

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Matthew 21:6–11

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble King, welcomed with praise yet moving toward the cross.

Read James 4:6

God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud.

### Reflection

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week with celebration — but if you look closely, it is a celebration shaped by humility.

Jesus enters not as a conquering ruler, but as a lowly King riding toward suffering. The crowds shout praise, yet the path ahead leads to sacrifice.

James reminds us that grace flows most freely toward the humble. The King we welcome today is the King who kneels, serves, and gives His life.

To receive Him fully, we do not rise in strength — we bow in surrender.

Holy Week begins with this invitation:

*Welcome Christ not just with words, but with a yielded heart.*

### Prayer

Humble King,

Reign in my heart.

Let my praise be joined with surrender.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

“Hosanna”

### Daily Practice

Intentionally welcome Christ today — through prayer, worship, or a simple spoken invitation.

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Psalm 51:10–12

God renews and restores the heart that turns to Him in repentance.

Read James 4:8

When we draw near to God with sincerity, He responds with nearness.

### Reflection

Holy Week calls us to honesty before it calls us to celebration.

Think about it, before resurrection comes repentance. Before joy comes cleansing.

David's prayer in Psalm 51 reminds us that God is not looking for perfection — He is looking for return.

James promises that when we draw near to God, He draws near to us. This is not a distant God waiting for improvement. This is a Father responding to repentance.

Holy Week is not only about remembering what Jesus did. It is about honestly drawing near to God and letting His mercy meet us in our return.

### Prayer

The One True King,

Draw me close, O God.

Cleanse what is hidden  
and restore what is  
weary.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside  
time to sing along with  
the following worship:

"Draw Me Close"

### Daily Practice

Spend time in honest  
confession today, naming  
what you need God to  
renew.

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Luke 22:42

Not my will, but Yours be done.

Read James 4:10

Humbling ourselves before the Lord opens the way for Him to lift us.

### Reflection

In Gethsemane we see the deepest expression of humility: *surrender*.

Jesus does not avoid the cost. He yields to the Father's will even when it leads to suffering. This is the path to resurrection — *surrender before glory*.

James echoes this truth: God lifts those who humble themselves before Him.

Holy Week reminds us that resurrection life does not begin with triumph.

It begins with *surrender*.

The prayer of Jesus becomes our prayer this week: *Not my will, but Yours*.

### Prayer

Surrendering King,

Not my will, but Yours be done, Lord.

Teach me to trust Your purposes even when they cost me.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

"I Surrender All"

### Daily Practice

Release one area of control to God today in prayer.

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Psalm 37:7

Trusting God includes learning to rest and wait before Him.

Read James 5:7

Patience in waiting for the Lord forms endurance and hope.

### Reflection

Holy Week should slow us down.

By Wednesday, the tension rises. The cross is near. The disciples do not yet understand what is coming. Waiting fills the space between promise and fulfillment.

Psalm 37 calls us to be still before the Lord.

James urges patience as we wait for His timing.

Faith is not only believing God will act.

It is trusting Him in the waiting.

Holy Week teaches us to stay present with God even when we do not yet see resurrection.

### Prayer

Long Suffering King,

Teach me to wait faithfully, Lord.

Grow trust in me where I am restless.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

"Be Still My Soul"

### Daily Practice

Spend five quiet minutes today resting in God's presence without speaking.

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read John 13:12–17

Jesus shows that love is expressed through humble service.

Read James 5:13

Prayer becomes the response of the heart in both suffering and joy.

### Reflection

Maundy Thursday reveals the heart of Christ: *He serves.*

Before the cross, Jesus kneels to wash His disciples' feet. This is ultimate authority expressing itself as service. Love expresses itself as action.

James reminds us that prayer belongs in every condition of life — in suffering, in joy, in need.

On this night, service and prayer meet.

*Jesus kneels to serve.*

*Jesus prays in surrender.*

To follow Him is to do both.

### Prayer

Servant King,

Servant Christ, teach me to love as You love.

Make my life an offering of service and prayer.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

"The Servant King"

### Daily Practice

Serve someone quietly today without drawing attention to it.

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Isaiah 53:4–6

Christ carries our sin and suffering through His sacrifice.

Read James 5:16

Confession and prayer open the door for healing and restoration.

### Reflection

Good Friday is the center of Holy Week.

Isaiah foretells the suffering servant who bears our grief and sin. The cross reveals both the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's mercy.

James reminds us that healing flows through confession and prayer. At the cross, we see why: *Christ has made restoration possible.*

This day is not rushed.

It is not explained away.

It is received with reverence.

We do not hurry past the cross to reach Easter.

We stay long enough to remember what love cost.

### Prayer

Crucified Savior,

Have mercy on me.

Thank You for bearing what I could not carry.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

"Were You There"

"Son of Suffering"

### Daily Practice

Observe intentional silence for part of the day.

Join us for Good Friday worship

## Lowering Ourselves, Drawing Near to God

### Scripture

Read Lamentations 3:31–33

Even in sorrow and waiting, God's compassion remains steady.

Read James 5:19–20

God's restoring love seeks to bring wandering hearts back to life.

### Reflection

Holy Saturday is the quietest day of the Christian year.

The cross has happened. The resurrection has not yet come. The disciples sit in grief, confusion, and silence.

Lamentations reminds us that even in sorrow, God's mercy has not failed. James points to God's restoring heart — a love that keeps seeking, healing, and bringing life.

Holy Saturday teaches us that waiting is not abandonment. *God is still at work even when we cannot see it.*

Hope often grows in hidden places first.  
Sit in the quiet, look for glimpses of hope.

### Prayer

Faithful God,

Hold me in hope.

Teach me to trust You in the silence.

Amen.

### Worship

Intentionally set aside time to sing along with the following worship:

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

### Daily Practice

Let today be quieter than usual. Rest, pray, and wait in hope.

Prepare for Easter Sunday