

# Lutheran FAQ: What's So Holy About Holy Week?

What is your congregation's schedule for Holy Week?

Which story about Jesus' last week is most special to you right now? (Check them out in Matthew 21-27, John 12-19, or Luke 19:29-23:56.)

Palm Sunday is the first day in Holy Week. Jesus is celebrated with a parade on his way into Jerusalem, but we know now that those crowds will scream for his death on Friday. Why do you think they change their mind? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus sends his disciples to borrow a donkey with no advance warning. What do you think convinced the owner that this was okay? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus does a lot of teaching in the Temple that last week. If you had just a week, what message would you want to share with the world? \_\_\_\_\_

Maundy Thursday is named for Jesus' command that we love one another as he has loved us? How does Jesus love us? How can we show that love to other people? \_\_\_\_\_

Can someone command someone else to love? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you call Good Friday good? What would be another appropriate name for it? \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Saturday looks calm, but there's a lot going on. How do you wait and prepare for big days?

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "What's So Holy About Holy Week?" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tPdFy4mzqg>

# Lutheran FAQ:

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Most leaders who made an entry into Jerusalem like Jesus did were on war horses. Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey instead? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus does a lot of teaching in the Temple that last week. If you had just a week, what message would you want to share with the world? With your friends? \_\_\_\_\_

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Holy Saturday looks calm, but there's a lot going on. When have you actively waited for something, not knowing entirely what to expect? \_\_\_\_\_

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Which story about Jesus' last week is most meaningful to you right now? (Check them out in Matthew 21-27, Mark 11-15, John 12-19, or Luke 19:29-23:56.) \_\_\_\_\_

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### Deeper Dive:

- Check out your congregation's worship bulletins or online services. What stories are emphasized? How is that done?
- John's gospel is so different for Maundy Thursday. Compare it to Matthew, Mark, or Luke, and think about what each version shows us about Jesus.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* has a whole section of hymns for Holy Week. Which ones are your favorite? Which ones are new to you?

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