

**Holy Week – A Week of Obedience and Passion**  
**Bible Study March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**St John Baptist Church of Alexandria – Pastor Charles A. Hall**

**Biblical references taken from:**

- The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Epistle of 1Corinthians chapter 15

**Palm Sunday also known as Passion Sunday: (Matthew 21:1-16)**

As it is well known throughout our nation and around the world this last Sunday also referred to as Passion Sunday officially kicked off Passion week or Holy week which represent all the agonizing events that took place during Jesus' journey through Jerusalem to His place of crucifixion. This journey started with an act of total humility, for Jesus had asked his disciples to get Him a donkey and a colt so He could travel from the foot of Mt Olives through the town of Jerusalem and if anyone ask tell them "The Lord hath a need of them." Jesus set upon the ass and entered Jerusalem with the multitudes following along yelling Hosanna to the son of David and blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord. When he came into the city of Jerusalem the people were moved and said Who is this, and the multitude said this is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. We know that Jesus was all human, however we also know that He was all God as well, so He could have summoned any type of transportation into Jerusalem he wanted, but yet He choose an ass. What an act of humility, Jesus knew that it was not about Him, but rather completing the work that the Father had sent Him to do. Jesus has just completed what today some would call a successful ministry outreach, He had healed the sick, cast of demons, feed the hungry, given sight to the blind, raise the dead and taught the truth. Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all of them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seat of them that sold doves. Jesus then declared that His house shall be known as a house of prayer! This represents the fulfillment of the prophetic judgement spoken of in **Isaiah 56:7** and **Jeremiah 7:11**. Jesus then departed and went into the city of Bethany and lodged.

**Holy Monday - Jesus Enters Jerusalem: (Matthew 21:17-27)**

On Monday morning Jesus returned to Jerusalem, he was hungry, and He saw a fig tree with leaves but there was no fruit. Jesus curse the tree and it withered and presently the fig tree withered away. Jesus then told the disciples if you have faith, you will not only be able to do what was done to the fig tree, but you will be able to say unto the mountain be moved and thou shall be removed. Jesus told them whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive. Jesus then starts to teach in the temple, and they questioned His authority. Jesus continued to teach through many parables. The chief priests and elders asked Jesus by what authority was He teaching these things, and who gave Him this authority? Jesus answered and told them that He would ask them the same thing, and they said we cannot tell. And Jesus said neither can I tell you by what authority I do these things.

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**Holy Tuesday- The conspiracies against Jesus begin: (Matthew 22:15-33)**

On this day the Pharisees, Herodians, the Sadducees took council how they might discredit Jesus, but Jesus perceived their wickedness and said, why tempt ye me ye hypocrites? They question Jesus on whether it was lawful to give tributes unto Caesar, Jesus said unto them “render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” On the same day, the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, however Jesus tells them that they error of not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God. Jesus warns the disciples and the crowd about the hypocrisy and unbelief of their leaders the Pharisees, scribes, and other hypocrites. Jesus pronounced seven (7) condemnations (Woes) on the false religious leaders. **(Matthew 23:13-27)**

**Holy Wednesday (Mark 14:10-11)**

Christians recall the day Judas Iscariot conspired with the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus. Judas one of the twelve disciples went to the chief priests to betray Jesus, they that heard him were pleased and promised to give him money.

**Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday (John 13:1-35)**

On this day Jesus has His last meal with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion, it is known as the Last Supper. The word Maundy is Latin comes from the first word of a Latin phrase “*Manatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*” which means “A new command I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Jesus demonstrates total humility by washing the disciple’s feet. On this day, many Christians participate in holy communion in remembrance of Jesus last meal with the disciples. At this meal Jesus predicts what will happen on the next day. Jesus then provides the symbolic meaning of the last meal; And He took bread, gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.’ Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. **Luke 22:19-20** In **Luke 22:26** Jesus provides an important principle for living a Christian life: the greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Just prior to the meal Jesus said that one of the disciples would betray him, and they were exceeding sorrowful and began to say unto Jesus is it I? Jesus says the one who dippeth his hand with me in the dish is the same one which will betray me. Judas then says master is it I, and Jesus said thou hast said. The actual betrayal took place in the Garden of Gethsemane, which is at the lower slopes of Mt Olives. Jesus had gone there with the disciples after the meal to pray. **Matthew 26:47-50** The soldiers of the chief priests armed with swords and clubs arrived at the appointed place to capture Jesus. **Matthew 26:56** record that even the disciples fled as Jesus was arrested by the soldiers, even Peter who said he would never denounce Jesus disowned him three times. Jesus endures six trials three by Jewish leaders (**John 18:12**) and three by Romans leaders. **Mark 14:53** Jesus was subject to severe beating, whipping, and mocking. Jesus was eventually handed over by chief priest Pontius Pilate to be crucified. **Mark 15:6-15**

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**Good Friday - Also referred to as the Day of Preparation: (Mark 15:1-26)**

For some it is hard to imagine calling the day Jesus was crucified “Good Friday” however, we who are mature believers know that had Jesus not died the bridge to reconciliation between God and humanity would not have been possible. Jesus was crucified at a place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. Before Jesus gave up His life the sky turned dark for three hours **Mark 15:33**. In **Luke 23:46** it says Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father into thy hands I commend my spirit” and having said this he gave up the ghost and died. In **Matthew 27:57-61** a rich man named Joseph ask the high priest Pilate for the body of Jesus, Joseph received the body and wrapped him in clean linen cloth. He laid Jesus in a new tomb in the rocks and rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher. And Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary was sitting against the sepulcher.

**Holy Saturday (Matthew 27:62-66)**

Jesus lay in the rich man tomb all day Saturday. The Word of God says they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it since Jesus had stated that after three days He would rise again, and Pilate was fearful that Jesus disciples would steal His body and people would believe the prophecy. Jesus had foretold of His resurrection in **John 2:19** Jesus answered and said unto them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

**Resurrection Sunday (Matthew 28:1-10)**

Early Sunday Morning Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the sepulcher and a great earthquake occurred, and an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and said to Mary and Mary fear not for He is not here he has risen, see the place where the Lord lay. Then Mary and Mary ran to tell the disciples what had happened, Jesus appears unto them and tells them not to be afraid, go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and they shall see me. Jesus later appeared to Peter then the other disciple and lastly to the Apostle Paul. **1Corinthians 15:5-7** Jesus’s death was a sacrifice and atonement for our sins. The resurrection of Jesus is a gift and fulfillment of His promise, it is the very foundation of Christianity. Since the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all humanity is born with a sin nature. The Lord tells us that there is a price to be paid for sin and that cost is death. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 6:23** A life without Christ can only offer eternal death. However, the acceptance of Jesus as our risen Savior gives us eternal life. If Jesus Christ had not defeated death and rose again our entire religion and belief would be of no value.

**1Corinthians 15:13-14** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (14) And if Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.