



PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + [www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)

## **Holy Week Readings and Thanksgiving Prayer**

by [Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.](#)  
[www.crossroadsinitiative.com](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com)

*Holy Week, the annual remembrance of the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, has always been the most important event of the Christian calendar right from the beginning. The early Christians observed the special days of Holy Week in a spirit of prayerful gratitude, overwhelmed by how far God was willing to go to bring us back to Himself. They were particularly amazed by the way the events of Jesus' death and final victory were so mysteriously prefigured in the Old Testament.*

*In order to enrich our own Holy Week prayer, we've printed selections below from two ancient Holy Week homilies, followed by a special Holy Week thanksgiving prayer appropriate for either personal or corporate use. May these resources serve to deepen our appreciation of the wisdom and love displayed in the Father's marvelous plan of salvation! For more free Holy Week/Triduum resources, visit the [Lent and Holy Week](#) section of [The Crossroads Initiative Library](#).*



**St. Ephrem** (A Syrian deacon who wrote around 360 A.D.)

Our Lord subjected his might, and they seized him,  
so that through his living death he might give life to Adam.  
He gave his hands to be pierced by nails  
to make up for the hand which plucked the fruit.  
He was struck on his cheek in the judgment room  
to make up for the mouth that ate in Eden.  
And while Adam's foot was free, his feet were pierced.  
Our Lord was stripped that we might be clothed.  
With the gall and vinegar he sweetened  
the poison of the serpent which had bitten men.

PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + [www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)

**St. Melito** (a Holy Week sermon from the Bishop of Sardis given around 170 A.D.)

This is the one who patiently endured many things in many people:

This is the one who was murdered in Abel, and bound as a sacrifice in Isaac, and exiled in Jacob, and sold in Joseph, and exposed in Moses, and sacrificed in the lamb, and hunted down in David, and dishonored in the prophets.

This is the one who became human in a virgin, who was hanged on the tree, who was buried in the earth, who was resurrected from among the dead, and who raised mankind up out of the grave below to the heights of heaven.



The one who hung the earth in space, is himself hanged;  
the one who fixed the heavens in place, is himself impaled;  
the one who firmly fixed all things, is himself firmly fixed to the tree.  
The Lord is insulted, God has been murdered,  
the King of Israel has been destroyed by the right hand of Israel.

This is the lamb that was slain. This is the lamb that was silent.  
This is the one who was taken from the flock, and was dragged to sacrifice,  
and was killed in the evening, and was buried at night;  
the one who was not broken while on the tree,  
who did not see dissolution while in the earth.  
who rose up from the dead, and who raised up mankind from the grave below.

### **A Thanksgiving Prayer For Use During Holy Week**



**Father of Mercy and Salvation,**

As you planted the tree of life in the Garden of Eden, so you have planted the cross of your Son in the New Paradise, replacing the tree that brought us death with the gracious tree that brings us life.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As you judged the earth by water and saved Noah by means of the ark, so you judged the world in the water of your Son's pierced side, and saved a remnant through the wood of his cross.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Abraham's only son, the son he loved, bore to Moriah the wood of his sacrifice, so your only Son, the beloved Son, bore his cross to Golgotha, that the blessing of Abraham might be given to the world.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Joseph was sold by his brothers and reckoned as dead, yet was raised in glory to the King's right hand, so you Son was delivered to death by his brothers and raised in glory by your Spirit to rule at your side.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the blood of the lamb turned away the angel of death and delivered Israel from Pharaoh's reign, so the blood of your Son has saved us from death and delivered us from bondage to Satan and the world.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies with blood to atone for the sins of the people, so your Son entered the true Holy Place and presented the blood that atones for the sins of the world.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**



As Moses raised the serpent in the wilderness to heal those who suffered for their sin, so the Son of Man was lifted up on the cross to bear our sin and make us whole.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jonah lay three days in the belly of the whale, and was raised from death to preach repentance to the Gentiles, so your Son was raised from the bowels of the earth to reconcile all nations to yourself.

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

---

## The Easter Triduum

by - Father John Corapi



Beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concluding with Jesus in the Tomb on Holy Saturday, this series by Fr. John Corapi offers an incredible and moving meditation on the events of Holy Week--Christ's institution of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Orders, His Passion and death, and His triumphant Resurrection from the dead. The Triduum which closes Holy Week is the celebration par excellence of the entire liturgical year and this inspired presentation will have you reliving the final days of Jesus' life.

[3 CD Set - \\$23.95](#)

[3 Audio Tape Set - \\$21.00](#)

PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + [www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)