



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 03/24-25/18

“On the Road Again” (Palm Sunday)

Psalm 118:19-29, New International Version (NIV)

“Open for me the gates of the righteous;

I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD

through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

the LORD has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

The LORD has done it this very day;

let us rejoice today and be glad.

LORD, save us!

LORD, grant us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

The LORD is God,

and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his love endures forever.”

Family Activity: This week holds many important days in the church year. We begin with Palm Sunday, then we experience Holy Thursday (The Last Supper), Good Friday and then we get to celebrate Easter Sunday! This is one big story that we live throughout the week. Resurrection eggs can help us learn and retell the story. Make your own Resurrection Eggs at home this week. You will need 12 plastic Easter eggs, a container for your eggs and the printable page at the back.

Monday, 3/26/18

“Holy Week”

Psalm 118:1; Colossians 2:6-8 (NIV)

*“Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.”*

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

The days between Palm Sunday and Easter make up Holy Week. We pay attention to Holy Week when we dedicate this week’s journey to God. (The definition of holy is to dedicate to God.) Psalm 118:1 and Colossians 2:6-8 give directions on how to travel this week. Give thanks to God. Look for the goodness of God.

- For what do you give thanks to God? Is there something for which you will not thank God? What gate needs to open to give thanks to God?
- As you prepare for this journey, what does it mean to be rooted in the faith you were taught? What will it take to get you through this holy week, this week devoted to God?

Prayer: Dear God, plant me in your soil of goodness. Give me courage to follow Jesus, and to remain rooted and strengthened by him. I do not know what the roadblocks and detours are ahead, but I do know I want to follow Jesus and see your goodness on the way. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Tuesday, 3/27/18

“On the Road”

Exodus 12:12-13 (NIV)

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

According to the Old Testament, the time has come for God to rescue the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. The Israelites are instructed to get dressed quickly and to eat rapidly to escape the Egyptians. They will run, straight for the Red Sea, and keep going. They are on the road to freedom.

One can almost hear John Denver singing in the background: “Take me home country roads, to the place I belong ...” Perhaps Willie Nelson’s “On the Road Again” suits you better. We are always on a path, a road to somewhere. This scripture and week invite us to be intentional, devoted to God, on our journey.

- In what ways are you intentionally on a road to following Jesus? What does PWUMC offer to provide guidance on this road?
- What roadblocks are on your path? How do you maneuver through them?

Prayer: Psalm 23 (NIV)

*“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.”*

Wednesday, 3/28/18

“Holy Wednesday” Devoted to God

Matthew 22:37-39; Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

This summer the Hwy 152/I-35 overpass (that separates Liberty from KC) will close for rebuilding. The result will be a wider road and a different access to I-35. The work is expected to be completed in 2020! I have mentioned it so many times, my husband has called to my attention I might be more concerned than anyone else. This construction will cause me to find a different road to PWUMC.

Sometimes our life journey is interrupted by destruction and construction. We may need to take a detour.

- Where do we turn for consolation and strength for the journey? How do we stay devoted to God?
- Review the scriptures above for some insight and remember specific ways the one who loves you has been faithful. What do you need from God right now?

Prayer: Dear God, remind us of the ways you have encouraged and loved us on our journey so that we can recognize where you are at work and look toward the future with confidence. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, 3/29/18

“Holy Thursday”

Exodus 12:26-28 (NIV)

“And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians. Then the people bowed down and worshiped.”

I encourage you to read Exodus 12 for the rest of the story, to learn about the ceremony God is talking about. It is a fascinating, detailed story. When the Passover is observed in the Jewish community today, it is a ceremony of good food, laughter and games for the children. Our service tonight is just a taste of the Passover. However, it remains a time of remembering God’s faithfulness, with hope for a good future.

- What is marked in your household or your heart that would indicate God should pass over you? Has your week been devoted to God?
- When have you been passed over, and been grateful?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the opportunities you give to make this a holy week, a week devoted to you. Forgive me where I have missed the mark. Turn my attention to you so I see you at every corner. Remind me to give thanks. Push me not to pass over others, but to share your love and grace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Friday, 3/30/18

“Good Friday?”

Matthew 2:10-12 (NIV)

“When they (the wise men) saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

In Steve’s sermon Sunday, he talked about the kinds of roads traveled in Bible stories, especially Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem which we walk during Holy Week. One of my favorite road trips in the Bible comes from Matthew. When the wise men have oohed and aahed over baby Jesus and been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they return by another route. They take a different road, another path. They are on the road again, but as different people, people who have witnessed the very life of Jesus. As we come close to the resurrection, today is a good day to reflect on how good God is, how God turns disappointments to hope, suffering to joy, and death to life.

Most of us have probably missed the path a bit this week. Maybe we missed a turn. Maybe we got hung up on an upcoming construction project rather than focusing on the present. Maybe we have felt God has passed over us. Easter comes. We get on the road again.

- How have you experienced Easter this week?
- What holy practice will you continue?

Prayer

Author: Thomas Merton

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you

does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

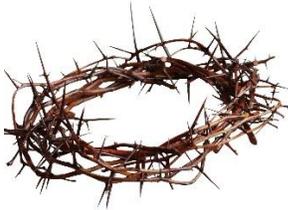
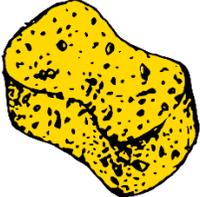
Therefore will I trust you always though

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

**This week's devotional was written by Pastor Nancy Liston
(nliston@plattewoodschurch.org).**

<p>1</p>  <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>Matthew 21:1-11</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Matthew 26:6-13</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Matthew 26:17-30</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Matthew 26:36-46</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Matthew 26:14-16 Matthew 26:47-50</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Matthew 27:27-31</p>
<p>7</p>  <p>John 19:23</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>John 19:16-18</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>John 19:28-30</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>John 19:38-42</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Matthew 27:59-66</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Matthew 28:1-20</p>

1. Cut out each image
2. Place each image in a plastic egg
3. Use the eggs to tell the story of the Resurrection!