



Devotional Guide for March 25-31, 2024

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Holy Monday, March 25TH "A house of prayer for all nations"

Scripture: Mark 11:15-18^{NIV}

As Holy Week begins, one of the first things that Jesus did after His triumphal entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem was to go to the Temple. What He saw there caused Him to become indignant, as He knocked over the money changers' tables and drove people out. Jesus' actions evoke Zechariah's prophecy that on the day of the Lord, all nations would come to His newly sanctified mountain and that corrupt merchants would no longer defile His holy house. In the midst of a city where Jewish officials were plotting His death, Jesus showed no fear, as He continued to stand firmly upon the will of His Heavenly Father.

Question: What takes place in churches today that would anger Jesus?

Holy Tuesday, March 26TH "Come and see the place where He lay!"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10^{NIV}

This is one of the first lessons for our worship on Easter Sunday, where Matthew gives His account of the resurrection. As the women go to prepare Jesus' body with ointments and spices for final burial, they encounter not only an empty tomb, but an angel of the Lord. The angel's presence caused the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb to become "like dead men" (v.4) which suggests that somehow, they were unable to move for a time, like in a dead faint. Given the guards' terror, it is appropriate for the angel to tell the women not to be afraid. As the women left the tomb to tell the disciples the news, we read that they were "afraid yet filled with joy" (v.8). Then the surprises continue, as Jesus meets the women as they are leaving.

Question: Can you imagine the whirlwind of emotions the women felt?

Holy Wednesday, March 27TH "Go and make disciples"

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20^{NIV}

This passage occurs on the 40th day after His resurrection, as Jesus gave His disciples (and the church today) what is known as the Great Commission—the charge to "go and make disciples" (v.19). What had been the uniquely Jewish mission of God's people now became the mandate for worldwide, multiethnic ministry. *(continued...)*

As many people as possible, Jew and Gentile alike, must be given the opportunity to move beyond being mere people created by God, but that they could also become children of the living God!

Question: How are you involved in disciple-making?

Who was the last person you told about Jesus and His love for you?

Maundy Thursday, March 28TH "Not My will, but Yours"

Scripture: Luke 22:39-53^{NIV}

Looking back before the resurrection in that first holy week, Jesus gave His disciples the gift of the sacrament of communion, as they shared what became known as the last supper. After this, Jesus and the disciples went to the Mount of Olives (Garden of Gethsemane) where Jesus would spend time in prayer before His arrest and trial, torture, and crucifixion. His anxiety about all that lay before Him was so great that Luke describes that "His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (v.44). A moment after this, He would see who had betrayed Him, He knew who would later deny even knowing Him, and how all of His disciples would abandon Him. It is this loneliness from them and from His Heavenly Father, as He takes on the sins of the whole world, I believe, that caused His anxiety.

Question: Can you grasp the emotions that were wracking the heart and mind of our Savior in these moments? How does this make the gift of His grace and salvation all the more distinctive for you?

Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Tenebrae
7:00 pm this evening in our Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 29TH "Peace be with you!"

Scripture: John 20:19-29^{NIV}

Just as the angel offered to the women when he said, "Come and see the place where He lay" (Matthew 28:6), here Jesus Himself offers the greatest 'show and tell' event of all time. In John 20:20, Jesus "showed them His hands and side," giving the disciples great joy. Then, to the disciple who was later labeled 'Doubting Thomas,' He showed His pierced hands and stabbed side, as evidence for faith. If you remember the point of 'show and tell,' it is to share something of value with others. What greater thing of value is there but a new life of faith, made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? We have incredible news to 'show and tell' the world!

Question: How did you first hear the glorious news of the resurrection?

The Way of the Cross ~ 11:30 am on the Courthouse Steps
Good Friday Worship Service ~ 7:00 pm
Otterbein United Methodist Church (111 College Avenue)

Resurrection Sunday, March 31, 2024
6:30 am Sunrise Service on the church lawn
8:30 and 10:45 am (Livestream @10:45 am)
Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20^{NIV} and John 20:19-29^{NIV}
Pastor's message: "Show and Tell!"

