

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus rides into Jerusalem for the final time before his death. Jews were gathered in the city to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Passover. Passover is when the Jewish people remember the liberation of God's people from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land (what is now modern-day Israel/Palestine). The Passover meal consists of unleavened bread and wine. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem he is greeted by the crowds who waved palm branches and laid cloaks in the road, as they would for a military hero. They shouted, "Hosanna, Son of David," which means "Save us, son of our favorite King (David)." They were asking to be saved from Roman occupation and oppression.



UNITED
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MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jesus gathers with his disciples in the Upper Room for the Passover meal, just a few days after he rides into Jerusalem. This will be his last meal with them, hence "the Last Supper." He prepared this meal for them even though he knew and foretold that his disciples would deny him and hand him over to the Roman authorities to be put to death. Every time we share in Holy Communion, we are remembering this last passover meal he shared with the disciples. After they finish supper Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, leads the soldiers to Jesus in the garden and betrays him with a kiss, telling the soldiers, "the one I kiss is Jesus of Nazareth." He greets Jesus with a kiss and Jesus is arrested. Then, Jesus' beloved friend and disciple Peter denies knowing Jesus three times when he is asked.

GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus is sentenced to death, made to carry his own cross to Golgotha where he is crucified, and dies in the afternoon (believed to be around 3pm) and he is buried in a tomb by sundown on Friday evening.