

Holy Week

Reconnect



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Settle in for a quiet moment to connect with God. Allow the Scripture readings and song lyrics to focus your attention on him as you prepare for Easter. Pause between each reading to reflect on one word, phrase, or aspect of what you've read or sung.

A reading from the book of Joel.

Joel 2:12-17 - A Call to Repentance

12 That is why the Lord says,

“Turn to me now, while there is time.

Give me your hearts.

Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

13 Don't tear your clothing in your grief,

but tear your hearts instead.”

Return to the Lord your God,

for he is merciful and compassionate,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

He is eager to relent and not punish.

14 Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve,

sending you a blessing instead of this curse.

Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine

to the Lord your God as before.

15 Blow the ram's horn in Jerusalem!

Announce a time of fasting;

call the people together

for a solemn meeting.

16 Gather all the people—

the elders, the children, and even the babies.

Call the bridegroom from his quarters

and the bride from her private room.

17 Let the priests, who minister in the Lord's presence,

stand and weep between the entry room to the Temple and the altar.

Let them pray, “Spare your people, Lord!

Don't let your special possession become an object of mockery.

Don't let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say,

‘Has the God of Israel left them?’”



A reading from the Psalms.

Psalm 103:8-14

- 8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- 9 He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.
- 10 He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- 11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- 12 He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.
- 13 The Lord is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows how weak we are;
he remembers we are only dust.

A Gospel Hymn

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust him. In his presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow.
Worldly Pleasures all forsaken, take me Jesus, take me now.

CHORUS

I surrender all. I surrender all.
All to thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all!

Glory to you,
Lord Christ.

A reading from Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew 6:16-21

16 "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. 17 But when you fast, comb your hair[a] and wash your face. 18 Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.



"I Surrender All" continued.

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine.
Let me feel your Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee.
Fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me.

CHORUS

I surrender all. I surrender all.
All to thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all!

Thanks be to God for all he has done, all he is doing, and all he will do.