



HOLY WEEK

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It is now the Holy Week.

Praise the Lord for this journey of reflection and realizations! Now, as we enter the Holy Week, let us prepare ourselves for what is to come and ponder on the Paschal Mystery of our savior, Jesus Christ.

APRIL 13, 2025

Gospel Reading: Luke 22:14 -23:56

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

ST. AUGUSTINE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Today is Palm Sunday, and the people are welcoming Jesus with honor and praise. But that joyful event will soon turn into shouts that will lead to the suffering and death of Jesus.

As I reflect, this event not just happened thousand of years ago, but still present up to this day. There are moments when it is easy to joyfully welcome Jesus—when I feel His presence in answered prayers, in blessings, in moments of peace and inspiration. But when life gets hard and uncertain, when I felt lost, uninspired, uninterested, distracted and spiritually dry, I caught myself struggling to welcome Jesus with the same joy. And in those moments I fall into sin, forget Jesus or lost sight of Him. I feel like I am also one among those people who shout to crucify Jesus.

Despite of all of this, Jesus firmly reminds us today, that He knows exactly what awaits Him - betrayal, abandonment, suffering. Yet, He chose to move forward to carry the cross of our sins and be crucified just to tell us that His love goes beyond measure, beyond our sins and weaknesses. His love chooses us despite of how unworthy we are. A kind of love that asks the Father to forgive us while bearing the weight of our sins.

As we enter the holy week, we are reminded that no matter how many times we fall, Jesus never gives up on us. He continues to walk with us, waiting for us to go back home in His presence.

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REFLECTION QUESTION:

How can I accompany and walk more closely with Jesus this Holy Week?

PRAYER:

Lord, in Your Passion, Death, and Resurrection, may we find ourselves walking more closely with You, offering our hearts to console You and to share in the hope of Your resurrection.

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APRIL 14, 2025

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-11

“You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” (John 12:8)

ST. AUGUSTINE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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GOSPEL REFLECTION:

There are countless moments in my missionary life where I became so immersed with the technical aspects of my service to the point that I became too busy even for prayer. As ironic as it sounds, it happens quite often. Because I get so worried about the things that I need to do, I tend to focus on what’s right in front of me rather than the One who has appointed me.

As followers of Christ, we focus too much on how we can evangelize others over our own personal relationship with God. The worst part? We judge our fellow Christians similarly to how Judas judged Mary in the Gospel.

As the Lenten season nears its end, may we be reminded that above all that we are tasked to do, our relationship with God comes first—because apart from Him, we can do nothing. The opportunity to do good will always be there. However, choosing to be with God must always come first.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How often have you set aside your personal time with the Lord because you were too busy with service?

PRAYER:

Lord, grant me the grace to understand that apart from You, all that I do will mean nothing. Amen.

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 15, 2025

Gospel Reading: John 13:21-33,36-38

“Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times.”
(John 13:38)

ST. AUGUSTINE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus knew.

From the very beginning, He knew Peter would deny Him three times. He knew Judas would betray Him. He knew our hearts, how weak we are, how often we would say, “Jesus, I want to follow You,” only to fall into sin again. And yet, He still chose the cross. He still chose us. He chose to suffer and die for our sins, knowing full well that we would stumble.

So many times, I’ve been tempted to just blend in with the world—to cheat on exams, join in gossip, focus over how others see me. But it’s only by His grace that I’ve been able to resist, to rise above, and to keep saying, “Jesus, I want to follow You.”

In realizing how Jesus is willing to forgive our sins, can we realize how He is willing to embrace us, no matter how broken, sinful, and weak we are. What truly matters is this: God loves us, and nothing can ever separate us from His love.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

What are the sins that you have been avoiding to confess?

PRAYER:

Jesus, your unconditional love led you to embrace the cross, even in the face of my weaknesses. Help me to humbly turn from my sins and follow you with a sincere heart. Amen.

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 16, 2025

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-25

And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."
(Matthew 26:21)

ST. AUGUSTINE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus loved Judas just as He loves each of us. He gave him the chance to be redeemed until the very end, just as He does for us. Every time we choose to cling to our sins, we betray Jesus. But He continues to call us back. Let's respond to this invitation with open hearts.

There were many times when I felt too ashamed to go to confession. Sometimes, the weight of that shame made me feel stuck. But God never sees us as a lost cause. His love is constant. That's why, in His mercy, He offers us the gift of Reconciliation every single day. All we have to do is return to Him.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Do I allow my sorrow for sin to lead me closer to God in repentance, or do I let it pull me into shame and distance from His mercy?

PRAYER:

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17, 2025

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-15

If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you. (John 13:14-15)

ST. AUGUSTINE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Today is Maundy Thursday, a solemn and sacred day in Holy Week. The word Maundy comes from the Latin "mandatum," meaning "commandment," referring to the new commandment Jesus gave His disciples at the Last Supper: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

The Church commemorates two profound events today: The institution of the Holy Eucharist & The institution of the ministerial priesthood.

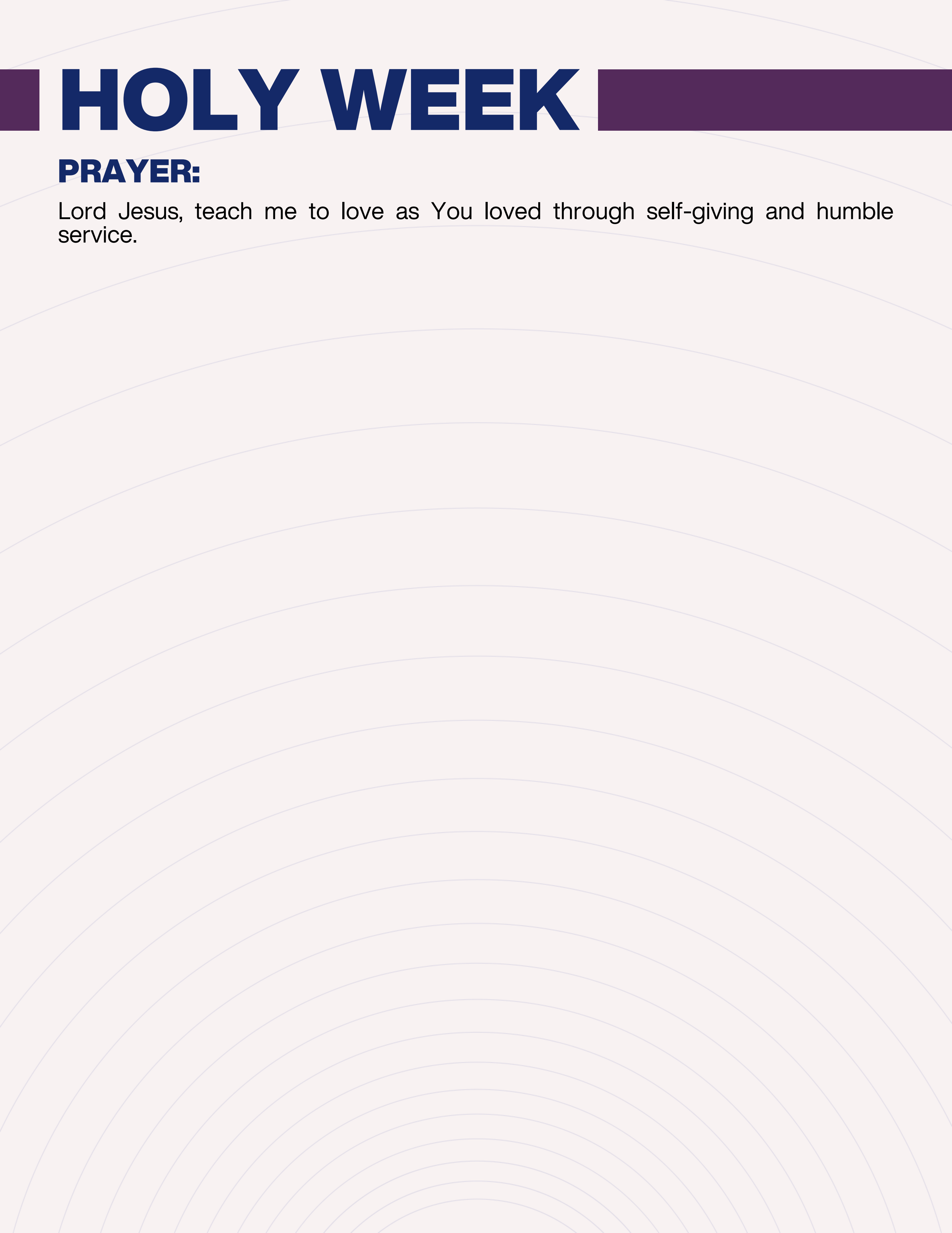
At the same time, Jesus gave us a powerful gesture to imitate: the washing of the feet. Though He was the Lord and Master, He humbled Himself to serve. This act is not only a sign of humility but also a call to a life of loving service.

The Eucharist and the washing of the feet both point us to the same truth: to love is to give oneself completely. Jesus loved us to the end not just by words, but by offering His very life.

Today, as we enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery, let us remember: to follow Jesus is to be ready to be broken and poured out in love for others. Let us strive to serve as He served, to love as He loved, and to give ourselves entirely to God and to one another.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In what concrete ways can I follow Jesus' example of humble service in my daily life?



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PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, teach me to love as You loved through self-giving and humble service.