

Mindful Monday for Monday, April 14, 2025

Sunday began Holy Week, a journey which concludes on Easter when we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as He triumphed over death. On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey. He was celebrated as the King of the Jews upon his Triumphant Entry. People waved palms and shouted “Hosanna”. Jesus understood that he would be killed there for the sins of humankind.

Jesus returned from Bethany with his Disciples where they had gone from Jerusalem on Sunday evening. When Jesus appeared at the Temple the following day, He discovered the courts full of corrupt money changers. He overturned their tables and cleared the Temple, saying, “The Scriptures declare, “My Temple will be a house of Prayer, but you have turned into a den of thieves.” Matthew 21:13

After he left the Temple, he went with his Disciples to the Mount of Olives where he delivered the Olivet Discourse, an extensive revelation about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. This is mentioned in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Bible designates that on this day Judas Iscariot agreed with the Sanhedrin, the rabbinical court of ancient Israel, to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-16

On Thursday of that week, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet as they prepared to share Passover in the Upper Room. By doing this service, Jesus showed by example how His followers should love one another. Then, Jesus bestowed the feast of Passover, also known as The Last Supper. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord’s Supper, or Communion which is what it is called in the Disciples of Christ denomination. After supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he prayed in anguish to God the Father. Late that night in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and was arrested by the Sanhedrin.

In the early morning of Friday as his trial was beginning, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed. According to the Bible, Judas, who had betrayed Jesus was so overwhelmed with guilt that he hanged himself. Jesus suffered the shame of false accusation, rebukes, ridicule, whipping and abandonment. After an unlawful trial, He was condemned and sentenced to death by crucifixion. Jesus delivered seven final remarks from the cross, the last of which was, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke 23:46.

By Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea had taken Jesus’ body down. His body was laid in its tomb where it was watched by Roman soldiers during the day on Saturday, the Sabbath. At the end of Holy Saturday, Christ’s body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices bought by Nicodemus. As his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus had paid the penalty for sin by giving the perfect, ultimate sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation.

We know what happened on Easter morning. When Mary Magdalene and the mother of James arrived at the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body, they were shocked to find the stone that had sealed the tomb was rolled away and the Roman soldiers were missing. Jesus’ body was no longer there. He had risen from the dead, just as He had promised.

We hope that you will join us for Holy Week services. We will meet at Runnells Christian Church for a joint Maundy Thursday soup supper with Altoona Christian Church at 6:30. Worship will begin at approximately 7:15. Friday we will meet at MCC for a raising of the cross service at 6:00 PM. A free breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM on Easter Sunday followed by morning service at 10:00 AM.

**CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!!**

Please keep those on our prayer list in your prayers. We are also asking for prayers for those on the Regional prayer list: Wakonda Christian Church, Wakonda IA; First Christian Church, Packwood, IA; Capitol Hill Christian Church, Des Moines, IA; Robyn Bles; Sara Patty; Craig Robertson; David Goin; Connie Wacht; Kristin Alstott; Bruce Gowen; Disciples Home Missions – these are located around the United States and change to go where there is need. More info available at Homeland Ministries.