

JESUS LIVES AND SAVES US!

Jesus died for us! Jesus rose again for us! Jesus lives forever!

«I am the resurrection, and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live». (John 11:25)

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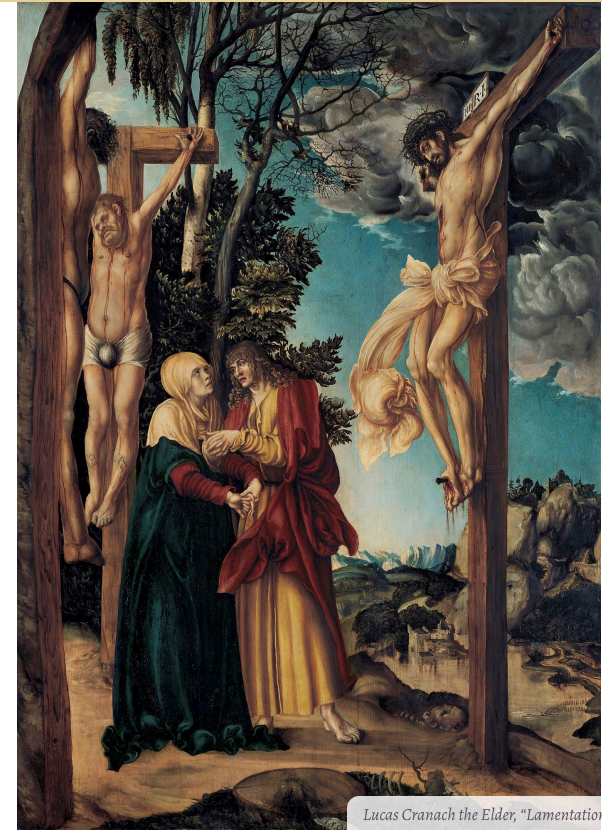


**Cristo Para Todas
Las Naciones**
Chile

Text: Cristian Rautenberg (English translation of the Spanish original)

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LENT AND HOLY WEEK: JESUS LOVES US AND SAVES US!



Lucas Cranach the Elder, "Lamentation under the Cross", 1503

A journey with Jesus to the cross and the resurrection.

«But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities»

(Isaiah 53:5)

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WHAT IS LENT?

A time to look at Jesus



Ivan Kramskoi, "Christ in the Wilderness", 1872

Lent is a special time of the church year lasting 40 days, not counting Sundays. It begins on Ash Wednesday and prepares us to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why forty days? In the Bible, the number forty appears at different moments of preparation and testing. Jesus himself spent forty days in the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan. But Jesus remained faithful to the will of his Father.

During Lent we listen especially to the Word of God, which shows us our sins and calls us to repentance. To repent means to recognize that we have sinned and to turn to God, trusting in his mercy.

We do not do good works to get God to love us or to earn our salvation. God loves us because of Jesus!

Lent helps us to look more closely at our Savior and to remember everything he did for us.



FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MARK 1:12-15

(Lent leads us to look at Jesus, who went to the cross to save us)

MY NOTES

Write or draw what you liked best

Today I learned that...

PRAYER AND FAREWELL

Jesus lives and saves us!



Carl Bloch, "Christ in Gethsemane", 1873

Beloved Jesus: Thank you because you love me and came into the world to save me. Thank you because you carried my sins on the cross and rose again to give me eternal life. Forgive me when I do wrong. Help me to trust in your promises, to listen to your Word and to receive with joy your gifts in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper.

In this Lent, teach me to look at your cross and to remember how much you love me. In this Easter, fill my heart with joy because you live.

Help me also to share this good news with my family, my friends and all the people I meet. In your name. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!



Giotto, "Entry into Jerusalem", Scrovegni Chapel, c. 1305

Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a little donkey. Many people spread their cloaks on the road and others cut branches from the trees. The crowd welcomed him with joy and shouted: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Jesus did not enter Jerusalem as a king who comes to conquer territories with an army. He came as the humble King who would give his life to save his people from sin and death.

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and begin to accompany him in the events that will lead him to the cross.

We too want to welcome Jesus with joy, listen to his Word and trust in him. But let us not forget that Jesus did not come only to teach us good things: he came to rescue us and give us salvation.

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 21:1-11**

(Jesus is our King and came to save us)

HOLY MONDAY

God's house is for prayer



El Greco, "Christ Driving the Money Changers from the Temple", c. 1600

After entering Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. There he found people who had turned the house of prayer into a place of business. Jesus rebuked them and reminded them that God's house was to be a house of prayer.

Jesus teaches us that God deserves our worship and that we must not turn holy things into an opportunity to seek only our own benefit.

We also sin when we think only of ourselves and forget God and our neighbor. We need Jesus to forgive us and teach us to live in love.

In church we hear the Word of God, receive his gifts and pray. We do not go to show that we are better than others, but because we need what God gives us in Christ.

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 21:12-17**

(Jesus calls us to listen to God and to trust in his Word)

ACTIVITY: WALKING WITH JESUS

What do we remember each day?

- | | |
|--|--|
| Palm Sunday ☐ | ☐ Judas plans the betrayal. |
| Holy Monday ☐ | ☐ Jesus rests in the tomb. |
| Holy Tuesday ☐ | ☐ Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble King. |
| Holy Wednesday ☐ | ☐ Jesus dies on the cross for our sins. |
| Maundy Thursday ☐ | ☐ Jesus teaches the Word of God. |
| Good Friday ☐ | ☐ Jesus rises from the dead! |
| Holy Saturday ☐ | ☐ Jesus cleanses the temple. |
| Easter Sunday ☐ | ☐ Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper. |

My Holy Week promise

During Lent I want to:

- ☐ Hear a Bible story about Jesus.
- ☐ Pray, giving thanks for his love.
- ☐ Ask forgiveness when I do something wrong.
- ☐ Help someone who needs it.
- ☐ Share with another person the good news that Jesus died and rose again for us.

Verse to memorize: «For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.» 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

WHAT DO WE DO DURING LENT?

We listen to Jesus and live in his love



Fritz von Uhde, "Come, Lord Jesus, Be Our Guest", 1885

During Lent we can spend more time listening to the Word of God, praying and reflecting on our lives. We can also learn to recognize our sins and ask forgiveness from those we have offended.

Some people fast or give up certain things during this time. These practices can help us to focus on God, but they do not buy his favor or make us deserve salvation.

Jesus invites us to trust in him and to love our neighbor. We can share our goods, help those in need, keep company with a sad person and serve with joy.

We do not do these things to get God to love us. We do them because, through Jesus, we have already received his love and his forgiveness.

📖 FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-18; 1 JOHN 4:19

(We receive salvation by grace and respond to God's love by serving our neighbor)

HOLY TUESDAY

Jesus teaches us the truth



Rembrandt, "Christ Preaching", c. 1648

During those days, Jesus taught in the temple. Some people asked him questions to try to trap him in his own words, but Jesus knew their hearts.

Jesus spoke about love for God and for our neighbor, about forgiveness, about faith and about the need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. He also announced that difficult days would come.

The Word of Jesus shows us what God is like and also shows us what we are like. Sometimes we want to do our own will instead of the will of God. Sometimes we treat others badly or think that we can save ourselves by our own strength.

But Jesus does not abandon us. He calls us to repentance and announces forgiveness to us. His Word leads us to trust in him, our Savior.

📖 FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 22:34-40

(We listen to Jesus because his Word shows us our sin and announces salvation to us)

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Jesus knows what is going to happen



Giotto, "Judas' Betrayal", c. 1305

The religious leaders were looking for a way to arrest Jesus. Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, went to talk with them and agreed to hand his Master over to them.

How sad! Judas had been with Jesus, had listened to his teachings and had seen his works. Yet he decided to betray him.

We also sin when we turn our back on God, when we lie, or when we prefer our own way to listening to his Word.

But Jesus knew what was going to happen and continued on his way. He was not forced by the betrayal of Judas nor surprised by the events. He came willingly to fulfill the will of his Father and to save us.

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 26:14-16**

(Jesus went forward out of love for us, even knowing that he would suffer and die)

WHY DID JESUS DIE AND RISE AGAIN?

He did it all out of love!



Lucas Cranach the Elder, "The Law and the Gospel", 1529

Now that we have walked through Holy Week, we can ask ourselves: why did Jesus do all this?

Jesus did not die only to give us a good example. He came to do what we could not do: carry our sins, reconcile us with God and conquer death.

On the cross, Jesus paid for our sins. In the resurrection, he conquered death and opened for us the way to eternal life.

The Bible teaches that we are saved by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. We cannot buy forgiveness with good works, nor earn heaven by being better than others. Salvation is a gift from God.

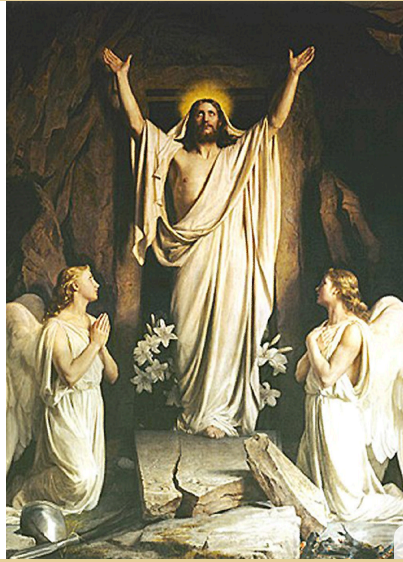
That is why, when we sin, we can repent and turn to Jesus, trusting in his promise of forgiveness. He died and rose again for us!

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: ROMANS 4:25; EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

(Jesus died and rose again to give us forgiveness and eternal life freely)

EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus is risen!



Carl Bloch, "The Resurrection", 1881

Very early on the first day of the week, some women went to Jesus' tomb. But they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.

An angel announced the great news to them: Jesus was risen!

The Lord who had died on the cross was alive. Death could not hold him. Jesus conquered sin, death and the devil.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate with joy that our Savior lives. His resurrection shows that his sacrifice was enough and that his promises are true.

Because Jesus rose, we have forgiveness, life and hope. And just as he rose, we also look forward to the resurrection of our bodies and eternal life with him.

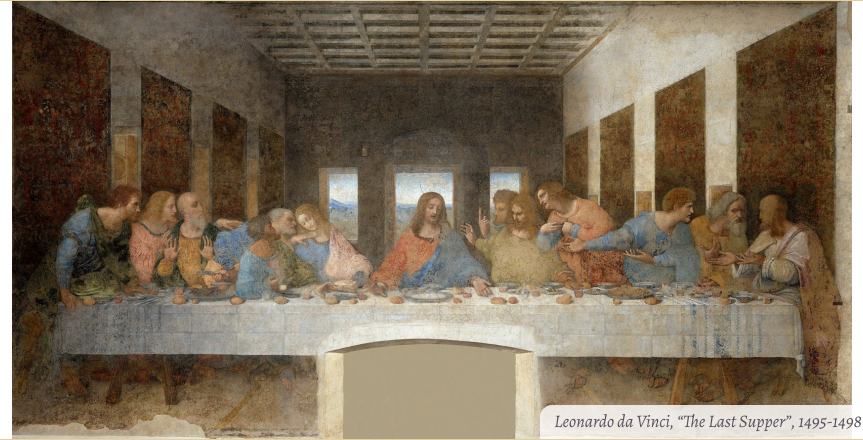
Sadness is turned into joy! Death does not have the last word!

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 28:1-10**

(Jesus lives and we will live with him!)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jesus gives us his Holy Supper



Leonardo da Vinci, "The Last Supper", 1495-1498

The time came to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. During that meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. Then he took the cup and gave it to them to drink as well.

Jesus told them that the bread was his body and that the cup was the new covenant in his blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins.

That is why on Maundy Thursday we especially remember how Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. In it, according to his promise, he gives us his true body and his true blood with the bread and the wine, for the forgiveness of our sins, life and salvation.

What a wonderful gift! It is not only about remembering something that happened long ago. Jesus comes to us with his gifts, just as he promised.

That same night he also washed his disciples' feet and taught them to serve one another. The love we receive from Jesus moves us to love and serve our neighbor.

 **FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW 26:17-30; LUKE 22:19-20**

(In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us his body and his blood for the forgiveness of our sins)

GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus dies on the cross for us



Diego Velázquez, "Christ Crucified", c. 1632

After being arrested, Jesus was tried, condemned and taken to the cross. The soldiers mocked him and nailed him to the wood. Jesus suffered and died.

Why did Jesus have to die? Because we are sinners and cannot free ourselves from sin or conquer death by our own strength. Sin separates us from God and we deserve his judgment.

But God loves us. That is why he sent his Son. Jesus took our sins upon himself and suffered in our place. His death was the sacrifice that reconciles us with God.

On Good Friday we remember with sadness and gratitude the death of our Savior. It was not a defeat or an accident. Jesus gave his life for us willingly.

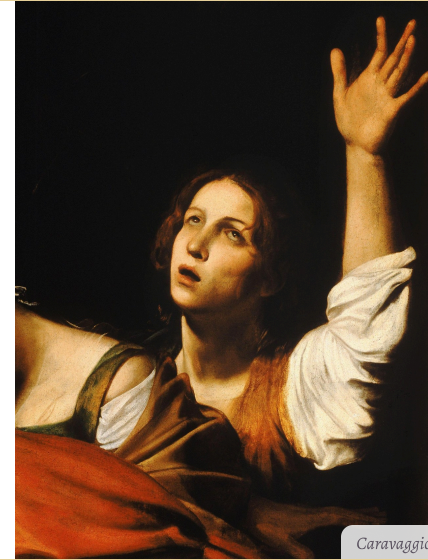
The cross shows us how serious our sin is, but it also shows us how great God's love is. By Jesus' wounds we receive forgiveness!

📖 FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: **JOHN 19:16-30**

(Jesus died in our place to save us from sin)

HOLY SATURDAY

Jesus rests in the tomb



Caravaggio, "The Entombment of Christ", 1603

After Jesus' death, his body was placed in a tomb. A great stone closed the entrance. The disciples were sad and afraid. It seemed that everything was over.

On Holy Saturday we remember Jesus' rest in the tomb. It is a day of silence and waiting, while we prepare to celebrate the resurrection.

Sometimes we too go through moments of sadness, fear or uncertainty. There are situations in which we do not understand what God is doing. But we can hold on to his Word and his promises.

Although the disciples did not yet understand everything that was going to happen, God would keep his promise. Death would not have the last word.

📖 FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: **MATTHEW 27:57-66**

(In the midst of sadness, we trust in God's promises)