

**MON 11 APRIL**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 36:5-11  
 Hebrews 9:11-15  
 John 12:1-11

**TUE 12 APRIL**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Psalm 71: 1-14  
 [or 71: 1-8]  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
 John 12:20-36

**WED 13 APRIL**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 70  
 Hebrews 12:1-3  
 John 13:21-32

**THU 14 APRIL**

**Maudy Thursday**  
 Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10]  
 11-14  
 Psalm 116:1. 10-end  
 [or 116:9-end]  
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
 John 13:1-17. 31b-35

**FRI 15 APRIL**

**Good Friday**  
 Isaiah 52:13 – end of 53  
 Psalm 22 [or 22:1-11 or 22:1-21]  
 Hebrews 10:16-25  
 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
 John 18:1 – end of 19

**SAT 16 APRIL**

**Easter Eve**  
 Job 14:1-14 or  
 Lamentations 3:1-9.  
 19-24  
 Psalm 31:1-4. 15-16  
 [or 31:1-5]  
 1 Peter 4:1-8  
 Matthew 27:57-end  
 or John 19:38-end

# REFLECTION

What must it have been like for the disciples this week? They didn't know it was "Holy Week", though they must, surely, have noticed that Jesus was under some strain. Nor do they know, until it's too late, that these are the last few days they will have with him as their friend and leader. When they meet him again, after the resurrection, they will know how much more he is than that.

So as Jesus defends the woman who has wasted such costly perfume, as he washes the disciples' feet, as he shares a meal with them and warns them about his betrayal, the disciples are still really thinking about themselves and their own dramas. Judas loses his temper, Peter has a little tussle with Jesus over the basin and towels, they all get into the gossip about which of them is going to betray Jesus.

And then suddenly, it is serious. Jesus is arrested. He's gone. He's in other people's hands, and there is nothing they can do about it. Suddenly, it is quite clear that they are not centre stage and that their small lives are about to change for ever.



Jesus washes the feet of Peter. Church of Saint Matthew, Stitar, Croatia. Zvonimir Athletic / Shutterstock.com

PRAYER

Eternal God,  
 In the cross of Jesus  
 we see the cost of our sin  
 and the depth of your love.  
 In humble hope and fear  
 may we place at his feet  
 all that we have and all that we are.  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

## HOLY WEEK

A meditation on Holy Week, by Jane Williams.

This week the world changes. All our standards of judgement are turned upside down. This week we find out what the true nature of the universe is, and what makes it run. It is something we need to learn over and again, because it is not what we want to hear.

This week, we see what it is to be God. We see the extravagance of what God has done in making a world and giving it the freedom to run without reference to its maker. We see the depths of God's continuing, unswerving commitment to creation, as God accepts the terrible cost of the fallout from that gift of freedom to us.

God does not give up on creation, disclaiming responsibility, nor brings it to an abrupt end to start again with something less creative, less risky. Instead, God redefines everything it is to be God; coming to live in the world that we and God have made between us, and to die the death that such a world entails. And in this, God shows power. This is God taking the blame – although it belongs to us, God shoulders it, as the one who allowed this possibility in the first place. God's overflowing life was breathed into creation at the beginning, and now, here, creation extinguishes that overflowing life.

This is what we choose. We choose a world in which we will have control, even over God, even if that means death. And God, who gave us that power of choice, accepts this and bows to our power.

But because God is still, and always, the creator, that submission becomes creative, the source of life, even in death. As God gives away power, our own might is emptied of its efficacy. We have used up all our power against God's weakness, and now there is only what God will do. And what God will do is what God did at the beginning – create new life.



LIVE  
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU  
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by  
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 and  
 Heather Smith

Holy Week

Monday 11 April to  
 Saturday 16 April  
 2022

WEEK