

**“Who Is This Man?”**  
**“The Sacrificial Jesus”**

The theme for Lent this year is “Who is this Man?” Today, we begin Holy Week. It is filled with many experiences: parades, dinners, uncertainty, betrayal and death. This week, it a difficult one. In order to be ready for Easter, we must first walk this dreary and uncomfortable path. We will encounter many different faces of Jesus this week, but we will also encounter the very grace and mercy of God. May this week be a time of deepening faith and understanding as we find Jesus beckoning us to go all the way to the cross and then into the light of God’s love and grace. ---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“The Sacrificial Jesus”**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Prayer for the Week**

*Most Holy God, if our hearts are troubled during this Holy Week, let your everlasting mercy bring us quietness and rest. If our minds are torn by doubt, stay beside us until we see. If our souls are tired and confused, give us some small portion of that awe-full courage of Love. Blessed, then with the redeeming gifts of Christ’s life in us, we shall grow and change into Christ’s likeness, even as we shrink from the Cross and the tomb. Amen.* (adapted from a prayer by Daniel H. Evans)

---

---

---

---

---

**This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>**

## Study Guide

### **Monday, March 26, 2018 Mark 1: 1-11**

This week always begins with such excitement. In our churches, children parade with palm branches and we sing and shout, "Hosanna!" Who doesn't love a parade? How we love a new celebrity and how far that one can fall when our affections change. This Palm Sunday story begins well; yet we know how it will end, "Hosanna's!" will become "Crucify Him!" in a matter of days. Today, let's focus on the gift of grace and excitement; the shouts of joy and the taste of God's reign on earth. *Pray today, that you might be open to what God has in store for you this holy week.*

### **Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Philippians 2: 5-11**

*"Though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, he humbled himself and become obedient to death, even death on a cross."* These words fit so well the path of Holy week. Christ started out with shouts of "Hosanna," but in a few short days the cries turn to "Crucify Him!" Even if we do not feel comfortable with "blood" language, we all know we fall short of what we were meant to be. Even human beings make sacrifices, even ones that result in death in order for a great goal to be accomplished. Somehow, in Christ, our brokenness and our weakness is made whole through the amazing love we receive. *In what ways does your relationship with Christ make you whole?*

### **Wednesday, March 28, 2018 Mark 14: 27-31**

This is part of the difficulty of Holy Week. The story is known, Peter promises to stand by Jesus, but in end, just like Jesus predicted, Peter betrays him. Perhaps this is Holy Week in a nutshell, all people, ALL people sooner or later betray their highest ideals, lose sight of what is important and in fear turn away. In a world filled with evil, great and small, some betrayals are much larger than others. It is out of this darkness, that the light of love, grace, mercy and forgiveness shines. It is acknowledging that each of us is broken and in need of healing and hope, that God's does His greatest work in Christ. *Today, spend some time offering up your brokenness and allowing Christ's love to heal you.*

### **Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018 Mark 14: 10-26**

Today is the beginning of the last days of Holy Week, called the Holy Triduum (three days). Maundy means commandment. It was on this night that Jesus washed the disciple's feet ( John 13: 1-11) and instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion. Christ commands us to love God and love one another and to be a servant to one another. In a world that is all about "me," serving and loving other has become inconvenient. Yet, this is the command. We, who claim we follow Jesus, are called to live as Jesus lived, in love and service. *Tonight I encourage you to find a place of worship. Our service will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Wilke Center. We will gather together, and then have time to explore some prayer stations, have Holy Communion and share a meal. Write some things down that you want to focus on over the next two days as we go into the horror of Jesus' death and contemplate how that the horror leads us to mercy and forgiveness.*

### **Good Friday, March 30, 2018 Isaiah 53: 7-12, Mark 15: 15-37**

"He was oppressed...by a perversion of justice." There was nothing just or fair about Jesus' trial and crucifixion. This day is one of sorrow and darkness and an invitation to reflection. Through his life and death, Jesus offers grace, mercy and hope. On this one day, we are invited to truly focus on the grief, the shame and the sadness. *Tonight at 7:00 there will be the Tenebrae (service of darkness) service in the Sanctuary. Through scripture, music and candles we will remember a life poured out for many. Read the entire chapter of Isaiah 53 and meditate up the poetry and truth of these words. By walking through these final days of darkness, we are invited to ponder "Who is this Man?" May the next few hours prepare us for the surprise and gift of Easter.*