

Reflections

Passion Week -
April 13-20



THE NEWSLETTER OF HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 3

April 2025

Palm Sunday: A Day of Joy and Reflection - by Pastor Norm Bleick



In 2025 Easter will fall on the third Sunday of April. Passion Week is inaugurated by Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The people welcomed Him with palm branches, shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9).

This moment marked the fulfillment of prophecy and the beginning of His journey to the cross.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and

mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey". Zechariah 9:9

Palm Sunday is a time of both celebration and reflection. It reminds us of Jesus' kingship—not one of earthly power, but of humility and sacrifice. He entered Jerusalem not on a mighty warhorse, but on a donkey, symbolizing peace. The same voices that praised Him would, just days later, cry out for His crucifixion.

As we wave our palm branches this Sunday, let us ask ourselves: Are we truly welcoming Jesus into our hearts and lives? It is easy to celebrate Him when things are going well,

but do we remain faithful even in difficult times?

This day calls us to commit ourselves fully to Christ, following Him not just in moments of joy, but also in surrender and obedience. As we begin to prepare for Holy Week, let us prepare our hearts through prayer, scripture, and worship. Let's take time to reflect on the depth of Jesus' love, the cost of our salvation, and the hope that awaits us on Resurrection Sunday.

May you be truly blessed this Easter season and may you experience afresh the power of His resurrection.

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Reflections

Events of the Holy (or Passion) Week - by Kurt Redschlag

(A harmonization of the four gospel accounts, applying our midnight-to-midnight time-period for a day, instead of the Jewish dusk-to-dusk time-period.)

Palm Sunday

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Some Greeks see Jesus.

Jesus briefly enters the temple and then returns to Bethany.



Monday

Jesus curses the fig tree.

Cleansing of the temple.

Returns to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

Tuesday

Discussion about the withered fig tree with his disciples.

Confrontation with his enemies and denunciation of the scribes by way of several teachings and parables.

Jesus observes the widow's offering in the temple.

Jesus' prediction of Jerusalem's destruction and the signs of his second coming (Olivet Discourse).

Wednesday

Jesus continues teaching in the temple.

Sanhedrin plots to kill Jesus.

Maundy Thursday

Preparation for the Passover in Upper Room.

Institution of the Lord's Supper.

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus is betrayed and arrested in the Garden (possibly shortly after midnight) and his trial before the high priest and the Sanhedrin.

Peter's denial in the courtyard.



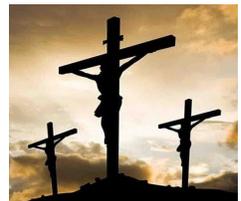
Good Friday

Trial before Pilate.

Jesus is sentenced to be crucified.

Jesus is mocked by soldiers and crucified between two criminals.

Jesus' death and entombment.



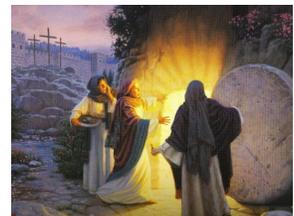
Saturday

Jesus lies in the tomb.

Easter Sunday

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Jesus makes several post-resurrection appearances.



Huh, Green Thursday? - by Dale Hufnagel



Did you know that in Germany the Thursday of Easter week has been commonly called "Green Thursday"? Other interesting names for it are "Sheer Thursday", "Thursday of the Mysteries", "Covenant Thursday" and as we know it, "Maundy Thursday".

The origin of the "green" moniker is not clear, but commonly is understood to come from eating green vegetables this day; a documented practice since the 13th century. Perhaps the name comes from the early practice of giving a green branch to penitents upon completing the Lenten penance.

"Sheer Thursday" seems to come from the notion of "clean", referring to the ceremonial washing of altars on this day. Maundy comes from the Latin word 'mandatum' meaning "command" or "mandate". This refers to the new commandment that Christ gave on this day to "Love one another..." Interesting traditions for "Maundy Thursday" beyond the eating of green vegetables include the Swedish tradition that blended this day's celebration with their folklore day

of witches. Children would actually dress up as witches—on a Christian celebration day, really? In Bulgaria, this is the day to decorate Easter eggs. The Czech and Slovaks also adhere to the fresh green vegetable diet. While in England, traditionally the Sovereign distributed alms to the poor and deserving seniors. It was once customary for the monarch to wash the feet of the poor on this day.

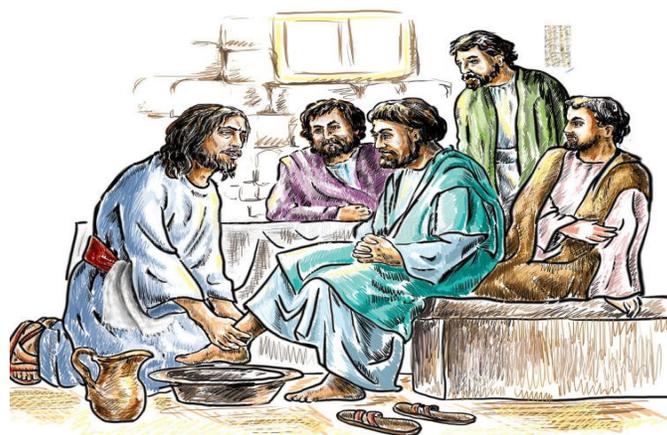
The Early Church celebrated this day by repeating the practices that Christ did this day before going to the garden to pray. By the 4th century, it was customary to celebrate Communion in the morning and in North Africa, later that century, it was celebrated in the evening. The Synod of Toledo

(694) "declared that foot washing should be observed on Maundy Thursday". In the Eastern Orthodox churches, the blessing of oil was practiced.

Perhaps we, as 21st century believers, are missing something - by not paying closer attention to the historical value and significance of observing Maundy Thursday. Christ did institute communion this day and His washing of the disciples' feet holds more than a little significance to that day's events. I think that this year, Maundy Thursday will be more significant in my Easter celebration. Maybe I'll even eat some green vegetables, decorate an Easter egg, or wash my wife's feet. Who wants to come to my house that evening for a special Maundy Thursday communion and foot washing service?

Sources: A History of Christianity by K. S. Latourette, the Encyclopedia of Christianity, learnreligions.com, germangirl-in-america.com, britannica.com, christianity.com

...WE, AS 21ST CENTURY BELIEVERS, ARE MISSING SOMETHING BY NOT PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE HISTORICAL VALUE...



Reflections

What's so Good About Good Friday - by Pastor Norm Bleick



ly forgiven but also credited with His righteousness. Good Friday signifies the moment when the great exchange took place: our sins were imputed to Christ, and His righteousness was imputed to us. This theological truth underscores the transformative power of the crucifixion, leading to justification by faith alone.

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What's so good about Good Friday? Good Friday holds profound significance within Christian theology. It marks the pivotal moment when Christ's sacrifice on the cross conquered sin and death, thereby fulfilling God's redemptive plan for humanity.

Rooted in the doctrines of grace and the sovereignty of God, we understand Good Friday through the lens of divine providence. It was the ultimate display of God's love and justice.

Central to our faith is the doctrine of atonement. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, where He bore the sins of the world, acting as the perfect substitute for humanity. This substitutionary atonement is foundational. It emphasizes that Christ took upon Himself the punishment deserved by sinners, and also satisfying the demands of divine justice. This act of grace is not merely an expression of love but also a crucial fulfillment of God's righteous decree.

Sound theology asserts the sovereignty of God in all events, including the crucifixion. Good Friday is seen as part of God's plan, where every detail of Christ's suffering and death was orchestrated to accomplish His divine purpose. The betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pilate, and the agonizing hours on the cross were all under God's sovereign control, demonstrating His ultimate authority in the redemption narrative.

The focus on Christ's obedience is paramount to understanding what happened on Good Friday. Jesus willingly submitted to the Father's will, embracing the cross with full knowledge of the suffering it entailed. His obedience unto death is a testament to His unyielding commitment to the covenant of grace, highlighting the depth of His sacrifice. Good Friday thus becomes a powerful reminder of Christ's unwavering fidelity to God's plan for salvation.

Another key aspect is the concept of imputed righteousness. Through Christ's death, believers are not on-

While Good Friday is a day of solemn reflection, it is also filled with the hope of resurrection. Christ's death was not the end but the precursor to His glorious resurrection. The despair of Good Friday is tempered by the anticipation of Easter Sunday, where Christ's victory over death assures believers of their own resurrection and eternal life.

Good Friday is a cornerstone of our faith encapsulating the profound truths of atonement, divine sovereignty, obedience, imputed righteousness, and the hope of resurrection. It is a day to reflect on the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice and the boundless grace extended to humanity through His death on the cross.

***That's what's so
good about Good
Friday!***

Easter, Then and Now - by Kurt Redschlag



Kurt standing in front of the tomb that most evangelical Christians believe was the grave in which Jesus was entombed. It is located only a few hundred yards from Golgotha, where we believe Jesus was crucified.

During this month we will be celebrating the most glorious day in human history – Easter! Indeed, the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning marks the climax of Holy Week. It is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. It is the absolute guarantee that if we put our faith in the resurrected Christ, his victory over sin and death will be our victory over sin and death, for as Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live"; (John 14:19). Yes, because of the resurrection of Christ, those of us who are in Christ have the absolute assurance that we too will be resurrected one day and spend eternity with him in heaven.

Thus Easter Sunday will be a great day of joyful celebration. Most churches across our nation will probably experience larger attendances than usual. The great songs of the faith will be sung with renewed

enthusiasm. The ancient antiphonal Easter greeting; "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed"!, will echo across thousands of congregations. Banks of Easter lilies will add their fragrance and beauty to this special Sunday.

But then what? Will we just go home after the Easter service to enjoy a festive meal with family and friends, and then quietly put Easter back on the shelf to gather dust until next year? Will we simply return to our regular routines – totally unchanged by the message of Easter? Absolutely not! You see, Easter is not merely the celebration of a singular historical event, but is an ongoing, life-transforming way of life. This transformation was so powerfully evident in the life of the disciples of Jesus on that very first Easter.

After Good Friday the followers of Jesus were fearful, defeated, doubting, and even despairing. They spent most of their time behind closed doors. They thought their fondest hopes and dreams lay shattered on a lonely hillside outside the gates of Jerusalem. A dark night of gloom had settled over them. But then came the morning, that glorious Easter morning, and these same dejected followers now became courageous, bold, and daring. Yes, the fearful became fearless, the timid became triumphant, the inept now did the impossible. How was that possible? What was their secret? The answer is simple, yet profound: **They had personally experienced the life-transforming power of the resurrected Christ.**

Today we also long for power to cope, for courage to endure, for hope to sustain us. We wonder where we will find the strength to meet all the challenges of life. And the Easter of yesterday is the answer for our needs of today. The same power that brought Jesus forth from the grave is available to each one of us. That's why the apostle Paul's keen desire was "that I may know him and the power of the resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). May we, too, experience anew the power and the presence of the resurrected Christ both today and for all eternity. Hallelujah!

**Christ is
risen!**

"JESUS TOLD HER,
I AM THE
RESURRECTION AND
THE LIFE, EVEN
THOUGH THEY DIE
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE,
WILL LIVE AGAIN.
THEY ARE GIVEN
ETERNAL LIFE FOR
BELIEVING IN ME AND
WILL NEVER PERISH".
JOHN 11:25-26 NLT

Reflections

Coldest Night - by Gloria Swain



The team - left to right: Hank Tweedy, Elaine and Bob Tweed, Gloria Swain, Wayne Baker, Gift Avwomakpa, Marcy Hufnagel, Donalda Nelson, and the last two are Darrell and Audrey Tompkins friends of Donalda. Missing from the picture is Russ Nelson.

SINCE 1998,
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Across Canada, Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) has raised over **14.5 million** dollars for charities. These charities work with people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Eleven Hillview Hikers were able to be a part of this exciting experience.

Since 1998, Adeara has worked fearlessly to transform the lives of women struggling with addiction, poverty, trauma, and abuse. We have helped more than 650 women and their families rebuild their lives. In addition, Adeara is one of the few addiction recovery centres that have the capacity to shelter both women and their children while the mother receives care. There are even fewer of these centres that are long term and residential.

The need for addiction recovery services in our community continues to grow, and with your help, we can reach more women in need in Alberta.

Our goal was set at \$1,000, we far surpassed that with our total being close to \$2,500 (totals not confirmed). This was only made possible because of YOU - the Hillview church family and friends of the hikers. We walked for Adeara Recovery Centre. Their goal was \$60,000. At time of writing the totals were not yet tallied, but we were within \$6,000 of reaching that target.



Boots off to Marcy Hufnagel for being Hillview's top fundraiser at \$650.00.

Adeara had 146 walkers and 22 teams participating this year. Toques off to Donalda Nelson who took on the job again of being our team leader. Great things happen when you have a great leader!

The evening ended with chicken soup, buns, hot & cold drinks & cookies, not to forget the friendships made stronger and some new ones acquired. God Bless Everyone, God Bless Hillview.

The 'hike' was either for 2 or 5 kilometers. The temperature on February 22 ranged between -20 and -25 centigrade. With a wind of 13kmh. Rumour has it, their next challenge is the 42km Skyline Trail in Jasper National Park. Ed

Activity Page

Coded Words for The People Honored Jesus

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

16 1 12 13

15 12 9 22 5 19

4 15 14 11 5 25

2 18 1 14 3 8 5 19

10 5 18 21 19 1 12 5 13

8 15 19 1 14 14 1 20 15 20 8 5

19 15 14 15 6 4 1 22 9 4

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” —John 3:16

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"There's no sense spending all our honeymoon money before we get there"



Today, March 30 is Seig and Chris Hollmeyer's 68th wedding anniversary.

They were married in Edmonton, they knew each other for about 3 years. Chris was 19 years old and Seig was 24 when they were married (which means she met him when she was just 16!) Their honeymoon was in Jasper. They got engaged on April 1 the year before, Seig said he planned it that way just in case she said no.... he could claim it was an April fools day joke.



The origins of skipping rope are unclear. It likely developed independently in various cultures, with most evidence suggesting its roots are in ancient China and Egypt.

The Chinese rope makers invented it as part of their New Year's celebrations and called it the Hundred Rope Jumping game, or Jumping 100 Threads (source – International Rope Skipping Federation). In 1,600 BC, the Egyptians jumped vines (ie rope) as part of their conditioning routines.

Skipping Rope - by Rick deLeeuw

Why was jumping rope considered indecent for girls in the early days? Because it was indecent for girls to show their ankles! At first, there were no associated chants. This changed in the early 18th century because girls began to jump rope. Girls added the "chants", the "owned the rope rule", and decided who participated. A girl "owned the rope" until she stepped on it and then had to give it up if skipping with partners. A common chant was "Down in the Valley":

Blue bells, Cockle shells, Evey,
Ivy, Over
Down in the meadow,
Where the green grass grows
There sat **Bronwyn**,

as pretty as a rose.
Along came **Rick**, kissed her
on the cheek.
How many kisses did she
take?
1, 2, 3,

What is 20 minutes of skipping equivalent to? Ten minutes of skipping are roughly the equivalent of running an eight-minute mile. Skipping for 16–20 minutes is enough to burn off the calories from a candy bar and is equivalent to 45–60 minutes of running, depending upon the intensity of jumps and leg swings. How many skips to lose 1 kg? Approximately 12,000 to 15,000

skips are needed to burn enough calories to lose 1 kg.
Expectations are that on a future Sunday Rick will demonstrate his physical prowess and skipping

