



Preparing Our Hearts  
*for* Holy Week

LENTEN  
READING GUIDE

*First Presbyterian Church*



# Preparing Our Hearts *for* Holy Week

“Discipleship is a journey, and for this little one that journey begins in the arms of Jesus and his church.” You may have noticed that when an infant is baptized. I introduce that child to the church with this phrase. The Christian life is a relational journey of discovering the depth of God’s love, hope, and joy. If your relationship with Jesus feels stuck or stagnant, it might be because you have lost a sense of the journey.

Through the centuries, the church has used the liturgical calendar to prepare hearts for the journey of experiencing God. This journey includes surprises and disappointments, encouragements and difficulties, provision and suffering. Every church can benefit by encouraging multiple paths of forming people for experiencing the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

I would like to commend one path of preparation this year. The theme for our Holy Week sermons will be “Our Suffering Servant King,” taken from Isaiah 53. On Palm Sunday, April 14, we will look at Isaiah 53:1-4 “The Life of Our Suffering Servant King.” On Good Friday, April 19, we will look at Isaiah 53:5-9 “The Death of Our Suffering Servant King.” And on Easter Sunday, April 21, we will look at Isaiah 53:10-12 “The Resurrection of Our Suffering Servant King.”

You are invited to prepare your hearts to experience God in a deeper way by reading daily in the book of Isaiah, chapters 1-53. This prophetic book is often referred to as the “Gospel of Isaiah” because of the vivid prophetic pictures that are painted of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Messiah. Each day, beginning March 6 and continuing through April 18, you can read of the prophetic expectation of the coming King and explanation of the kind of King he is. Chapters 1-39 speak of the Messiah as King and Conqueror in the work he would accomplish, and Chapters 40-55 speak of the Messiah’s person as Suffering Servant. Let me encourage you to read these chapters asking these simple questions:

- How does this passage speak of Messiah’s work as King and Conqueror?
- How does this passage speak of Messiah’s person of Suffering Servant?
- What expectation and experience should my heart have in response to the work and person of my Savior

—Rev. Mike Hearon, Lead Pastor

*Begin your reading on March 6 with Isaiah 1. Note that some days require reading two chapters in order to finish the readings by Good Friday, April 19.*

- |  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 6</b>  | Isaiah 1     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 1</b>  | Isaiah 34    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 7</b>  | Isaiah 2-3   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 2</b>  | Isaiah 35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 8</b>  | Isaiah 4     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 3</b>  | Isaiah 36    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 9</b>  | Isaiah 5     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 4</b>  | Isaiah 37-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 10</b> | Isaiah 6     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 5</b>  | Isaiah 39    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 11</b> | Isaiah 7-8   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 6</b>  | Isaiah 40    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 12</b> | Isaiah 9     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 7</b>  | Isaiah 41    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 13</b> | Isaiah 10    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 8</b>  | Isaiah 42-43 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 14</b> | Isaiah 11    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 9</b>  | Isaiah 44    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 15</b> | Isaiah 12-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 10</b> | Isaiah 45    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 16</b> | Isaiah 14    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 11</b> | Isaiah 46    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 17</b> | Isaiah 15    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 12</b> | Isaiah 47    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 18</b> | Isaiah 16    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 13</b> | Isaiah 48    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 19</b> | Isaiah 17-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 14</b> | Isaiah 49    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 20</b> | Isaiah 19    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 15</b> | Isaiah 50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 21</b> | Isaiah 20    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 16</b> | Isaiah 51    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 22</b> | Isaiah 21    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 17</b> | Isaiah 52    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 23</b> | Isaiah 22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>April 18</b> | Isaiah 53    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 24</b> | Isaiah 24    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 25</b> | Isaiah 25    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 26</b> | Isaiah 26    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 27</b> | Isaiah 27-28 |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 28</b> | Isaiah 29    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 29</b> | Isaiah 30    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 30</b> | Isaiah 31    |  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>March 31</b> | Isaiah 32-33 |  |              |

OUR  
S U F F E R I N G  
K I N G S E R V A N T

PALM SUNDAY

*April 14*

*8:30 & 11 a.m.*

GOOD FRIDAY

*April 19*

*7 p.m.*

EASTER SUNDAY

*April 21*

*8:30 & 11 a.m.*



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