

# Red Altar Cloth for Holy Week

RHYTHMS OF GRACE 2020

[altar: *noun*. 2.contemporary Christian - 'a table or flat space set aside for the actions and artefacts (objects) symbolising prayer, sacrifice and commitment to following the Trinitarian God. *Origin*. Old Testament worship of God.'

altar cloth: *noun*. 'cloth or paper cover placed on altar, or to designate a "set aside" area. Artefacts (objects) may be placed on this.'

[MFP Dictionary of Contemporary Ecclesiology]

## Readings for Holy Week.

**Palm Sunday:** Luke 19 (Entering Jerusalem)

Place a piece of your Palm branch, or another tree, on your altar i.e. this paper.

**Monday in Holy Week:** Mark 11 verse 12, to end of chapter. (Anger in the temple)

**Tuesday in Holy Week:** Mark 14 verse 1, to verse 31. (Expensive perfume; The last supper)

Dab some perfume, vanilla essence, after-shave, or anything nicely scented, on your altar cloth.

**Wednesday in Holy Week:** John 13 (Washing dirty feet; Judas makes his move)

Place a facecloth or soap on your altar.

**Maundy Thursday:** Mark 14 verse 32, to end of chapter. (In the garden; In court)

Place some soil or grass on your altar.

**Good Friday:** Mark 15 (or John 18 & 19 for John's fuller version.) (Trial and death)

Place your hand-made cross from today's service, or another you make from found-objects, on your altar.

**Easter Saturday:** "The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee...saw the tomb where Jesus' body was placed. Then they went to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath (Saturday), as commanded." Luke 23: 55, 56.

Place a stone on your altar.

**Easter Sunday:** Luke 24. (Jesus has come back to life.)

Remove all the objects on your red paper and change your red paper for a white piece of paper or fabric. Let your Easter egg rest here as long as you can. As you eat it, be reminded of the new start in life that God offers you through what Jesus has done. Leave the wrapping on your white altar for a few days.

Take this home. Place it on your table or desk - somewhere it will remind you of what this week is about. Use the readings each day.

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