

A DEEPER DIVE

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday

Psalm 111:1 I Will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation (ESV).

By way of explanation.

It's Easter week for the Church around the world. So, this week's devotion will focus on Easter Sunday. It's easy to go to a service and then forget all about what was said. Spend this week after Easter contemplating the message and meaning of Easter. Please note, none of this is original. I am using the "Holy Week and Easter" section of *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Springtime: A Manual for Prayer* compiled by Phyllis Tickle. You can find out more about *The Divine Hours* series and Phyllis Tickle here <https://www.phyllistickle.com/fixe-hour-prayer/>.

Note: due to length considerations I have only included the titles, authors, and links to the hymns. For the online version, check here--<https://nubf.org/our-sermons/>

Opening Prayer for the week–

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race, you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that I may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Monday, April 6

Reading to think about. – Mark 11:1-11

For prayer and meditation – Psalm 118:19-29

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) – Were You There? An African American Spiritual <https://gccsatx.com/hymns/were-you-there/>

Closing Prayer for the week– Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that I, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Tuesday, April 7 – Opening Prayer – (see Monday)

Reading to think about– Mark 11:15-19

For prayer and meditation - The Lord will not abandon His people–Psalm 94: 3-15

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) In the Cross of Christ I Glory–John Bowring. <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/619>

Closing Prayer– (see Monday)

Wednesday, April 8 – Opening Prayer– (see Monday)

Reading to think about – Mark 14:1-11

For prayer and meditation – Psalm 22:26-30

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) Go to Dark Gethsemane–James Montgomery<http://hymnbook.igracemusic.com/hymns/go-to-dark-gethsemane>

Closing Prayer– (see Monday)

Thursday, April 9– Opening Prayer– (see Monday)

Reading to think about- John chapter 19: 1-30

For prayer and meditation – Psalm 78:1-8

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross –Isaac Watts https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/When_I_Survey_the_Wondrous_Cross/

Closing Prayer– (see Monday)

Friday, April 10– Opening Prayer– (see Monday)

Readings to think about- John chapter 19: 31-42

For prayer and meditation – Luke 24:13-35

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) Take Up Your Cross– Charles W. Everest https://hymnary.org/text/take_up_thy_cross_the_savior_said_if_tho

Closing Prayer– (see Monday)

Saturday, April 11– Opening Prayer– (see Monday)

Reading to think about– Matthew 28:1-10

For prayer and meditation – Psalm 148:7-14

Hymn to reflect on (or sing) -- Christ the Lord is Risen Today – Charles Wesley https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Christ_the_Lord_Is_Risen_Today/

Closing Prayer– (see Monday)

Sunday, April 27

O God, you make me glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son my Lord: Give me this day such blessing through my worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor.

From the Henri Nouwen society –

Jesus has called you from the moment you were knitted together in your mother's womb. It is your vocation to receive and give love. But from the very beginning, you have experienced the forces of death. They attacked you all through your years of growing up. You have been faithful to your vocation, even though you have often felt overwhelmed by darkness. You know now that these dark forces will have no final power over you. They seem overwhelming, but the victory is already won. It is the victory of Jesus, who has called you. He overcame for you the power of death so that you could live in freedom.