

## Palm Sunday: Passion Revived

**Prayer Link****Prayers for the Community**

American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.  
Additional Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS

Did you know that Sugar River UMC has an active E-Prayer Chain? A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. If you have a request you would like the E-Prayer Chain to pray for, please send it to: [amberw@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:amberw@wisconsinumc.org). Amber will send out the request as soon as possible to activate our circle of prayer.

If you would like to become a "Link" on our E-Prayer Chain, please send your email address to Amber at the address listed above. New "links" are always welcome!

**Inspirational Link****Thoughts and Insights from Worship****The Word Link****Daily Readings from God's Word**

### The Lamb of God

John 1:29, 19:1-3, 16-18, 28-30

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" - John 1:29*

*Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face... They took Jesus; 17 and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him... 28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

**Monday, March 17** – Warnings and Promises.

John was writing this gospel the Jewish followers of Jesus were being expelled from the synagogue. Already, nearly all of the first disciples of Jesus had been put to death, most at the hands of the Romans. With these hardships, the first readers of the gospel were experiencing, in mind, **read John 16:1-16**. Note that the Counselor Jesus refers to is the Holy Spirit. Write on a piece of paper what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to comfort, convict, lead and guide you as you seek to know Jesus and to pursue his will.

**Tuesday, March 18** – I Have Overcome the World. **Read John 16:17-33**. Here Jesus warns the disciples of his impending death. What will cause their grief to turn to joy? When would Jesus soon see the disciples again? Why does the Father love the disciples? Verse 33 is a promise of difficult times for believers – but despite these we can have peace, in part because we know the truth that Jesus has overcome the world.

**Wednesday, March 19** – Jesus' Prayer for You. Today we turn to the wonderful prayer Jesus prays for himself, his disciples, and all who would believe in him in the future (which includes us!). Try reading this prayer, **John 17**, out loud. Remember that Jesus would glorify his Father by being willing to lay down his life for God – in what sense is there glory in this? In what sense does this act point toward God's nature and character and his love? What does Jesus pray for us? Why was unity so important to Jesus? What does that mean for us? The last line of this prayer points toward the reality that Christ lives in us as we trust in him – what does it mean when people say that "Jesus lives in our hearts"? Pray that you might live up to all that Christ prayed for you in his prayer. Consider attending the Sugar River Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM on the 20<sup>th</sup>. This service will help us understand the depth of meaning of Easter. What family, friends, or neighbors might you invite to Easter worship this Sunday?

**Thursday, March 20** – The Arrest and Trials. Today we turn to the events that occurred just after the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week. Jesus and the disciples have gone to the Garden of Gethsemane. **Read John 18**. Notice the tragedy of Judas' betrayal, and Peter's denial. Why does John tell the story of Peter's denial of Jesus? By the time he writes this gospel Peter had been martyred for his faith – what value was there for John's readers, who were afraid of reprisals for their faith in Christ, some of whom may have been tempted to deny being Jesus' followers, in knowing that one of the heroes of the faith had himself denied Jesus? Tonight is the Sugar River Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM. This very moving worship service retells the biblical story of Jesus' last week. On Friday at 1 PM, there will also be a Good Friday Service.

**Friday, March 21** – The Crucifixion. As you prepare to read the story of the crucifixion be aware that today is Good Friday – the day of Holy Week on which Jesus was crucified. **Read John 19**. This chapter has been described as one of the most beautifully written works of religious literature ever composed. John makes the final hours of Jesus' life, his passion and his death very real. Can you picture what is happening here to Jesus? Can you imagine yourself standing by and watching this? Notice how, even here in his trial and crucifixion, Jesus is in control – he controls his destiny, and he willingly lays down his life as a part of God's redemptive plans for the world. Notice the emphasis here on Jesus as the king – the Jewish people pray to God, addressing him as the "King of the Universe" – Jesus was God in the flesh, yet humankind crucified him. Note that Jesus is crucified at the time that the Passover lambs were being prepared for slaughter. What did Jesus mean by his final words, "It is finished?" Notice Nicodemus, who appeared in John 3 as one afraid to be known as a follower of Jesus now has the courage to come to bury him (v. 39). Consider the Good Friday Service at 1 PM today as an opportunity to reflect upon the sacrificial love of Christ.

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13720 Roe, Leawood, Kansas 66224, (913) 897-0120 voice, (913) 897-0361 fax  
<http://www.cor.org>

**The Spirit Link**

**God's Action Point for My Life**

I feel led by God to...