

Our Journeyings to Easter

By Way of the Cross

A Meditation and Prayer Guide



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Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you as you look at the altar installation and read through this guide. Not every point will speak to you. Linger over those that do, and kneel at the altar on the left as you feel led. If you want to approach the cross and look at items more closely, use the steps to the left. Begin by settling your heart with a moment or two of silence.

- Notice the many rocks along the pathway. The small rocks resemble those in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and remind us of our baptisms as well. At his baptism, Jesus heard the Father saying, "You are my Son, whom I love. With you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). He says these words to us as well. Hear them spoken to you and be thankful.
- Looking at the large rocks, think about the events of Palm Sunday. When the Pharisees complained that the people were praising Jesus as a king, Jesus replied that the rocks would cry out if people weren't praising him (Luke 19:37-40). Let these rocks remind us to praise God, for it is for his glory that all creation was made.
- The olive branches remind us of Jesus' time in the garden of Gethsemane and of the disciples' inability to watch and pray with Him (Matthew 26:36-46). Jesus is praying today (Hebrews 7:25)-when is it that Jesus might want you to watch and pray with Him?
- The rooster reminds us of Peter's three denials of Jesus during the trial before the Sanhedrin. Ask the Lord to show you any ways you might be tempted to deny Jesus by word or deed.
- The wheat below the rooster recalls Jesus' words that a kernel of wheat has to die before bearing fruit and that losing life is the way to find it (John 12:23-25). Later that week Jesus became the kernel of wheat that died and bore much fruit after the resurrection. But his words and the cross itself remind us that the way to life in Jesus is through death to self. Is there anything in your life that needs to die for new life to spring forth?
- Notice the lamp on the side of the path as it goes upward. God's written word and living Word, Jesus, is the light for our path (Psalm 119:105). Jesus is the truth about who God is ("the exact representation of his nature" Hebrews 1:3) and about who human beings were created to be ("the image of the invisible God" Colossians 1:15). All doubts about whether God is loving and pure disappear when we look at Jesus. All questions about how we should live are answered in Jesus. He is truly the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

- To repent is to have a change of mind, heart and behavior, turning to God from anything that hinders relationship with Him. As a way of life, repentance can be a source of continual refreshing because it always leads to a new filling of the Spirit (Acts 3:19).
- Repentance creates space in our lives to believe the good news. In Mark 1:15, Jesus connects repentance and belief: "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" God's kingdom had come near to Jesus's listeners in the Person of Jesus. And Jesus comes near to us through his word and Spirit, inviting us to believe the truth about God and ourselves and trust Him to set us free from all that hinders abundant life.
- The white blooming plant in the corner to the right of the rooster is hyssop, an herb that symbolizes purification (Psalm 51:7) and cleansing from sin. The cross reminds us that Jesus took our sin, pain and suffering, and that by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-6 and I Peter 2:24).
- *Ask the Lord if there is any area in your life where a change of mind, heart or behavior is needed or an area that needs cleansing and healing. Talk to the Lord about it and listen for anything He might say. If you are someone who likes to journal, use the other side of this sheet to do so.*
- Whether you sensed anything or not (we all hear from God at different times and in different ways), rejoice in the truth of these words from "It Is Well With My Soul"

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul.

- The flowers in the midst of the dead branches remind us that the cross is followed by the empty tomb, that Jesus lives, is victorious over sin and death and shares that victory with us (1 Corinthians 15:57). In the knowledge that we have a Risen Savior, we can be steadfast in his work (verse 58) and continually worship him. He who once wore a crown of thorns deserved to be crowned in our praises:

Crown him the Lord of life
 Who triumphed o'er the grave,
 And rose victorious in the strife
 For those he came to save;
 His glories now we sing
 Who died, and rose on high.
 Who died, eternal life to bring
 And lives that death may die.

Be sure to join us...

ASBURY CHURCH
HOLY WEEK 2019



PALM SUNDAY

April 14 - 9:30 & 11:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18 - 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 19 - 6:30 PM

EASTER SERVICE

April 21 - 6:30 AM, 9:30 AM,
& 11:00 AM

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