

PALM SUNDAY

HOLY



WEEK

AT CITYHOPE

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

MALBIS & ONLINE | 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30A

MOBILE & FOLEY | 9:00 & 11:00A

Throughout this year, we've been tracing God's work through Scripture, from deliverance to wandering, from promise to exile. In Holy Week, that story leads us to Jesus—the Lion who conquers and the Lamb who lays down His life.

From Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday, we walk with Christ through the final days of His earthly ministry.

This is not a week to rush through, but one to pause, reflect, and sit with the weight of the cross so we can fully receive the joy of the resurrection.

We invite you to join us Palm Sunday, March 29, as we gather to remember, reflect, and celebrate together.

SHAPED BY THE CROSS DEVOTIONAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Alongside our Holy Week services, we invite you to walk through **Shaped by the Cross**, a seven-day devotional designed for personal or family use.

Where it made sense, we've woven in the Year of the Bible readings to connect Holy Week with the larger story of Scripture. If you're not participating in the Year of the Bible, this devotional stands on its own.

As you move through this week, set aside intentional time each day to be still with the Lord. Find a quiet space. Open your Bible. Allow God to shape your heart through the story of the cross.

PALM SUNDAY

The Shape of Expectation

Scripture: Luke 19:28-44

Jesus enters Jerusalem surrounded by celebration. Cloaks are laid down. Palms are raised. Voices shout praise. On the surface, everything looks right.

But Jesus knows what the crowd cannot yet see.

They are welcoming a king, but not the kind of King He has come to be. They expect victory without suffering, freedom without sacrifice, salvation without surrender. Jesus accepts their praise, but His heart is already moving toward the cross.

Palm Sunday asks us an honest question. What kind of Savior are we expecting Jesus to be? One who meets our hopes, or one who reshapes them?

Holy Week begins with joy, but it does not stay there. The shape of the cross always challenges our expectations.

Reflection: Where might you be asking Jesus to meet your expectations instead of trusting His way?

Prayer: *Jesus, help me see You for who You truly are. Lay down my expectations and lead me in Your way. Amen.*

MONDAY

The Shape of Obedience

Scripture: Deuteronomy 27-31;
Luke 12

As Moses nears the end of his leadership, he calls the people to remember what matters most. Choose life. Walk in obedience. Trust the God who delivered you.

Jesus echoes that same call as He teaches in Jerusalem. He speaks plainly about allegiance, readiness, and where our true trust lies. These are not comfortable words, but they are loving ones.

Obedience is rarely shaped in moments of applause. It is formed in quiet decisions, repeated faithfulness, and a willingness to trust God even when the path ahead feels uncertain.

Holy Week invites us to examine our hearts. Not just what we believe, but how we live.

Reflection: What step of obedience might God be inviting you into right now?

Prayer: *God, give me a willing heart to obey You. Help me trust You in the small, quiet choices today. Amen.*

TUESDAY

The Shape of Grief

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32-34;
Psalm 13; Luke 13

Moses blesses the people, knowing he will not cross into the Promised Land with them. Jesus looks over Jerusalem and grieves hearts that refuse to receive Him.

Scripture does not shy away from grief. Lament, sorrow, and longing are woven into the story of God's people. Holy Week reminds us that love and grief often exist together. God's heart breaks not because He is distant, but because He cares deeply.

There is space in God's presence for honest sorrow. There is room for questions, disappointment, and tears.

Grief does not disqualify faith. Often, it deepens it.

Reflection: Where do you need to bring your honest grief before God today?

Prayer: *Lord, You see my grief and my questions. Meet me here with Your compassion and peace. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY

The Shape of Decision

Scripture: Joshua 1-4; Psalm 143;
Luke 14

A transition is happening. Moses has died. Joshua is called to lead. The people stand at the edge of the water, faced with a decision. Will they trust God enough to move forward?

Jesus speaks just as clearly about the cost of following Him. Discipleship is not casual. It requires surrender, humility, and a willingness to let go of what once felt secure.

Holy Week brings us to a crossroads. Faith always does. Following God often means leaving something behind in order to step into what He has promised.

Reflection: What might God be asking you to release in order to follow Him more fully?

Prayer: *Father, give me courage to follow You fully. Help me release what I need to leave behind. Amen.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Shape of Love

Scripture: Luke 22:14-34

On the night before the cross, Jesus chooses love expressed through service. He breaks bread. He pours wine. He kneels to wash feet. He loves His disciples fully, even knowing betrayal is near.

This is the shape of Christlike love. It is humble. It is self-giving. It stays present even when the cost is high.

Jesus does not wait for perfect faithfulness from His friends. He simply loves them, showing us that the heart of the Gospel is not power, but sacrificial love.

Reflection: Who might God be inviting you to love with humility and grace this week?

Prayer: *Jesus, teach me to love the way You love. Shape my heart through humility and service. Amen.*

GOOD FRIDAY

The Shape of Sacrifice

Scripture: Luke 23

The crowd grows quiet. The sky darkens. Jesus is led to the cross.

Here, the Lion becomes the Lamb. Jesus carries the weight of sin, suffering, and separation. He chooses obedience all the way to death. This is not a story to rush through. It is one to sit with.

The cross shows us both the cost of sin and the depth of God's love. Nothing is hidden. Nothing is held back.

Today, we pause. We remember. We give thanks for a Savior who was willing to lay down His life.

Reflection: Spend a few moments in silence. What does the cross reveal to you about God's love?

Prayer: *Thank You for the cross and for Your sacrifice. Help me sit with Your love and receive it deeply. Amen.*

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

Today, join us at any location in the meaningful tradition of Flowering the Cross. Flip to Page 29, or visit citybope.cc/easter, for more information.
