



# Easter Season Orders for Worship

FROM PALM SUNDAY TO PENTECOST



BY HUNTER & KAIT POPPA



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*From Palm Sunday to Pentecost*

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# Introduction to the Easter Season Orders for Worship

## **Holy Week Orders for Worship**

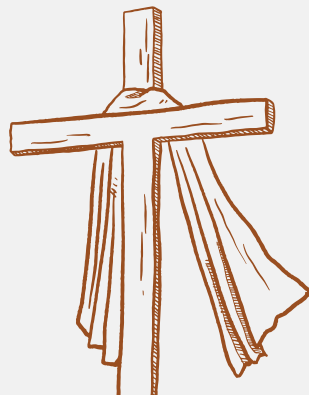
We begin the Holy Week Orders for Worship on Palm Sunday and finish on Easter Sunday. During each day of Holy Week, you will meditate on the events that happened that day and respond to them in prayer. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday both will have Home Church components in addition to the Order for Daily Worship.

## **Ascension Day Order for Worship**

We celebrate Ascension Day (which is 40 days following Jesus's resurrection) to remember that Jesus is physically risen from the dead and has ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. On this day, we also celebrate that we, too, are now seated with Christ in the very throneroom of God; this is an inheritance we can enjoy now as well as forevermore in eternity! You will respond to this in this day's Order for Daily Worship.

## **Pentecost Order for Worship**

We celebrate Pentecost (which is 50 days following Jesus's resurrection and 10 days after His ascension) to commemorate the work of the Holy Spirit seen in Acts 2. After Jesus ascended, He gave us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, so happy birthday, Church! You will respond to this in this day's Order for Daily Worship. We encourage you to meet together as a Home Church on this day, as well, if your group is able.



# Holy Week Orders for Worship

## Holy Week Day 1: Palm Sunday

*Use Home Church Order for Worship (Morning or Evening) along with Order for Daily Worship.*

### ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:28-44
- Additional readings: John 12:9-19, Matthew 21:1-11, and Mark 11:1-11
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey with His disciples. Multitudes along the road showed Him praise by waving palm branches, spreading their cloaks on the road before Him, and cheering—hence the name, Palm Sunday. Though a celebratory moment, the crowds will soon turn against Jesus. This marks the beginning of the week of His crucifixion and resurrection which is what we are now stepping into today.

### ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.



# Holy Week Day 2: Holy Monday

*Use Order for Daily Worship.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Isaiah 56:1-8, Luke 19:45-48, and Mark 11:12-19
- Additional readings: Matthew 21:12-22
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Holy Monday, Jesus returned to Jerusalem. On His way, He saw a fig tree that had not produced fruit and cursed it—teaching a lesson on the power of faith. Once in the city, Jesus exercised His authority and drove out all the merchants desecrating the Temple which was supposed to be a house of prayer.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.

# Holy Week Day 3: Holy Tuesday

*Use Order for Daily Worship.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Psalm 118:19-27 and Luke 20
- Additional readings: Matthew 21:23-26:5, Mark 11:27-14:2, Luke 21:22:2, and John 12:37-50
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Holy Tuesday, Temple leaders challenged Jesus with theological debates, questioning both His teaching and His authority. Jesus shared several parables during this time, condemning the religious elite and explaining the Kingdom of God as well as discussing the End Times with His disciples on the Mount of Olives.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.

# Holy Week Day 4: Spy Wednesday

*Use Order for Daily Worship.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Luke 22:3-6 and Mark 14:3-11
- Additional readings: Matthew 26:6-16
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Spy Wednesday, Jewish leaders became more agitated with Jesus, especially when a woman honored Him by anointing Him with oils that were worth about an average year's salary (these oils were often used to prepare bodies for burial). Judas was upset by this because he saw the gesture as a waste, so he went to the chief priests (the Sadducees) and agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.

# Holy Week Day 5: Maundy Thursday

*Use Order for Daily Worship. If you feel led to do so, practice the Passover Meal.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Isaiah 50:4-10 and Luke 22:7-65
- Additional readings: Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, and John 13:1-18:27
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Maundy Thursday, Jesus and His twelve followers celebrated the Passover Feast together. He washed His disciples' feet, predicted His betrayal, and shared in the first communion with His disciples. From here, Jesus and His friends headed over to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed to the Father. At the Mount of Olives, Jewish authorities led by Judas arrested the Messiah and took Him to Caiaphas, the high priest. Jesus was falsely found guilty of blasphemy and condemned to die before being beaten, spat on, and mocked by Temple guards. At the Temple, Peter denied Christ three times to accusing onlookers which was earlier predicted by Jesus.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.



# Holy Week Day 6: Good Friday

*Use Order for Daily Worship and Prepare for Sabbath Order for Worship (as a part of Evening Order for Daily Worship).*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Psalm 22:1-18, Luke 22:66-71, and Luke 23:1-56
- Additional readings: Matthew 27:1-61, Mark 15:1-47, and John 18:28-19:42
- Events of the day to meditate on: On the early morning of Good Friday, Jesus was brought by the Jewish authorities before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, because the Jews could not execute anyone without Roman approval. After being sent back and forth to the Jewish puppet king, Herod Antipas, Jesus arrived back in Pilate's charge who had him flogged before giving Him up to execution at the behest of the riotous crowd. Jesus was whipped forty times at the hands of vindictive Roman torturers, condemned to death by crucifixion, and then forced to carry His own cross along the Sorrowful Way, or *Via Dolorosa*, to Golgotha (meaning, *Place of the Skull*) where He was to be murdered.

When Jesus finally arrived at the crucifixion site, He was stripped naked, nailed to His cross, and hoisted up in full view of everyone—from angry crowds to passersby (the place of execution was by the city gates of Jerusalem). Jesus asked His Father to forgive the very ones that were murdering and mocking Him. Two thieves were hanging on either side of Jesus, one of whom recognized Him as the Son of God, and was saved at that moment shortly before their death. With Jesus's last breath, the ground was shaken in a great earthquake, people were raised from the dead and were walking in the streets, and the veil of the Temple separating the Holy of Holies (God's former dwelling place) was torn in two—symbolizing the removal of any barrier between God and Mankind.

After six hours of crucifixion, Jesus's body finally hung lifeless on the cross. At that moment, a Roman centurion pierced the Messiah's side to ensure He was dead and out from the wound poured blood and water, which caused the centurion to praise Jesus as the Son of the Living God. Jesus's body was quickly taken down from the cross and given to Joseph of Arimathea to be placed in his tomb before the Passover Festival began at the onset of the coming Sabbath.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.

# Holy Week Day 7: Holy Saturday

*Use Sabbath Order for Worship.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Isaiah 52:13-15, Isaiah 53, and Luke 23:56
- Additional readings: Matthew 27:62-66
- Events of the day to meditate on: On Holy Saturday, we do not have the clearest picture of the specific events that occurred because the Jewish community was practicing the Sabbath following the Passover Feast. Jesus's body laid lifeless in the sealed tomb guarded closely by Roman sentinels. The disciples, feeling hopelessly defeated, went into hiding—and some went back to their old life of fishing.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.

# Holy Week Day 8: Resurrection Sunday

*Use Morning Home Church Order for Worship (at dawn) along with Order for Daily Worship.*

## ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 24
- Additional readings: Matthew 28, Mark 16, and John 20:1-21:25
- Events of the day to meditate on: It is Easter Sunday, and Jesus is risen! Early in the morning, a couple of the women who followed Jesus went to His tomb to anoint His body, but when they arrived, the stone was rolled away and the body of the Savior was gone! An angel greeted them with the news that Jesus would not be found among the dead, because He is alive. As the women hurried back to tell the others of the news, Jesus, Himself, showed up to His grieving disciples in the Upper Room, letting them touch His resurrected body and feel His wounds. Jesus physically rose from the dead in Glory; He defeated death and stepped into eternal life.

## ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of Jesus's life on this day.



# Ascension Day Order for Worship

## Ascension Day: 40 Days After Resurrection Sunday

*Use Order for Daily Worship. If you choose to meet with your Home Church, also use the Home Church Order for Worship (Morning or Evening).*

### ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:4-11
- Additional readings: Mark 16:15-20 and Luke 24:50-53
- Events of the day to meditate on: During the forty days following Jesus's resurrection, He appeared physically to His disciples, allowing them to touch His body and His wounds and even shared meals with them. Jesus's last words to His disciples were to go and share the good news of the Gospel, to make disciples of all the nations, and to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As He ascended beyond the clouds and into heaven, angels declared that in the same way, Jesus would one day return in Glory.

Today, we celebrate Ascension Day because we choose to remember that Christ our Savior is physically risen from the dead and has ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. We celebrate the fact that we, too, are now seated with Christ in the very throneroom of God; this is an inheritance we can enjoy now as well as forevermore in eternity! Ascension Day also reminds us that Christ is coming back—a truth that we can hope in and look forward to as His bride, the Church.

### ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of this day.

# Pentecost Order for Worship

## Pentecost: 50 Days After Resurrection Sunday

*Use Order for Daily Worship. If you choose to meet with your Home Church, also use the Home Church Order for Worship (Morning or Evening).*

### ***Cleansing with the Word and Scripture Meditation***

- Acts 2
- Events of the day to meditate on: As the disciples gathered together in a home in Jerusalem, they heard what was described in Acts 2 as a violent wind and saw tongues of fire descend and fall on each of them as the Holy Spirit came to dwell in them. They couldn't help but proclaim the goodness of God in a variety of languages as the Spirit allowed, which caught the attention of God-fearing Jews from around the world that had gathered in and around the Holy City to celebrate *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks," which was commonly known at that time by its Koine Greek name, *Pentecost*. From there, Peter preached the very first sermon after Christ's ascension to the crowds, marking the beginning of God's mighty and ongoing work through the body of Christ, the Church.

Pentecost, which means *fiftieth day* in Greek, marked the—you guessed it—fiftieth day since the Passover Feast. It was a sacred day for the Jews to remember the giving of the Law to Moses by God on Mount Sinai as well as the beginning of the wheat harvest. Just as practicing Jews continue to honor *Shavuot* today, present-day Christ-followers also celebrate this day, though it's a Jesus-centric Pentecost. Our tradition follows the liturgical calendar, placing it fifty days after Easter Sunday to commemorate the work of the Holy Spirit seen in Acts 2. This is the birth of the Church. So, happy birthday, Church!

### ***Prayers (to include during time of Intercession and Petition)***

Use part of this time to respond in prayer to today's Scripture and the corresponding events of this day.







