



**Week 6**  
10 - 16 April 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY  
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

# LENT & HOLY WEEK



**Daily** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation  
**Weekly** worship song, reflection and small group questions

## Week 6 – 10 April HOLY WEEK

The crucifixion of Jesus



First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Isaiah 50:4-9a</b>	<b>Psalm 31:9-16</b>	<b>Philippians 2:5-11</b>	<b>Luke 22:14-23:56</b>



**Praise and Worship:** <https://youtu.be/F9zIGc2bWvc>  
Jesus Christ is risen today

### Luke 22:14 - 23:56

New International Version – UK

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God.' <sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new

covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup> But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup> The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!’ <sup>23</sup> They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me in my trials. <sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’<sup>31</sup> ‘Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’<sup>33</sup> But he replied, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.’<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.’<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus asked them, ‘When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?’ ‘Nothing,’ they answered.<sup>36</sup> He said to them, ‘But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup> It is written: “And he was numbered with the transgressors”; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment.’<sup>38</sup> The disciples said, ‘See, Lord, here are two swords.’ ‘That’s enough!’ he replied.

### **Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives**

<sup>39</sup> Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> On reaching the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you will not fall into temptation.’ <sup>41</sup> He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> ‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’ <sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup> When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> ‘Why are you sleeping?’ he asked them. ‘Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.’

### **Jesus arrested**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’<sup>49</sup> When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, ‘Lord, should we strike with our swords?’ <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.<sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered, ‘No more of this!’ And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, ‘Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour – when darkness reigns.’



### **Peter disowns Jesus**

<sup>54</sup> Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. <sup>56</sup> A servant-girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, ‘This man was with him.’<sup>57</sup> But he denied it. ‘Woman, I don’t know him,’ he said.<sup>58</sup> A little later someone else saw him and said, ‘You also are one of them.’ ‘Man, I am not!’ Peter replied.<sup>59</sup> About an hour later another asserted, ‘Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.’<sup>60</sup> Peter replied, ‘Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!’ Just as he was speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: ‘Before the cock crows today, you will disown me three times.’ <sup>62</sup> And he went outside and wept bitterly.

### **The guards mock Jesus**

<sup>63</sup> The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. <sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and demanded, ‘Prophecy! Who hit you?’ <sup>65</sup> And they said many other insulting things to him.

## Jesus before Pilate and Herod

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. <sup>67</sup> 'If you are the Messiah,' they said, 'tell us.' Jesus answered, 'If I tell you, you will not believe me, <sup>68</sup> and if I asked you, you would not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.'<sup>70</sup> They all asked, 'Are you then the Son of God?' He replied, 'You say that I am.'<sup>71</sup> Then they said, 'Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.'

**LUKE 23** Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, 'We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.'<sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied.<sup>4</sup> Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no basis for a charge against this man.'<sup>5</sup> But they insisted, 'He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.'<sup>6</sup> On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.<sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. <sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate became friends – before this they had been enemies.<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.'<sup>18</sup> But the whole crowd shouted, 'Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!' <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)<sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'<sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: 'Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.'<sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

## The crucifixion of Jesus

<sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, "Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!"' <sup>30</sup> Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" <sup>31</sup> For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'<sup>35</sup> And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if



he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.'<sup>42</sup> Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

## The death of Jesus

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last.<sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, 'Surely this was a

righteous man.’<sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.<sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

### **The burial of Jesus**

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,<sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.<sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body.<sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.<sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.<sup>55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.<sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

### **Reflection the Scripture by: TONY MATTHEE**

The Crucifixion of Jesus is an extremely wide topic to cover in a short devotion. So much can be written concerning each aspect of this terrible sequence of events, but today I will cover an aspect that I have not heard being discussed before, namely: three significant statements made by Jesus from when Pilate handed him over and when he breathed his last.

His first statement was to the **“Daughters of Jerusalem”** (23: 26 – 31). These were women along the path on which Jesus was carrying his cross who were mourning and wailing. Some may have been genuine disciples, but most likely many were not. He tells them not to weep for him but to weep for themselves. It’s interesting that Luke’s Gospel was written about 60 AD and Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD. Jesus knew that he was going to die a cruel death, but he also knew of the terrible suffering and devastation that would befall Jerusalem followed by centuries of hardship and persecution. This was a prophecy and he followed that up with a proverb about green wood and dry wood.

Commentators are not very clear about what Jesus actually meant by these words. What they do agree on is that the green wood probably refers to Jesus and his offer of salvation and the dry wood the Jewish leaders and all those who reject him. This thought demands much introspection. Jesus’ body had been lashed with a whip, the ends of which contained bits of lead and bone – meant to tear flesh. He had not slept all night. He was exhausted mentally and physically and was about to die by the most excruciating method devised by humankind (no Roman was executed by crucifixion). And Jesus says these women must not concern themselves with his death but rather worry about themselves for what is yet to happen to them and to all those who reject him. I think this is a warning that Jesus gives to all us.

His second statement was **to his executioners**. He was asking God to forgive them. While enduring extreme pain and suffering, he was still concerned about the people actually putting him to death. Who can fathom the depth of the LOVE Jesus has for the lost. Any sin, no matter how great, can be forgiven by God. Can any sin be greater than putting to death the very Son and God? We sometimes think that our sin is too great to be forgiven. We also think that we cannot even forgive ourselves so how can we expect God to forgive us. This guilt, that those who carry it, is soul destroying. God can and wants to forgive us no matter how great or how many our sins may be.

Jesus’ third statement is directed **to the repentant thief** hanging next to him. He was forgiven and given the promise that he would be with Jesus in Paradise. This is indeed wonderful news – it is never too late to repent! Even on your deathbed you can still repent, and God will forgive you. However, who can be certain that they will have all their mental capacities on their deathbed. Many people are unconscious when they die. Others die sudden deaths. It is foolish to wait until you are on your deathbed to repent. It may be too late. Today is the day of salvation. There is no time like the present to ask God for forgiveness and to commit your life to him.

Another very interesting observation I make about this penitent thief is that he is the **ONLY** one at that stage of Jesus’ life who realized that the Kingdom of God was not one that would come about by the overthrow of Roman rule. The disciples had scattered. It was the end of the road for them. Jesus was gone and so were their hopes and dreams. And here this thief talks about a Kingdom, which belongs to Jesus, beyond death. Amazing!

**SMALL GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

**PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 10 April** (7am English, 9am English, 11am Vernacular)

**HOLY WEEK – Mon 11 April - Wed 13 April** (6pm English, 7pm Vernacular)

**TENEBRAE SERVICE - Thurs 14 April** – (6pm Combined)

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES - Fri 15 April** (7am English, 9am English)

**HOLY SATURDAY** - Remembrance Service - TBC

**EASTER SUNDAY – Sun 17 April** (7am Sunrise Service, 9am English)



**Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:**

Holy Week	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Monday April 11</b>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
<b>Tuesday April 12</b>	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
<b>Wednesday April 13</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday April 14</b>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday April 15</b>	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
<b>Holy Saturday April 16</b>	Job 14:1-14	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in Heaven  
 hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in Heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, the power  
 and the glory, for ever and ever.

*Amen*