

# Lent: Holy Week

By: James Castruccio – 3/6/2024

## Surrender

Intransitive verb

1. To relinquish possession or control of (something) to another because of demand or compulsion: "We surrendered the city to the enemy."
2. To give up in favor of another, especially voluntarily. "She surrendered her chair to her grandmother."
3. To give up or abandon. "They have surrendered all hope."
4. To give over or resign (oneself) to something, as to an emotion. "He surrendered himself to grief."
5. To submit to the power of another, especially after resisting; give up.
6. To give up one's self into the power of another; to yield. "The enemy, seeing no way of escape, surrendered at the first summons"

Similar: yield, relinquish

## Holy Week

While we have been on this Lenten journey for a little over three weeks, all is calm for the next two weeks leading up to Palm Sunday which is the start of Holy Week.

Important Dates of Lent	Brief Overview of Significance	2024 Dates
Ash Wednesday	The start of the Lenten season and a reminder of our mortality and our need for repentance.	February 13, 2024
Palm Sunday	Celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.	March 24, 2024
Holy Week	The week leading up to Easter.	March 24-30, 2024
Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.	March 28, 2024
Good Friday	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.	March 29, 2024
Holy Saturday	Commemorates Jesus' body resting in the tomb.	March 30, 2024
Easter Sunday	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over sin and death.	March 31, 2024

While we have been more intentional about our time with Christ this Lenten season, Holy Week is a time for us to really, like *really*, focus on Jesus and what He did for us.

## Palm Sunday

When I think about Palm Sunday, I remember going to Church as a kid and making a cross out of palm leaves in Sunday School. The children would then enter the Sanctuary during the first song, walking down the aisles and waving large palm branches. As soon as we got home, my mom would pin the cross to the bulletin board in the kitchen. I remember seeing that cross every day until the next Palm Sunday. In the busyness of growing up, that Cross was always there. It was a constant in my life that I didn't even realize at the time.

**John 12:12-16**

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<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

<sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: <sup>15</sup>“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

<sup>16</sup>At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

<sup>4</sup>They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup>some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup>They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. <sup>7</sup>When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” <sup>10</sup>“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

### **Luke 19:28-44**

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup>“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup>They replied, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup>They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: <sup>38</sup>“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” <sup>40</sup>“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

<sup>41</sup>As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup>and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Palm Sunday is the day Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem as king. It was the day Israel had been waiting for. The king made his entry...on a donkey? He could have ridden on a great horse. He could have ridden

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in on the clouds. He had the power to do so. He could have arrived in any way He chose to, yet He chose a donkey. While He could have arrived any other way, He fulfilled prophecy by arriving on a donkey.

### ***Zechariah 9:9***

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He came humbly. He came obediently. He came, knowing what was going to happen 5 days later.

If we back up to the day before He arrives, He has dinner in Bethany. During that time, Mary anointed him with perfume. Judas questioned her actions and Jesus rebuked him saying, *“It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”* He knew that she wouldn’t need it for His burial as He would no longer be in the grave when she arrives to anoint His body.

Now, on to Sunday. Jesus arrived in Jerusalem to crowds of people shouting, *“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”* They got it! They understood the significance of who Jesus was and what He was there to do. Little did the crowd realize, that their positive shouts would be short lived and would turn to shouts of anger calling for Jesus to be crucified just 5 days later.

I would like to say that I don’t understand how people could make such a drastic shift in their beliefs, especially in such a short amount of time, but we see it every day. There is a mob-mentality ingrained in man that urges us to follow the loudest voice at times. We are not immune to it, even as Christ-followers. We need to have our ears and heart tuned to hear the voice of Yahweh. His voice might not be the loudest in the moment, but it will always be the clearest.

Remember how the Lord appeared to Elijah.

### ***1 Kings 19:9-13***

<sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>10</sup> He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” <sup>11</sup> The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Yahweh appeared in a gentle whisper. Do I know the Lord’s voice well enough to hear Him when the world is speaking louder than He is?

### ***Maundy Thursday***

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Jesus observed Passover and washed his disciple's feet.

### **Luke 22:7-13**

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." <sup>9</sup> "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. <sup>10</sup> He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup> and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." <sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

### **John 13:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

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### **Luke 22:14-23**

<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 fulfillment 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.

Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives to pray.

### **Luke 22:39-46**

<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.”

### **John 17:1-26**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for

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they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

### **Mark 14:32-42**

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Surrender. Jesus surrendered to the Father.

Jesus is Arrested

### **Luke 22:47-53**

<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.

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<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.”

### ***Good Friday***

Jesus appears before Pilate and Herod.

Jesus is crucified and dies.

### ***Holy Saturday***

Jesus is in the tomb.

### ***Easter (Resurrection) Sunday***

The tomb is empty!

### ***Challenge***

Is there anything that I need to surrender to the Lord? Let us pray to ask the Lord to search our hearts and reveal to us anything that we need to surrender to Him.

### ***Prayer***

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to earth to live a sinless life and to be a perfect sacrifice for my sins and the sins of those who receive Him as their Lord and savior. Thank you for saving me Lord Jesus! Please search my heart and reveal anything that I need to surrender to You. Please forgive me for putting things above You and for crowding Your throne with stuff that does not belong. Please give me the strength to surrender those things to You that You, and You alone will be the center and focus of my worship, today and every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.