

A Grace Gathering
13 April 2025

**“THE EIGHT DAYS THAT WOULD FOREVER
CHANGE US ALL”**

Today, we begin the celebration of “Holy Week,” eight days that has literally changed our world.

Palm Sunday: The Holy Week begins with the Triumphal entry, the presentation of Christ as the nation’s Messiah or king (John 12:1, 12-19). Jesus, riding on the foal of a donkey, the ceremony for the anointing of kings, proclaimed Himself the fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 (“Fear not daughters of Zion; Behold your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt”). Jesus publicly claimed to be Israel’s king, and ours. Great monarchs, to impress the crowds, rode on black stallions, portraying the image of a conqueror. Jesus came on a donkey expressive of servitude and humility, not His power or station, but His character (Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise to David [II Sam. 7:14]). Later in the week, he will wash His disciples’ feet leaving us an example to follow, not of a cleansing ritual, but of service.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).”

Between Palm Sunday and Maudy Thursday, these events took place according to the Scriptures (Christians have traditionally followed the days of that week by reconstructing the events of each day according to the gospel accounts).

Monday: Cursing of the Fig Tree
Weeping over Jerusalem
Cleansing the Temple
Prediction of the destruction of the “temple”

Tuesday: Finding the Fig Tree withered
Controversy with the religious leadership (Olivet Discourse)

Wednesday: Controversy with the religious leadership
Anointing of Jesus
Plot of Judas arranged (Matt 26:14)

Maundy Thursday: The advent of the New Covenant, symbolized in Lord's Supper, the episode of the Lord's agonies, his arrest by the Romans, and his early confrontations with the Jewish leadership. The term seems to have been derived from the Latin word *mandatum* or "commandment" taken from John 13:34 following the washing of the disciples' feet.

- The arrangement for the Passover meal
- The Passover meal redefined
- The departure of Judas
- The washing of the disciples' feet
- Gethsemane and prayer
- Arrest
- Two trials (Annas and the Sanhedrin)

Good (Holy) Friday: A celebration, often in a subdued manner, of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Why is it called "Good" when the event itself was a horrible sacrilege? While the sufferings of Christ by the Jews and Romans was not in itself pleasant or joyous, the outcome has brought much good and that is why we call it "Good Friday." Jesus fulfilled the imagery of the great Passover Lamb by becoming Himself the "Lamb" that was chosen to be slain.

- Another trial before the Sanhedrin
- Three Roman trials (Pontius Pilate, Herod Antipas, Pilate)
- Flagellation
- Crucifixion
- Entombment

John tells us that our Lord was subjected to various trials Friday morning before the Roman authorities, beginning and ending with Pontius Pilate. After several innocent verdicts, Jesus was severely scourged, mocked, and declared guilty of crimes worthy of death (18:28-19:16). He was taken to "the Place of the Skull" (Matt. 27:33) in

Latin "*calvaria*" and thus we call it "Calvary." Matthew tells us that the earth darkened at the sixth hour (noon) and remained so until the ninth (3:00 PM) when He surrendered His life to death (Matt. 27:45).



The Passover lamb was slain in the temple at 3:00. However, on that day the true lamb gave up His life for us! The shadow became a reality, the symbolic fulfilled.



AND WITH HIS WOUNDS
WE WERE HEALED

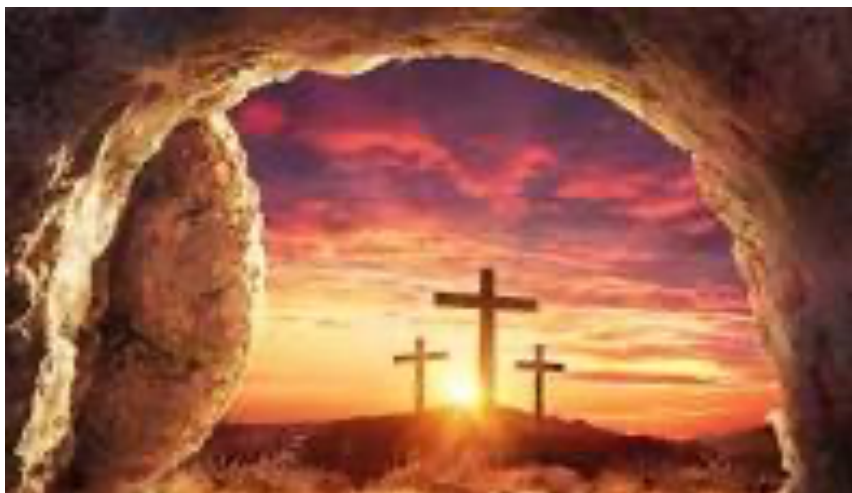
ISALAH 53:5

“For you know the grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ
That, though He was rich, yet for
your sake He became
Poor, that you through His poverty
might become rich
(II COR 8:9).”

“Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author
and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before Him, He
endured the cross,
despising the shame” and sat
down at the right hand
of the throne of God (Heb. 12:2).”

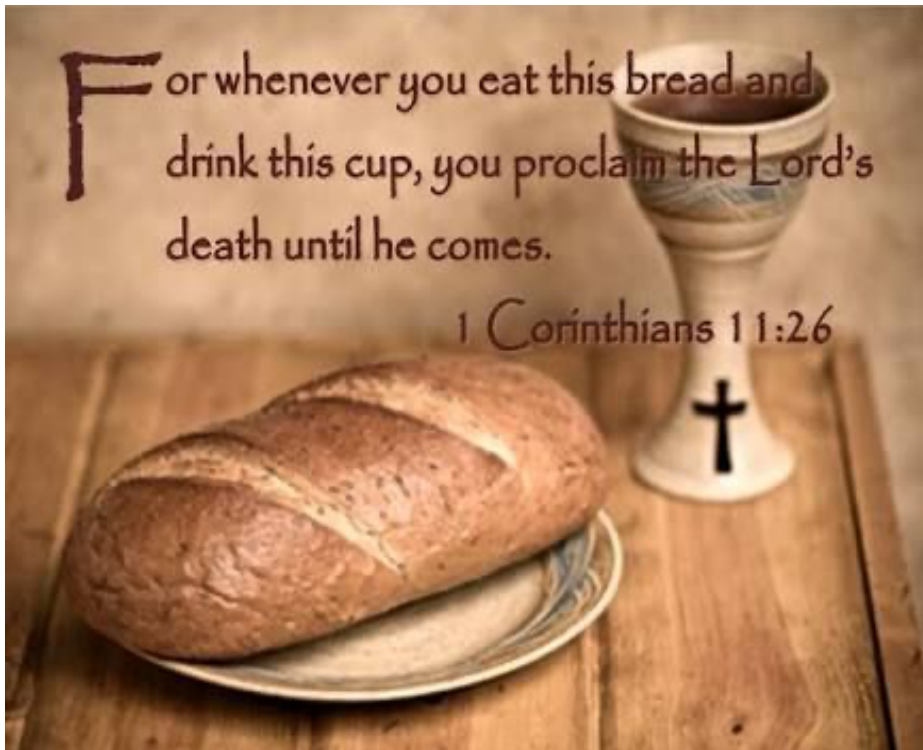
Saturday: “Lo in the grave HE lay, Jesus my Savior.”

Easter Sunday: the day of the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection. We celebrate the triumph over death through the one who now lives!



My challenge is for all of us in Grace Gathering to read this week, as we prepare for next Sunday, the narratives of our Lord last seven days or Passion Week. I suggest we read John's account [12:1-20:30].

THE GREATEST of ALL WEEKS, The GREATEST of ALL PERSONS,
The Greatest of Gifts: A CALL to REMENBRANCE



As we come now to our Lord's Table, having rehearsed the events of each day of the Holy Week. It intriguing to me is that the four gospel writers selected different events to help us understand Jesus' claims and accomplishments throughout His ministry. Yet in the final week, they recorded events with striking similarity, Thursday to Sunday even more so.

“...do this in remembrance of Me (I Cor. 11: 24).”
“...you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (I Cor. 11:26).”

Congregational Song: “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

The Service of the Bread

“...this is My body (Matt 26:26).”

Congregational Song: “Jesus Paid it All”

The Service of the Cup

“...this cup my blood of the covenant... (Matt. 26:28).”

Congregational Song: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep
But all shall be changed....
For this perishable must put on the imperishable,
And this mortal must be put on immortality
O Death, where is your Victory? O Death, where is your sting?
The sting of death is sin, and the power is sin is the law;
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
Knowing that you’re your toil is not in vain in the Lord
(I Cor. 15:51-58).”