



Journey to the Cross

A READING PLAN FOR LENT

A Reading Plan for Lent and Easter

Life in western cultures is getting busier and busier, there are never ending demands on our time. It can be difficult to keep focus on what is important. It can be difficult to keep our eyes firmly planted on Jesus. By the time we get to Easter, it can be easy to feel numb to what it is that we are remembering, as we go again through the annual rituals. Lent is a time to refocus and re-center ourselves in the gospel.

The following is a reading plan, using sources from across the gospels to piece together an account of Jesus' last weeks as he approached Jerusalem, and the events that preceded his death. It emphasizes the tension of those final weeks, and the shock Jesus' disciples experienced when Jesus said he must die. It shows the tension between his arrival in Jerusalem as King, with the refusal of the religious authorities to acknowledge him. It culminates in Jesus' last supper with his disciples on the night he was betrayed, along with the crucifixion and resurrection narratives.

Saturating ourselves in the gospel narratives during Lent will bring fresh appreciation of what Jesus did for us at Easter. With each reading:

1. **Read** over the passage a few times. Sit with the passage and really see what it is saying
2. **Meditate** on how this passage affects your life. What does it tell you about God? How should you respond to God? What is God saying about your life?
3. **Pray** through the implications of the passage for your life. How do you need God's help to bring about that transformation? Ask him for his grace to do his will.
4. **Rest** in God's presence. Enjoy Him!
5. **Act** on what God has shown you. Rest in his grace to achieve the transformation he desires.

Week	Readings
Week 1: 9 – 12 March	Jesus Teaches That The Messiah Will Be Crucified
<i>9 March – Ash Wednesday</i>	Mark 8:27-9:13 Mark 9:30-50 Mark 10:32-52
Week 2: 13 – 19 March	Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King
	Luke 19:1-28 Mark 11:1-18 John 12:20-36
Week 3: 20 – 26 March	Jesus' Authority is Questioned
	Mark 11:19-25 Mark 11:27-12:12 Mark 12:13-27
Week 4: 27 March – 2 April	Jesus Pronounces Judgement on Jerusalem
	Mark 12:28-34 Mark 12:35-44 Mark 13:1-37
Week 5: 3 – 9 April	Jesus' Last Supper With His Disciples
	Mark 14:1-21 John 13:1-17 Mark 14:27-31
Week 6: 10 – 16 April	Jesus' Last Words and Prayers Before His Death
	John 14 John 15 John 16 John 17
Week 7: 17 – 23 April	Jesus Is Arrested And Crucified
<i>17 April – Palm Sunday</i> <i>21 April – Maundy Thursday</i> <i>22 April – Good Friday</i>	Mark 14:26, 32-42 Mark 14:43-72 Mark 15:1-47
RESURRECTION	Jesus Is Resurrected
<i>24 April – Easter Sunday</i>	Mark 16 Luke 24:1-48 John 20-21