

2026 PREPARE FOR EASTER GUIDE JOURNEY TO RESURRECTION

WEEK 1 (FEB 18 - 22): THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Read: Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11
Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 118:25-26;
Zechariah 9:9; Philippians 2:9-11

REFLECTION: Lent begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem. He is welcomed with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" - a callback to the songs in Psalms and prophecy within Zechariah. The people hail Him as King, yet their praise proves fleeting. True discipleship, however, calls us to follow Jesus not only in moments of celebration but also along the road that leads to the cross. As we begin this journey, take time to pause and reflect. Encourage yourself with the fact that every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Celebrate the ways Christ has worked in your life! There have been victories, answered prayers, and moments of grace. Then, with a humble heart, consider the areas where He is calling you to lay something down, to die to self, so that His life may shine more fully through you.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: How do I truly honor Jesus as King in my life? Where am I tempted to follow only when it's convenient? How can I bow my knee and heart to Him more today?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I welcome You as my King. May my life bear the lasting fruit of faith and obedience. May I remember to honor you in all areas of my life. May I continue to celebrate your life and death as the true way to freedom. Amen.

WEEK 2 (FEB 23 - MAR 1): JESUS CONFRONTS AND TEACHES

Read: Matthew 21:18-46; Mark 11:12-33
Supporting Scriptures: Jeremiah 7:9-11;
Micah 6:6-8; James 1:22-25

REFLECTION: Jesus cleanses the temple and calls His people to authentic worship. Lent reminds us that repentance isn't just about words but about transformed lives. We cannot say that we believe one thing and then live our lives in opposition to that belief - like in Jeremiah. Additionally, true sacrifice to Jesus begins in our hearts - by loving justice, kindness, and walking humbly with Him. May we continue to be doers of the Word, not merely hearers of it in our everyday lives.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: What parts of my life need "cleansing"? How do I practice authentic worship beyond Sunday? What are ways I can love justice and kindness to walk more humbly with my God?

PRAYER: Holy God, cleanse my heart and make it a dwelling place for You. May my heart and life align in a way that is true and authentic to your laws and commandments. Amen.

WEEK 3 (MAR 2 - 8): THE LAST SUPPER

Read: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26
Supporting Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14;
Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

REFLECTION: At the table, Jesus reveals the new covenant sealed with His broken body and redemptive blood. Communion reminds us that He invites us into deep fellowship and new life through His sacrifice on the cross. The first communion was celebrated during the evening of Passover, which is a remembrance of God's saving His people from Egypt. However, the Lord promised His deliverance from Egypt was just a shadow of the ultimate deliverance from eternal death! Deliverance from Pharaoh was not the final redemption because there was a greater one yet to come! Jesus' broken body and spilled blood represent the Lamb of God sent to redeem His people from death and slavery from the curse of sin itself.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: How do I experience Christ's presence in communion? What does covenant love mean for my daily life?

PRAYER: Thank You, Jesus, for Your body and blood given for me. May I continuously be aware of the sacrifice you made to set me free from a life of death and slavery. Help me to be aware of your presence in my life and how you have set me free from so much. Thank you for your death and sacrifice for me. Amen.

WEEK 4 (MAR 9 - 15): GETHSEMANE AND BETRAYAL

Read: Matthew 26:31-56; Mark 14:27-52
Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 53:3-7;
Psalm 22:1-2; Hebrews 5:7-9

REFLECTION: In agony, Jesus prays and surrenders to the Father's will. His obedience in suffering brings salvation. Lent calls us to trust God even in our darkest moments. In Isaiah 53, we are reminded of the ways Jesus chose to submit Himself to the Father's will over His own desires throughout His life on Earth. We are reminded of the words of Jesus on the cross as He felt that the Lord had betrayed Him. Hebrews encourages us that Jesus learned obedience through suffering, and that His obedience led to our deliverance. What an amazing choice He made, and one that we should be grateful for daily.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: Where am I struggling to surrender to God's will? How can I follow Jesus' example of prayer in weakness? How can I learn to trust God's will, even if my life is not going as expected?

PRAYER: Father, not my will, but Yours. Help me trust Your goodness even in trials. Help me stay true to Your will and be obedient to You, even in my sufferings. Help me to remember your obedience in your sacrifice as an encouragement to my circumstances today. Thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

WEEK 5 (MAR 16 - 22): THE TRIAL AND DENIAL

Read: Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72
Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 50:6-9; Luke 22:31-34; 2 Timothy 2:11-13

REFLECTION: Jesus is mocked, beaten, and denied by those closest to Him. Yet He remains faithful. Lent teaches us to confront our own weaknesses and find hope in His mercy. Isaiah reminds us that we can find our strength in the Lord, and we need not be afraid of what man can do to us in the body. May we be strengthened in our faith to stay faithful to Him. Help us to remember that He remains faithful to us and is a trustworthy God.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: When have I failed to stand for Christ? How does His mercy restore me after failure.

PRAYER: Lord, forgive me for my denials. Strengthen me to stand firm in Your truth. May I strive to live for you and remain faithful so that I can live with you eternally. Lord, help my unbelief and weakness. Amen.

WEEK 6 (MAR 23 - 29): THE CROSS

Read: Matthew 27; Mark 15
Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 53:10-12; Psalm 22:14-18; Galatians 2:20

REFLECTION: At the cross, Christ takes our sin and offers His life. Lent brings us face to face with the depth of God's love and the cost of our salvation. Jesus poured Himself out and was willing to be crushed so that we could be brought to wholeness in Him. He bore the sin of the world and the weight that it held. Even though His body was disfigured and brought to the worst pain imaginable, His death gave each of us life. When we remember that Jesus laid down His life for us, it should remind us that we also need to die to ourselves and old ways of living.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: What does it mean for me to live a "crucified life"? How does the cross reshape my identity?

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for bearing my sins. Thank you for your deep and painful sacrifice to set me free from eternal death. Lord, let me honor You by living for You every day. Let me live my life by faith in You because You loved me and gave Yourself for me. May I never forget your sacrifice and may I never boast except in Your cross. Amen.

WEEK 7 (MAR 30 - APR 4): RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

Read: Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11
Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 118:25-26; Zechariah 9:9; Philippians 2:9-11

REFLECTION: The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! The resurrection is not the end but the beginning of new life. His ascension reminds us that His mission continues through us until He returns. Let us rejoice in the fact that in His presence is the fullness of joy! His resurrection defeated the power that Death had over humanity! What an amazing gift He gave us. Through Christ's death, He redeemed the entirety of humanity and gave us all life in Him.

JOURNAL PROMPTS: How does resurrection hope shape my daily life? Where is God calling me to share the good news?

PRAYER: Risen Lord, fill me with Your Spirit and send me as Your witness to the world. Help me to remember the power of the resurrection and how You have called us to share with others your message of grace and love. Amen.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, start thinking through the people who are **close to YOU** that are **far from JESUS!** Think through some cousins, coworkers, and those in your community who need the hope of Jesus in their hearts!

Write down their names here and begin to pray for them!

Finally, invite them through a text, phone call, or face-to-face ask! Invite them to sit with you during our **Easter with North Highland services on April 5th!**

