 18: 33-38 / Mark 15: 15-47, Luke 23: 34, 46 John 19
- * Watch *Jesus is tried by Caiaphas, Condemned before Pilate, Scourged and Crucified, and Laid in a Tomb*
- * Make **Hot Cross Buns** (we love the Pioneer Woman recipe)

Saturday — Sabbath Observance. Jesus' voice comes to the Nephites. He does not appear, but they hear His voice (3 Nephi 9:13-17). He preaches to the spirits in prison (D&C 138). This is a day of waiting - waiting for the risen Lord.

- * Color Easter eggs
- * **Easter Vigil** - light lanterns at dusk and hang from a tree or set on porch, a symbol of waiting for the Light of the World to rise (John 8:12), gratitude for His gift of resurrection that will come to all of God's children, a quiet witness that He lives.

Easter Sunday - Resurrection Morning. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, Joanna, and other women, come early to the tomb to complete Jesus' burial. The stone is rolled away. Two angels greet them and declare Jesus has risen. They leave to tell the apostles. Mary Magdalene returns to the empty tomb. Jesus appears to her. She is the first witness of the Resurrection. Additional sightings: Resurrected Jesus appears to two disciples on Road to Emmaus. Appears to Apostles. Dispels Thomas' doubt. Appears to Apostles in Galilee. Ascension.

- * Read Luke 24: 1-12, Luke 24: 13-15 / John 20: 11-18 / John 20: 24-30 / Luke 24: 39-40, John 21: 1-18
- * Watch - *Jesus is Resurrected, To This End was I Born, My Kingdom is Not of this World, He is Risen, Christ Appears on Road to Emmaus, The Risen Lord Appears to the Apostles, Blessed are They that Have Not Seen, Feed My Sheep*
- * Sunrise walk or hike. Attend church (watch General Conference), Family meal, Easter Baskets

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - *Isaac Watts, 1707*

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.