

# Passion Sunday Sermon

## Alphonsus Ligouri

SERMON XIX. PASSION SUNDAY. - ON THE DANGER TO WHICH TEPIDITY EXPOSES THE SOUL.

"But Jesus hid himself." JOHN viii. 59.



JESUS CHRIST "is the true light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world." (John i. 9.) He enlightens all; but He cannot enlighten those who voluntarily shut their eyes to the light; from them the Saviour hides Himself. How then can they, walking in darkness, escape the many dangers of perdition to which we are exposed in this life, which God has given us as the road to eternal happiness? I will endeavour Today to convince you of the great danger into which tepidity brings the soul, since it makes Jesus Christ hide his divine light from her, and makes him less liberal in bestowing upon her the graces and helps, without which she shall find it very difficult to complete the journey of this life without falling into an abyss that is, into mortal sin. ...



# PASSIONTIDE

The last two weeks of Lent are historically known as Passiontide (generally abrogated in 1969 when the Church came out with a new set of readings for Mass). Two Sundays before Easter (5th Sunday of Lent), the Gospel reading is about Jesus confronting the established powers with his divinity; this caused those in authority to pick up rocks to stone him, “but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple” (Jn 8:46-59). Jesus would stay hidden from the religious authorities until his triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday); yet even then, he did not give anyone a chance to seize him until he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. The veiling of Jesus “hides” him from us during the time when the plot to kill him is afoot. Meanwhile, Jesus conceals himself until his appointed time. Seeing the images in church covered up gives us a sense of disquiet and dread.

Something is clearly different, yet it’s more than that; something is wrong. Imparts to us a sense of horror of what is happening, and shame; shame in knowing that man is going to torture his creator to death, and that somehow our sins are partially to blame. After the Mass on Holy Thursday the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the sanctuary, which is stripped and its bells removed. On Good Friday (only day of the year without Mass). At beginning of the Easter Vigil we are deprived of light itself! It is as if the Church herself were completely dead with the Lord in His tomb. This liturgical death of the Church reveals how Christ emptied Himself of His glory in order to save us from our sins and to teach us who we are. The Church then gloriously springs to life again at the Vigil of Easter.

# The Meaning of Holy Week

The final week of Lent begins on Palm Sunday, Sunday before Easter.

Holy Week is a time when Catholics gather to remember and participate in the Passion of Jesus Christ.

The Passion was the final period of Christ's life in Jerusalem.

It spans from when He arrived in Jerusalem to when He was crucified.



# Holy Week Schedule St. Francis Cabrini

## Palm Sunday: March 23-24

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8 & 9:45 am



## Holy Thursday: March 28

7:00 pm

**Altar of Repose: Cabrini Hall**

8:30-10:00 pm

*The veneration of the cross: We come forward with reverence of the cross humbly kiss it, bow before it, or touch.*

## Good Friday: March 29

**Stations of the Cross: 2:00 pm**

Passion of the Lord,  
Veneration of the cross,  
Communion Service to follow.

## Holy Saturday: March 30

**Easter Basket Blessing: 12:00 pm**



**Easter Vigil: 8:30 pm**

## Easter Sunday: March 31

8:00 am & 9:45 am

**Overflow in the Cabrini Hall**

**Altar of Repose** The altar where the Sacred Host, consecrated in the Mass on Holy Thursday, is reserved until the Mass of the Presanctified (see GOOD FRIDAY) on the following day. It is prescribed that the altar of repose be in the church and other than the one where Mass is celebrated. In the Mass on Holy Thursday two hosts are consecrated; after the consumption of the first, the second Host is placed in a chalice, which is covered with a pall and inverted paten; over the whole is placed a white veil, tied with a ribbon. This remains on the corporal in the centre of the altar till the end of Mass, when it is carried in solemn procession to the altar of repose, there to remain in the tabernacle or in an urn placed in a prominent position above the altar.

*From New Advent Catholic encyclopedia Altar of Repose.*

# Holy Week Summary

- **Palm Sunday:** Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and marks the beginning of Holy Week. This day joins the foretelling of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (as the crowd welcomed Him with palm branches) and the proclamation of His Passion in the Gospel reading. Hence, the day is called "Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord."
- **Monday:** And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple... And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. (Jn 2:15)
- **Tuesday:** "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits". (Mt 21:43).  
Jesus Predicts His Death -John 12:20-36
- **Wednesday:** During this day, Judas accepted payment of 30 pieces of silver in return for information that led to the betrayal of Jesus Christ. Judas Iscariot acts as a spy for the Sanhedrin.

# Holy Week Summary: Holy THURSDAY

- Also known as "Maundy Thursday." Maundy from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment); the first word of John 13:34 ("Love one another as I have loved you.")
- Christ instituted the Eucharist (Last Supper), the Sacrifice of the Mass, and the priesthood.
- On Holy Thursday, since the early Church, the blessing of the holy oils has taken place. The Church's emphasis in the revised liturgy for Holy Thursday is on the institution of the priesthood.
- Vacant Church: church without the Eucharist is truly empty. The tabernacle light, normally always lit signifying Christ's presence - is extinguished, tabernacle door is left open, exposing the vacant space inside. Altar is stripped bare of its linens and candles, holy water is removed from the church's fonts. Sacraments are not celebrated until the Easter vigil. Like first Christians bereft of Jesus and mourning the two days after the crucifixion.

# Paschal Triduum

The **Easter Triduum** or **Holy Triduum** is the three-day celebration of the **Paschal Mystery**: the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

**PASCHAL**: associated with the Hebrew **Passover**; referring to Jesus as the Lamb of God  
**TRIDUUM**: derived from the Latin for **three days**

The Paschal mystery has two aspects: **by his death**, Christ liberates us from sin; **by his Resurrection**, he opens for us the way to a new life.

The Paschal Triduum bridges the seasons of **Lent** to **Easter**.

In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.

The Roman Missal

# Good Friday



And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

(Lk 23:34)

# Holy Saturday



"For Christ also suffered once for sins... He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit, in which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison." (1 Pt 3: 18-19)

**DAY 1:**  
sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Good Friday



**DAY 2:**  
sundown on Good Friday to sundown on Holy Saturday



**DAY 3:**  
sundown on Holy Saturday to sundown on Easter Sunday



## HOLY THURSDAY:

"Jesus gives himself to us as food and, in the washing of feet, teaches us the need to serve others."

## GOOD FRIDAY:

"In the mystery of Christ's death on the cross, we contemplate that undying divine love which embraces all mankind and summons us in turn to love one another in the power of the Spirit."

## HOLY SATURDAY:

"The day of God's silence - invites us not only to solidarity with all who are abandoned and alone, but also to trust in that faithful love which turns death into life."

SOURCE: POPE FRANCIS, GENERAL AUDIENCE, MARCH 23, 2016

"These, then, are days which speak to us **powerfully** of God's *love* and *mercy*."  
- Pope Francis



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

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# The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday



On this, the last day of the Paschal Triduum, the Church and, indeed, the whole world is filled with the **radiance** of the resurrection.

Today, we proclaim the faith passed on to us from the Apostles:

**“The Lord is truly risen, alleluia!”**

All things are made new because of Christ’s death and resurrection. At Mass, we remind ourselves of the **great gift** given to us by professing our faith and being sprinkled with holy water as a symbol of our baptism.

May our hearts be grateful in remembrance of the Paschal Mystery, be filled with Jesus’ gracious presence, and renewed in the promise of eternal life!

May we greet Christ eagerly through our celebration of Holy Eucharist on this great solemnity of Easter!



Archdiocese of Toronto

[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)   [archtoronto](https://www.facebook.com/archtoronto)

"Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world.

Paschal Candle used during the Easter Vigil is a central symbol of this divine light (Christ). Kept lit near the ambo throughout Easter Time and for all liturgical celebrations.

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils" and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays; the most important of all liturgical times, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Octave of Easter comprises the 8 days which stretch from the 1st to 2nd Sunday. A way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost.

Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the resurrection:

*“If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith.” (1 Cor 15:14) USCCB*



# Holy Week Information

- USCCB Holy Week Information
  - ◆ Chrism Mass - USCCB Services
  - ◆ Good Friday-USCCB Services
  - ◆ Easter Vigil USCCB Services
  - ◆ Easter Vigil Readings USCCB
  - ◆ USCCB Holy Week Daily Readings
- Biblical chronology & liturgical guide
- Passion Sunday history from Fr. Z (Sunday before Palm Sunday)
- More on Christ's passion from St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica Part 3, Question 46.
- Example Schedules
  - ◆ St. Joseph Raleigh NC
  - ◆ Our Lady of the Assumption Church GA
  - ◆ Holy Week on Catholic TV Network
  - ◆ Pope Francis Holy Week Schedule
- Filipino Tradition
  - ◆ Visita Iglesia - visit seven Holy sites on Maundy Thursday.
  - ◆ Penitential Tone of Holy Week

# Passion Gospels & 12 Prophecies of OT

*In Holy Week readings of Traditional Mass*

## Gospels

- Matt 26:1-75; 27:1-26
- Mark 14:1-72; 15:1-46
- Luke 22:1-71; 23:1-53
- John 18:1-40; 19:1-42
- Great Commentary on 4 Gospels by CORNELIUS À LAPIDE

## 12 Prophecies of OT

1. Gen 1:1-31; 2:1-2 *creation*
2. Gen 5; 6; 7; 8 *Noah and the Ark*
3. Gen 22: 1-19 *the Sacrifice of Abraham*
4. Ex 14:24-31; 15:1-3 *Crossing of the Red Sea*
5. Is 54: 17; 55: 1-11 *Exhortation to receive the Sacrament of Baptism*
6. Bar 3:9-38 *Revelation of God to His people*

## 12 Prophecies of OT

7. Ezech 37:1-14 *Vision of the dry bones, and of the Resurrection*
8. Is 4:1-6; 5:1-2,7 *the Vineyard of the Lord*
9. Ex 12:1-11 *Law of Easter and the Paschal Lamb*
10. Jonas 3:1-10 *Exhortation to Penance*
11. Deut 31:22-30 32:1-4 *Exhortation to Penance*
12. Dan 3:1-24 *the Three Children in the Furnace*

[https://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2009/04/compendium-of-1955-holy-week-revisions\\_09.html](https://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2009/04/compendium-of-1955-holy-week-revisions_09.html)

# **Reference Information**

## **Dr. Brant Pitre's Questions**

# **Dr. Brant Pitre's Questions for Holy Week**

1. Palm Sunday: Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?
2. Holy Monday-Tuesday: Why did Jesus curse the fig tree on holy Monday?
3. Spy Wednesday:
  - a. What is the hidden meaning to Judas' betrayal of Jesus?
  - b. And why is this day called "Spy Wednesday"?
4. Holy Thursday: How exactly did the disciples prepare the Passover for Jesus?
5. Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side
6. Holy Saturday:
  - a. Why did Jesus rest in the tomb?
  - b. Where did Jesus' soul go on Holy Saturday?
7. Easter Sunday: Why did Jesus rise on the "first day of the week"?

# Palm Sunday

## Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?



**We can praise him just like those who  
praised Jesus with palms and coats,  
saying:**

***Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory [to God] in the highest heaven.  
Luke 19:38***

- John 12:13 mentions the palm branches waved by the crowd, which gives Palm Sunday its name in the Church calendar.
- Luke describes the people laying their coats down on the road for Jesus (Luke 19:36), and Mark and Matthew has them spreading their coats and leafy branches on the pathway (Mark 11:8; Matthew 21:8).

# Palm Sunday    Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?

- The donkey is just one of the unlikely instruments of divine praise in this story, though it is the most neglected one. donkeys were symbols of peace and often used to enact treaties.
- Prophecy Zechariah 9:9-10; John 12:15 (*...Lo, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he; humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...*)
- We are often tied aren't we? We are tied down by many things—by guilt, anxiety, and concern. Some of us are tied down with the need to forgive, but we cannot bring ourselves to do it.
- As Christians, we need to be untied from what weighs us down. Palm Sunday is not just a celebration of Christ as King, but a celebration of Jesus as our liberator from dependencies and afflictions.
- This donkey was created for a purpose and was meant for Jesus. It was tied; it needed to be untied. Much like the owner who surrendered his donkey to the two disciples; so must we if we are to be fully commit to God.
- We were created with a purpose: to love God and love each other.

# Holy Monday-Tuesday: Why did Jesus curse the fig tree on holy Monday?



MK 11:12-14 & 20-25

- 13 And when he had seen afar of a fig tree having leaves, he came if perhaps he might find any thing on it. And when he was come to it, he found nothing but leaves. For it was not the time for figs. 14 And answering he said to it: May no man hereafter eat fruit of thee any more for ever. And his disciples heard it.
- 20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” 22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.
- 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

# Why did Jesus curse the fig tree on holy Monday?


A gallows was referred to as a tree. The Cross is referred to as a tree. Garden of Eden 2 trees

1. Of Knowledge of Evil & Good (apple tree; note - apple is generic for fruit). Jewish tradition - it was a fig tree. Jewish non-biblical text Adam & Eve loincloths from fig leaves -> from same tree they ate from. Jesus curses the fig tree.
2. Tree of Life. In Jewish tradition it was an olive tree; Garden of Gethsemane is an olive grove; Dove in Noah story after flood brings olive branch -> sign of new life, fresh start; Oils for Holy Thu Chrism mass - Olive
3. Jesus brings 3rd tree - His cross. Christ between 2 trees; One hand the grasps tree of evil, the other tree of life. Evil and Death destroyed by 3rd tree (cross); Life and Freedom established by the Cross
4. Penitent thief chooses tree of life. Unrepentant rejects Jesus choose tree of evil. Death is banished & Garden of Eden is opened, Paradise restored.




# Spy Wednesday: Why Spy? Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

LENTEN FEATURE



## SPY WEDNESDAY



The Wednesday of Holy Week is also known as ‘**Spy Wednesday**’, during which Judas Iscariot acts as a spy for the Sanhedrin.

During this day, Judas accepted payment of 30 pieces of silver in return for information that led to the betrayal of Jesus Christ.

Judas is neither a master of evil nor the figure of a demoniacal power of darkness but rather a sycophant who bows before the anonymous power of changing moods and current fashions.

But it is precisely this anonymous power that crucified Jesus, for it was anonymous voices that cried 'away with him! Crucify him!'

*Pope Benedict XVI*



# Spy Wednesday: Why Spy?

- Spy - Matt 26:14-16 Judas earned title of Spy from medieval Christians  
*“one who keeps watch on person to obtain information”*  
Judas secretly watches for chance to turnover Jesus
- Silent - Also Silent Wednesday since gospels don't record any activities of life of Jesus. Only event is Judas' fateful betrayal of Jesus by one of his disciples which leads to Good Friday.
- Shadow - Sometimes called Black Wednesday or Wednesday of Shadows. Corresponds to liturgical rite of Tenebrae (*changed in 1950s Pope Pius XII*).  
During the three days leading up to Easter, also known as the Sacred Triduum; Matins and Lauds are combined together in a special way, and with ancient rubrics, forming Tenebrae.  
*During the three days leading up to Easter, also known as the Sacred Triduum; Matins and Lauds are combined together in a special way, and with ancient rubrics, forming Tenebrae. Throughout the history of the Church, Tenebrae was not said in the morning, but in the evening prior, in anticipation of the day to come.*  
*The old rubrics do not dictate a specific time, only that it be done “after the hour of Vespers”, but traditionally, it was sung so that the end would arrive close to Midnight, and the completion of the service would be in total darkness. But this changed in the reform of the Holy Week ceremonies by Pope Pius XII in 1955. <https://angeluspress.org/blogs/blog/the-history-and-symbolism-of-tenebrae>*

# Spy Wednesday: Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

These factors could have played a role in Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

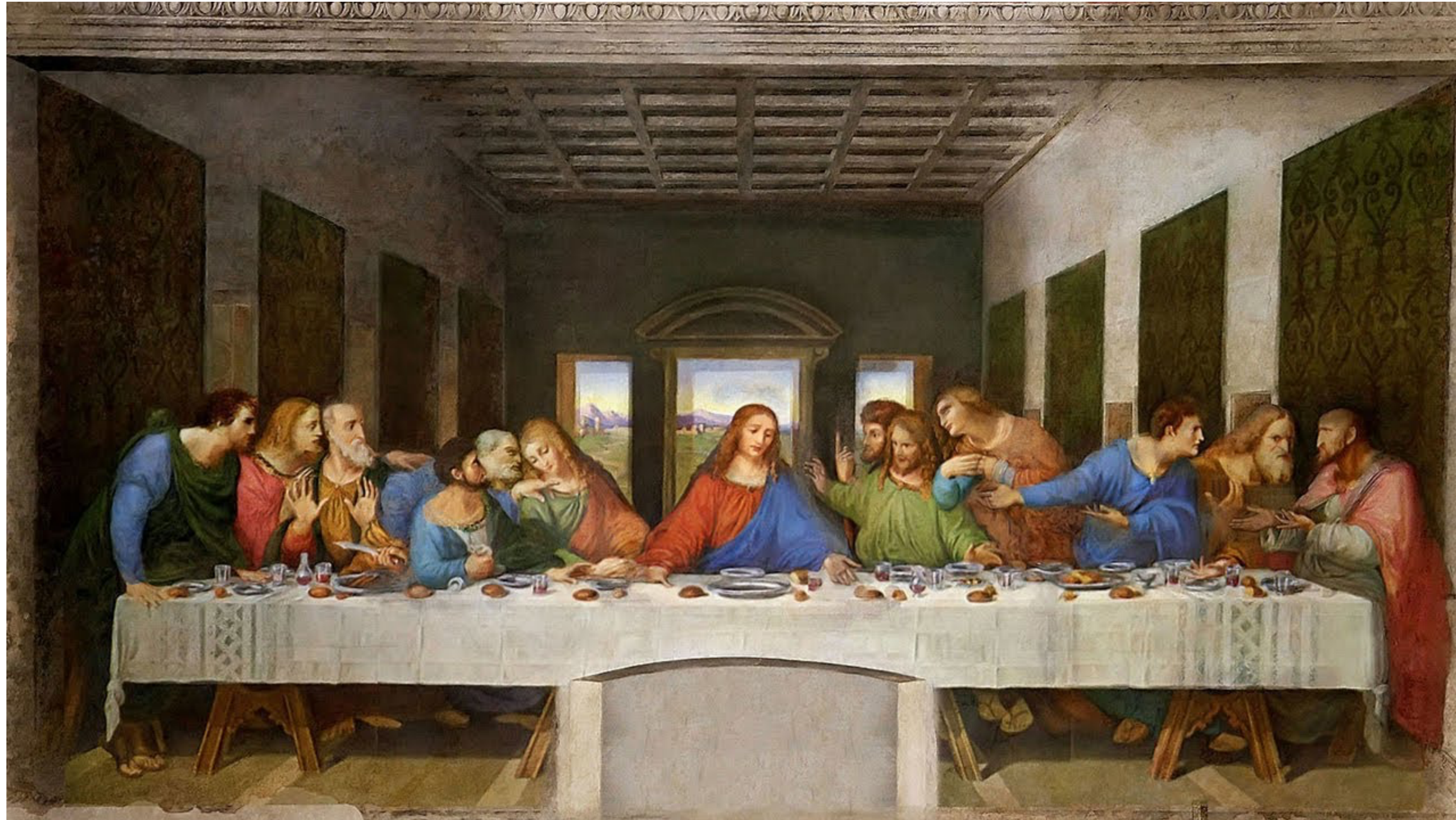
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/why-judas-betrayed-jesus/>

- It is clear that money played a role in Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Judas was the treasurer of the twelve apostles, but he was also a thief and greedy man.
- He was a man lacking great character because he stole money that should have been given to the poor.
- It's also important to note that Judas was an outsider because he was not from Galilee.
- He also could have possibly been part of a revolt movement because Isacriot comes from Greek word- Sikarios. one who carries a dagger or short sword under his clothing, that he may kill secretly and treacherously any one he wishes to
- Based on some interpretations, Judas could have been paid anywhere between \$90 (modern day slave) and \$3,000 (modern day soldier) in today's sums to turn over Jesus.

However, there must have been something more at the core of his betrayal. The betrayal of Jesus started in the heart of Judas first.

Biblical verses related to Judas betrayal: Jn 17:12; Mt 27:3; Matt 26:21-25; Mk 14:21; Luke 22:1-5

# Holy Thursday: How exactly did the disciples prepare the Passover for Jesus?



On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” he said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’ “The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.” —Matthew 26:17–19

# Holy Thursday: How exactly did the disciples prepare the Passover for Jesus?

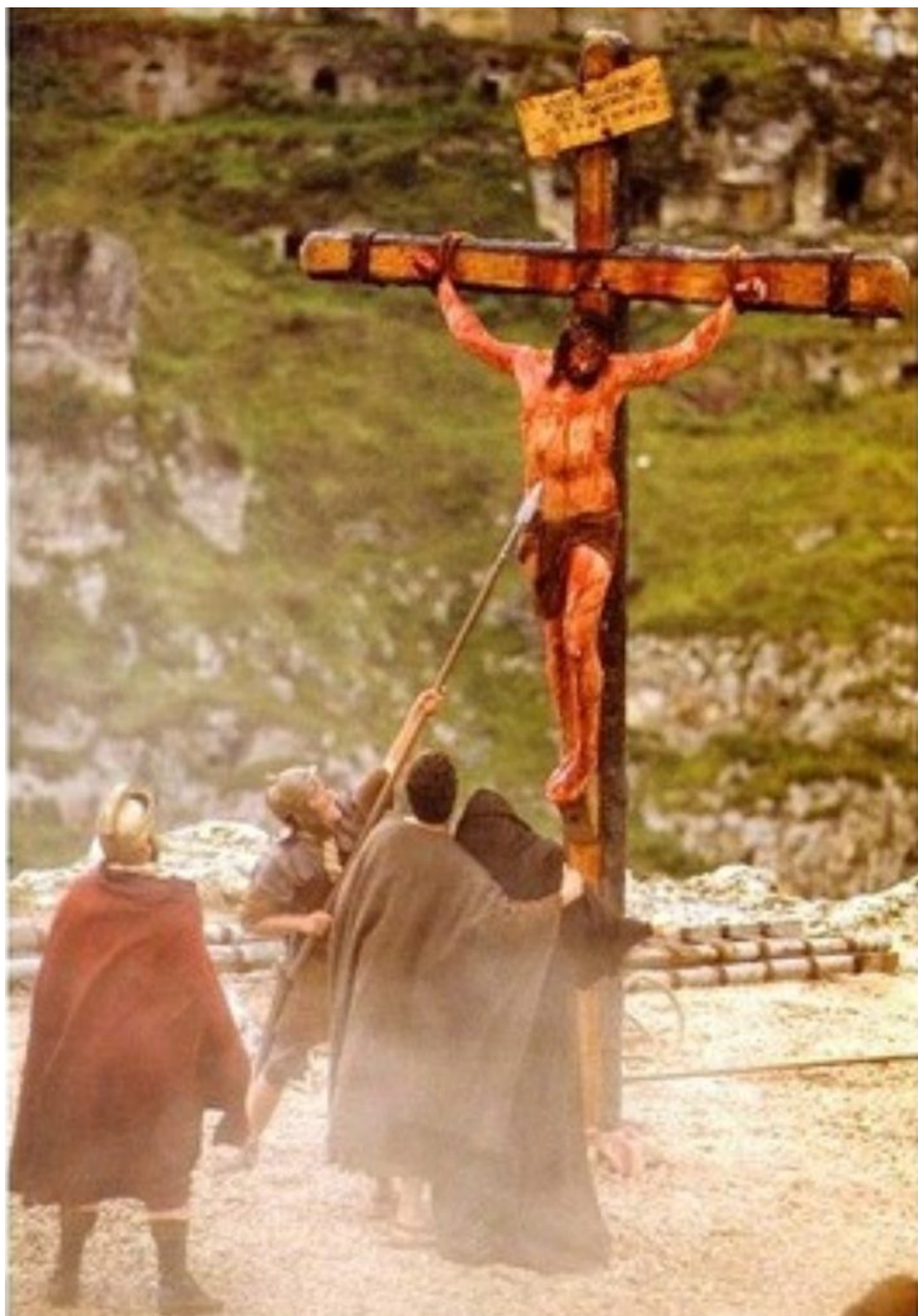
Instructions: Matt 26:17-19 Mark 14:13-16 (more details) Luke 22:7-13

1. The nuances of each Gospel account vary, as often do the details of the same story between different storytellers. Yet we consistently see the importance of the room reflected in Jesus's words: **Specific place** in mind. The room is a **part of God's plan**, a **designated Holy Place**, ready and **waiting to receive Jesus**
2. Jesus **eagerly desired eat Passover** before I suffer for you. (Unique to Luke). A spark of Jesus' love for them - unconditional friendship - *"I shall not eat again until there is fulfillment in Kingdom of God"*
3. Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me"* (Revelation 3:20).
4. Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts. He eagerly desires to dine with us at sacrificial Eucharist meal; wants to find us ready to receive Him.
5. "As often as the **sacrifice of the Cross...is celebrated on the altar**, the work of **our redemption is carried out**" (CCC 1364)
6. **How can we not eagerly desire to participate with all possible reverence in the Eucharist if we understand that our salvation, our very redemption is at stake?**

# Holy Thursday: Disciples prepare the Passover for Jesus-Gospel details

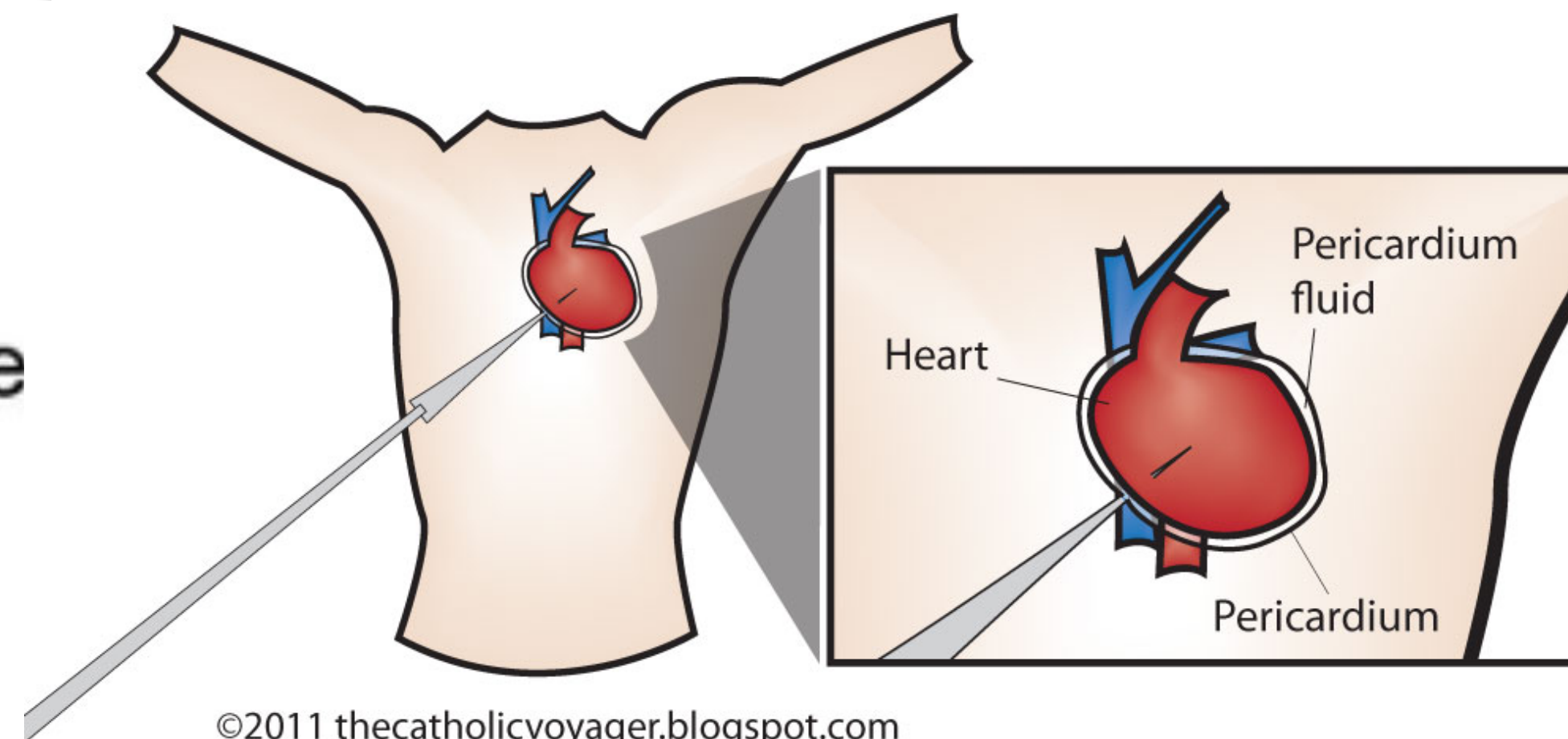
- *On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” he said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’” The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. —Matthew 26:17–19*
- Reading Mark’s Gospel, we see that Jesus was more specific, even prophetic about the details: *He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.” The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover (Mark 14:13–16).*
- Jesus is even more detailed and prophetic in the account of Luke: *When the day of the feast of Unleavened Bread arrived, the day for sacrificing the Passover lamb, he sent out Peter and John, instructing them, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” They asked him, “Where do you want us to make the preparations?” And he answered them, “When you go into the city, a man will meet you carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters and say to the master of the house, ‘The teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” he will show you a large upper room that is furnished. Make the preparations there.” Then they went off and found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover. 15 And he said to them: With desire I have desired to eat this pasch<sup>32</sup> with you, before I suffer. (Luke 22:7–13, 15).*

# Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side



“But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers **pierced Jesus’ side with a spear**, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.”

— John 19:33-34



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*Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between his right ribs, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and heart and thereby ensured his death. (On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ by William D. Edwards, MD, et al)*

<https://g3min.org/medical-report-the-physical-death-of-jesus-christ/>

<http://www.catholicvoyager.com/2011/09/why-did-blood-water-flow-from-christs.html>

## **Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side**

- And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born. (Zechariah 12:10)  
there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness." (Zech. 13:1)
- *"He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:38)*
- John also sees in this outpouring prophecy a foreshadowing of the outpouring of the Spirit: *"Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive."* (7:39) And again in his epistle, he says that the blood and water give the same witness as the Spirit: *"There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree."* (1 John 5:8)
- **Signifies: Baptism, Eucharist, Cleansing of our sins, Birth of the Church**



# Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side

- On John 19:34, St. Thomas Aquinas writes:

Another reason why this happened was to show that by the passion of Christ we acquire a complete cleansing from our sins and stains. We are **cleansed** from our sins **by his blood**, which is the price of our redemption: *"You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things, such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Pet 1:18).*

And we are **cleansed** from our stains **by the water**, which is the bath of our rebirth: *"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses" (Ez 36:25); "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness" (Zech 13:1).* And so it is these two things which are especially associated with two sacraments: **water** with the sacrament of **baptism**, and **blood** with the **Eucharist**. (St. Thomas Aquinas, commenting on John 19)

- St. Thomas understands both blood and water as agents of cleanliness. Though he does not mention it in the immediate paragraph above, the idea of blood as a means of cleansing is very Biblical and very Johannine. For instance, John, who also wrote Revelation says: *"[T]hey have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* (Revelation 7:14) and John again: *"[T]he blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7)

# Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side

## To signify the Eucharist

St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, and St. John Chrysostom all reference the blood as a reference to the Eucharist. The most obvious tie-in to this comes from the Gospel accounts. For instance:

*And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is **my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**" (Matthew 26:27-28)*

And he said to them, *"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."* (Mark 14:24)

And likewise the cup after supper, saying, *"This cup which is poured out for you is **the new covenant in my blood.**"* (Luke 22:20)

Paul likewise recognizes the blood of Christ as that which is in the Eucharistic cup:

*The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?*** (1 Corinthians 10:16)

And incidentally, when a priest prepares the wine during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, he pours water into the cup as well reflecting the same mixture flowing from Christ's side! (cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #142). Fr. Joseph - need to have more wine than water to effect consecration.

## **Good Friday: What is the meaning of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side To signify the birth of the Church**

The idea that **life and salvation poured out from Christ's side in the form of blood and water also communicates the birth of Christ's Church.** This truth can be seen when we focus on the location of the outpouring—Christ's side.

In the Old Testament, **life was often derived from the "side" of a type of Christ.** For instance:

*So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and **while he slept took one of his ribs** and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:21-22)*

Paul teaches us explicitly that **Adam is a type of Christ.** (cf. Rom. 5:14) **The significance of the "sleeping man" (also an ancient figure of someone deceased, e.g. Matt. 27:52) whose side was opened, and how life came from it.** From Adam's side came Eve. And from Christ's side came life for all the Church.

# Holy Saturday: Why did Jesus rest in the tomb?



**Luke 23:50-54** 50 And behold there was a man named Joseph, who was a counsellor, a good and just man, 51 (The same had not consented to their counsel and doings;) of Arimathea, a city of Judea; who also himself looked for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. 53 And taking him down, he wrapped him in fine linen, and laid him in a sepulchre that was hewed in stone, wherein never yet any man had been laid. 54 And it was the day of the Parasceve, and the sabbath drew on.

**Luke 24:12** 12 But Peter rising up, ran to the sepulchre, and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths laid by themselves; and went away wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

# Holy Saturday: “the earth shook and the rocks were split”



*At that moment the curtain of the **temple** was torn in two, from top to bottom. The **earth shook**, and the rocks were split. The **tombs** also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. Mt 27,51*

## Matthew 27:51-54

51 And behold the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top even to the bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

52 And the graves were opened: and many bodies of the saints that had slept arose,

53 And coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, came into the holy city, and appeared to many.

54 Now the centurion and they that were with him watching Jesus, having seen the earthquake, and the things that were done, were sore afraid, saying:  
“Indeed this was the Son of God.”

The **Temple** was also seen as a **symbol of Christ Himself**. Only the priest could pass by the veil to enter the Holy of Holies and offer sacrifice to God.

**Christ was the new High Priest and He offered Himself as the perpetual Sacrificial Lamb.**

The Holy of Holies was now open to the whole world, and **all who unite themselves to the Sacrificial Lamb can now enter the sanctuary of the Holy of Holies, Heaven Itself, Who is Christ Himself.**

# Holy Saturday: Why did Jesus rest in the tomb?

1. According to **Jewish tradition**, a **person's soul/spirit remained with his/her dead body for three days**. After three days, the soul/spirit departed.
2. Fulfill biblical prophecy. Jesus personally claimed He would be dead three days (Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 27:63; John 2:19).
3. Also, some point to Hosea 6:1–3 as a prophecy of the Messiah's resurrection after three days: *“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.*
4. This may also be the passage Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 15:4 that Jesus *“was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”*
5. Jesus died on a Friday, Nisan 14, the day when the Passover lamb was sacrificed. His death represents the death of a perfect, unblemished sacrifice on our behalf. His resurrection on the third day took place on the first day of the week, illustrating a new beginning and new life to all who trust in Him.
6. *An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (NASB) Matthew 12:39-40*

See a very good book: Adam's Deep Sleep: The Passion of Jesus Christ Prefigured in the Old Testament (New Old) by Fr. James Mawdsley. Beginning with deep sleeps experienced by Adam, Noah, and Abraham, the book finds more than a dozen instances of sleep featured in the Old Testament which each foreshadow the Passion of Jesus Christ.

# Holy Saturday: Where did Jesus' soul go?

- Jesus was still preaching. He descended to the land of the dead; **because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God**. Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned (already judged), nor to destroy the hell of damnation, **but to free the just who had gone before him**. To all the holy souls who had gone before Him, so as **to bring them His gift of salvation**
- See Limbo poem by Sr. Mary Ada <https://tinyurl.com/4bebjtnj>
- He brought **His gift of mercy and redemption to** Moses, Abraham, the prophets and so many others: St. Joseph <https://tinyurl.com/9ffmwma7>; Adam <https://tinyurl.com/2794rkkc> .
- This was **a day of great joy for them**. But **a day of great sorrow and confusion for those who watched** their Messiah die on the Cross.
- ‘The gospel was preached even to the dead.’ The descent into hell brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment. This is the **last phase of Jesus’ messianic mission**, a phase which is condensed in time but vast in its real significance: the **spread of Christ’s redemptive work to all men of all times and all places**, for all who are saved have been made sharers in the redemption.
- “Today there is **a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages**. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled. ...” from an ancient homily for Holy Saturday

# Easter Sunday: Why did Jesus rise on the "first day of the week"?

*This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Ps 118:24.*

## **The day of the Resurrection: the new creation**

**2174** Jesus rose from the dead "on the first day of the week." (Cf. Mt 28:1; Mk 16:2; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1) Because it is the "first day," the day of Christ's Resurrection recalls the first creation. Because it is the "eighth day" following the sabbath, (Cf. Mk 16:1; Mt 28:1) it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by Christ's Resurrection.

For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord's Day (*he kuriake hemera, dies dominica*) Sunday:

We all gather on the day of the sun, for it is the first day [after the Jewish sabbath, but also the first day] when God, separating matter from darkness, made the world; and on this same day Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead.

*St. Justin, 1 Apol. 67: PG 6, 429 and 432.*

## **Sunday- fulfillment spiritual truth of the sabbath**

**2175** Sunday is expressly distinguished from the sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the sabbath. In Christ's Passover, Sunday fulfills the spiritual truth of the Jewish sabbath and announces man's eternal rest in God. For worship under the Law prepared for the mystery of Christ, and what was done there prefigured some aspects of Christ: Cf. I Cor 10:11

Those who lived according to the old order of things have come to a new hope, no longer keeping the sabbath, but the Lord's Day, in which our life is blessed by him and by his death. *St. Ignatius of Antioch, Ad Magn. 9, 1: SCh 10, 88.*



# **Additional Reference Information**



# Visita Iglesia

The **Seven Churches Visitation** (also known as “Visita Iglesia”) is a pious Roman Catholic Lenten tradition to visit seven churches on Maundy Thursday. The number seven mainly **signifies the seven holy sites** related to Jesus’ arrest and trial:



- 1) Garden of Gethsemane
- 2) The House of Annas
- 3) Tribunal of Caiphas the High Priest
- 4) Trial before Pilate
- 5) Trial before Herod
- 6) From Herod back to Pilate
- 7) From Pilate to Golgotha (Calvary)

# Prayer: Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross

O Lamb of God, who hast sacrificed Thyself for our salvation!

O victim of love, who hast been consumed by sorrows on the cross!

Oh that I knew how to love Thee as Thou dost deserve to be loved!

Oh that I could die for Thee, who hast died for me!

By my sins I have been a cause of pain to Thee during Thy entire life; grant that I may please Thee during the remainder of my life, living only in Thee, my love, my all.

O Mary, my mother, thou art my hope after Jesus; obtain for me the grace to love Jesus.

— The Passion and the Death of Jesus Christ (Illustrated) by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

<https://a.co/86iq9jN>

## **Prayer of Repentance to Our Lady of Sorrows**

O Mother of Sorrows, by the anguish and love with which thou didst stand at the Cross of Jesus, stand by me in my last agony.

To thy maternal heart I commend the last three hours of my life.

Offer to the Eternal Father in union with the agony of our dearest Lord in atonement for my sins.

Offer to the Eternal Father the most Precious Blood of Jesus, mingled with your tears in Calvary, that I may obtain the grace of receiving Holy Communion with the most perfect love and contrition before my death, and that I may breath forth my soul in the adorable presence of Jesus.

Dearest Mother, when the moment of my death has at length come, present me as your child to Jesus.

Ask Him to forgive me for having offended Him for I know not what I did. Beg Him to receive me into His Kingdom of glory to be united with Him forever.

Most Sorrowful Mother, pray for us. Amen.

# Why do Protestants not have Jesus on the cross and Catholics do?

<https://diocesan.com/cross-crucifix-similar-different/>  
<https://www.catholic.com/qa/why-do-churches-have-crucifixes-if-jesus-is-risen>



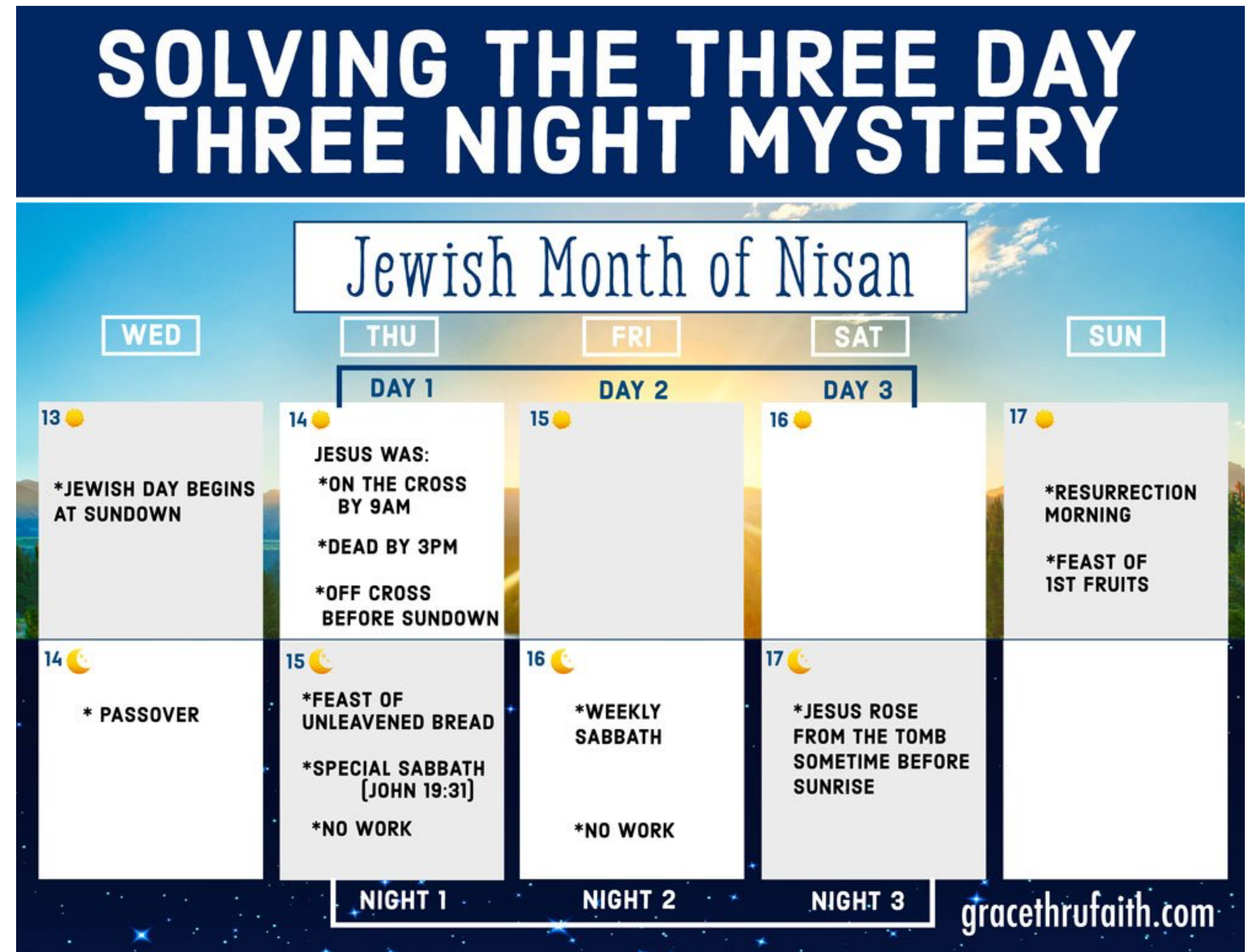
# Why do Protestants not have Jesus on the cross and Catholics do?

1. For non-Christians, these symbols can seem odd, at the very least. The cross is viewed as an instrument of death.
2. Even the early Christian community preferred not to use the cross as a symbol of faith because it was still being used in the torture and death of people. With the passage of time, though, the cross ultimately stands as the instrument of our salvation.
3. Some Protestants object to the crucifix because of the belief (which we Catholics share!) that Christ is resurrected, not still on the cross and thus, (some believe) He should not be depicted that way. Others find the prominent Catholic use of the crucifix in our churches and homes borders on idolatry.
4. Jesus is not “left on the cross” but rather **his saving love is displayed. Jesus died for our sins out of love is the central message of a crucifix.**
5. The centrality of this to the mission of Jesus on earth is mentioned several times in the **New Testament**: See 1 Cor. 1:23; Jn. 12:27; Jn. 3:14-16; Lk. 22:19-20
6. In the Catholic Church the crucifix has been the traditional sign and statement of our faith in God’s love and mercy. It reminds us that Jesus never promised his followers an easy life (Matt. 16:24) but that if we join our sufferings to his, we too we ultimately triumph as he did.  
**Be sure to have Crucifixes in your home.**

# Easter Sunday: Why did Jesus rise on the "first day of the week"?

Jesus actually died on a Thursday (Passover). Friday and Saturday both sabbaths: Friday was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Saturday was the weekly sabbath.

Note the No Work Periods



<https://nickcady.org/2017/04/17/was-jesus-in-the-grave-three-days-and-three-nights-heres-how-it-adds-up/>

<https://gracethrufaith.com/topical-studies/holidays-and-holy-days/solving-the-three-day-three-night-mystery/>

[https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach\\_cdo/aid/1751/jewish/What-Is-a-Seder-Passover-Meal.htm](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/1751/jewish/What-Is-a-Seder-Passover-Meal.htm)

# Easter Sunday: Why did Jesus rise on the "first day of the week"?

- In some Protestant churches, especially Fundamentalist ones, every year at Easter time there are sermons explaining that Jesus didn't really die on a Friday but on a Wednesday. Claim is based on Matthew 12:40 - Jonah 3 days in whale 1st day of week: Timing of Passover , His Death, and # days in tomb.
- Jesus **eagerly desired eat Passover before I suffer for you.** (Luke 22:7-13)  
**I shall not eat again until there is fulfillment in Kingdom of God**
- A spark of Jesus' love for them - unconditional friendship
- The **Jews** reckoned the **day as beginning at sunset**, which is why we read the phrase "evening and morning" in the Bible rather than the more modern phrase "day and night." Jewish readers of Scripture the new day began at sunset.  
Jesus had the **Last Supper on Holy Thursday, a Passover meal.** On **Good Friday**, he was condemned by Pilate and crucified. **At 3 p.m, Jesus died.** During this time, the lambs were being slaughtered in the temple, **preparing for the official Passover meal that took place that evening after sunset.** Jesus is buried before sunset.
- Biblical references for Easter Morning: Mark 16:1-12; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18 See:  
<http://www.csun.edu/~hcflloo4/Easter-Tomb.html>  
<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/7-clues-tell-us-precisely-when-jesus-died-the-year-month-day-and-hour-revealed> (for more detailed analysis).



# Easter Sunday: How Do We Explain the Passover “Discrepancy”

- We know for certain that our Lord died on Friday (cf. Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31). We know it occurred in the month of Nisan (April); the time of Passover.
- But the question remains: **Why in the synoptic Gospels does Jesus celebrate the Passover on Thursday night (and, of course, given the fact that Passover fell on Friday in that year, this would be expected), but in the Gospel of John, Friday is “the day of preparation”?** According to John, Passover fell on Saturday, which is why he refers to it as a “great Sabbath day” (cf. John 19:31). It was not only the Sabbath, but it was Passover as well. **We still have to deal with this apparent contradiction.**
- According to The Navarre Study Bible, in Mark’s Gospel the **Pharisees and Sadducees had a different way of celebrating feast days (51-52)**. The **Pharisees were strict in their observance**. If the fifteenth of Nisan fell on Friday, then that would be the day they celebrated the Passover. The **Sadducees**, on the other hand, were **more liberal and had no problem with moving a feast day** in certain situations.
- This practice is analogous to our modern practice of moving some feast days to Sunday when they actually occur during the week (as is commonly practiced with the feast of the Epiphany).
- Also keep in mind **Jesus’ passover with the Apostles wasn’t complete until Jesus said “It is finished”**.
- When **Jesus actually celebrated the Passover**, he did it in the traditional way of the Pharisees. That is what we see in the synoptic Gospels. With the Pharisees, **Jesus kept the Passover strictly in accord with what Moses said in Ex. 12**. However, when John wrote about Christ’s passion, he does not put the emphasis on the Lord’s Supper that the synoptic Gospel writers do.

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/how-do-we-explain-the-passover-discrepancy>