

A banner image for Easter. It features a cracked stone on the left, a vertical pink stripe in the center, and a wooden cross on the right. The word "EASTER" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top.

EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

READ: **MARK 11:1-11**

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of what we know as Holy Week. It's a day of honoring and welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. In great celebration, people laid their coats and palm leaves down as if to roll out the red carpet for Jesus. Only, Jesus knew that the cheers of his people would soon turn to jeers.

Can you imagine the heaviness that Jesus felt knowing that the cross was waiting for him? The tone of that day completely shifts. But Jesus harbored no bitterness towards the people as they celebrated. Because of his obedience to God and love for you He pressed forward.

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 1 VIDEO

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | What is God calling you to press forward in?
- 2 | What step of obedience can you take today?

EASTER

MONDAY, APRIL 3

READ: [MARK 11:15-19](#)

Early in the week, Jesus entered the temple and cleared out those who were buying and selling. Corrupt merchants built their own wealth and shifted their focus away from helping people honor God.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection came a new temple. It's no longer a building; He chooses to dwell in us. Each day, you are bombarded with distractions that can easily shift your focus from God. Today, you are reminded that he came to clear the temple. He wants to do a work in and through you.

[CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 2 VIDEO](#)

REFLECTION:

Spend time in the Lord's presence.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | Is there something in your life that is taking your time and focus away from the Lord?
- 2 | What distraction may he be asking you to remove today?

EASTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

READ: MARK 14:1-9

It's clear that God sees the act of this woman as significant. "Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

Mark 14:9

Why did she pour out her perfume on Jesus' head? She understood who Jesus was, so she poured out her best for a Savior that would pour out his blood.

This is the Good News: in a world that has fallen to destruction and chaos, Jesus is King.

This is the Good News: for the lost, weak, and broken, you are a child of God. He loves you. He will never leave you, and he defeated death that you would experience fullness of life.

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 3 VIDEO

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | If Jesus was in front of you today, what could you pour out to show honor and gratitude to him?
- 2 | Who in your life needs to hear the Good News? Extend an invitation to them to join you for Easter services at Northview.

EASTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

“Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.”

PSALMS 27:7

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 4 VIDEO

Shema: listen and respond

Shema, the Hebrew word for “listen,” is the centerpiece of the last speech Moses gave to the Israelites before they went down into the promised land (Deut. 6:4-5). *Shema* represents two sides of the same coin; if we listen, we will respond.

Our world is busy. It’s noisy and demanding. Our best intentions of creating quiet space are often interrupted. There’s something significant about this midweek point. The celebration of Palm Sunday is over. Jesus confronted the religious leaders the previous two days, and on Wednesday, there’s space. It’s easy to imagine Jesus making space to *shema* the Father on this day 2,000 years ago.

And at this midweek point, the Lord invites you to “*shema*”.
Listen, beloved. He has something for you.

“Real listening takes effort and action” If you hear the Lord, you will obey because you love him.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | What is it that God wants you to hear today?
- 2 | What step do you need to take to obey?

EASTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

“When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

MARK 14:17-18

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

ROMANS 5:6-8

The ultimate standard for measuring love is demonstrated in the way you treat your enemies. No one lived this out like our Jesus. He sat at a table with trusted friends, and knowing they would betray him, he still went to the cross.

He went to the cross for you. While you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. This is agape love – the choice to act in a way that brings healing and life to others, despite their actions towards you.

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 5 VIDEO

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | How does God’s agape love for you guide the way you love the difficult people in your life?
- 2 | How is Jesus patient, kind, humble, and selfless towards you? How does that challenge you to love your enemies?

EASTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

“And they began to salute him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.”

MARK 15:18-20

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 6 VIDEO

On this Good Friday, there is so much to contemplate. What did it feel like for Jesus to be hunted by the same people who only a week before sung praises to his name? What emotional strength did it take to dine with his friends before the day they would all betray him? How did he endure torture, mockery, and death without ever turning to hatred?

Our Jesus is like no other.

Take time to think of the cross and the road that led Jesus there. A road marked not with his sin, but with yours. A road devoid of justice. A road who's only ending was murder. A road that Jesus walked willingly.

Who can compare to our Jesus?

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | What feelings do you have when you think about the crucifixion?
- 2 | What impact does this 2,000-year-old day have on your life today?

EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

“And when [Pilate] learned from the centurion that [Jesus] was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.”

MARK 15:45-47

Had there been any hope of Jesus coming back to life, they never would have wrapped his body, laid him in a tomb and covered it with a stone. No one was on the edge of their seat, waiting for a miracle. For them, this was the end.

What would that silence have felt like?

For us, Saturday doesn't feel silent because we know what's coming next. But what about when you don't know? How does God's silence feel when you're waiting for the test results? How does his silence feel when you've waited years for companionship, but are still lonely? How does his silence feel when your child rejects the faith?

Life is full of silent Saturdays, but Saturday is not the end.

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 7 VIDEO

QUESTIONS:

- 1 | When have you felt abandoned by God?
- 2 | Even in silence, what has God proven to you through Holy Week?

EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

LUKE 24:5-7

Over 2,000 years ago, hope declared its place in our world, never again to be removed. Never again to be defeated. Never again to be questioned.

You may be convinced your situation is dead, your relationship sunk, your health hopeless. But consider the promise you have been given in the empty grave. There is nothing that can take that empty grave away from you. Nothing strong enough to remove God's love from you.

He made a way to life. That means every dead end can be redeemed!

After days full of confusion, mourning, and silence, it's time to rejoice. Full blown, all out, child-like celebration!

CLICK TO WATCH HOLY WEEK DAY 8 VIDEO

QUESTIONS:

1 | What are you celebrating today?