

# the third cross

*This week is traditionally called Holy Week.*

*~ A time of reflection ~ A time to ask God to remove sin from our lives ~  
~ A time to ask God to renew our wonder at His sacrifice and  
our devotion to follow Him. ~*

## read daily:

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. <sup>27</sup> "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!"*

*John 12:23-28*

## day one

**READ** *Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 15:31-32.*

*"A serious reflection on the scripture references for Palm Sunday remind us that Jesus did not take a leisurely ride to town along a path strewn with palm branches. That first Palm Sunday saw the final ride on the high road of principle, obedience and faith that would lead to the death of Jesus."*

*"Palm Sunday invites us to search deeply in our own souls for the answer to the question **What words would have been on my lips that day?***

*This day also invites us to consider our own course for today and tomorrow. We too can move forward in obedience and faith as we place our ultimate trust in God who has been made known to us in Jesus Christ. The peace and confidence of Jesus can be ours as we place our ultimate trust in God."*

*– Rueben P. Job*

## day two

**READ** *John 12:12-19.*

*"A prince is identified with privilege, rank, and special benefits, but Jesus, the Prince of Peace, comes into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, a symbol of lowliness. His entrance is greeted with affirmation and acclamation. There's a joyous mood in the crowd as people anticipate the promise of the prophets before them."*

*"The promise of peace for people plagued by war and strife was wonderful news. Perhaps now their long agony would come to an end. The promise of peace is enough to make any suffering people celebrate. Do you suffer today? Sometimes the wars within are as devastating as the wars without. At some time in our lives, most of us will know the darkness of loneliness, disappointment, and despair. When the Prince of Peace comes to offer release, redemption, help and hope, we are also filled with joy and the "hosannas" burst from our lips as well."*

*– Rueben P. Job*

## day three

**READ** *John 12:1-8.*

*The woman who anointed Jesus offered an extravagant act of worship. Jesus declared this was a preparation for the sacrifice he made on the cross. We live on the other side of that sacrifice. What act of worship could you offer to Jesus today as a response to his gift of forgiveness given through the cross? A song? A change of attitude? Forgiveness of old bitterness? An act of service to a difficult person? What could you do today to express your love and gratitude to Jesus?*

## day four

**READ** *Matthew 26:14-35.*

*The night before the death of Jesus is filled with profound choice. Three choices are seen in the passage we read today. It begins with a choice to betray Jesus and ends with a choice to deny him. Placed between these two choices is Jesus' decision to share a meal with his followers that would serve to remind them of the ultimate choice Jesus made to lay down His life.*

**READ** *Matthew 26:16-30.*

*Take a few minutes to reflect on the message of the bread and cup. What choices do you need to make? How can the example of Jesus clarify those choices?*

## day five

**READ** *Luke 23:44-49; Romans 5:1-11; I Corinthians 15:54-58; Hebrews 12:1-3.*

*Our sins are forgiven. We've been given a new relationship with God through Jesus. Death has lost its victory because Jesus has given us life. How do these realities change your perspective on the current struggles and sufferings you may be facing?*

**rejoice! easter is coming!**

*March 27/28, 2010*