

## WE TELL OUR STORIES



Small Acts of Great Love  
By Rachel Fisher

A recent study from The Society for Human Resource Management found that "94 percent of millennials want to use their skills to benefit a cause" and "57 percent wish that there were more company-wide service days." As someone of that generation, I can attest that the pressure to "make a difference" is tremendous. We all want to do great things that create a better world. Unfortunately, I do not have superpowers. Nor do I have Bill and Melinda Gates' bank account. But what I do have...are doughnuts.

In St. Luke's 40 Daily Acts of Grace and Mercy: A Lenten Experience, March 29th's instruction was: "Bring a dozen doughnuts to your office or school today to share." Doughnuts are not the grand gesture we millennials crave to facilitate. On this particular day, though, they did help bring people together. They brightened my coworkers' days, and maybe all those people who shared a laugh over a doughnut tried a little bit harder to spread joy. Maybe that group spoke kindly to the people with whom they interacted. And maybe someone several ripples out felt encouraged when they've been feeling hopeless.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, people waved palms and shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" in Hebrew. This crowd saw the evils and torments of the world and desperately sought the help of a savior. They wanted him to swoop in wearing a cape, fight the bad guy, and conquer the day. But he didn't do that... No, Christ washed his disciples' feet, taught his followers how to pray, and gave them bread and wine to remember him by. He was then beaten, tortured, and crucified because his actions did not appear as powerful and mighty as the people had wanted.

The Bible tells us, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," (John 1:11-13 NIV). Jesus performed magnificent miracles. But he also showed monumental love through acts of mercy and grace. How incredible is it to think that the humblest, simplest deeds can reverberate through so many different lives?

Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." These Daily Acts are small: riding in the car without turning on the radio (Day 16), mailing a postcard to a loved one (Day 30), bringing a dozen doughnuts to your office (Day 24). Yet – as the children of God – our smallest acts may be used as opportunities to glorify the one who gives the greatest love of all.



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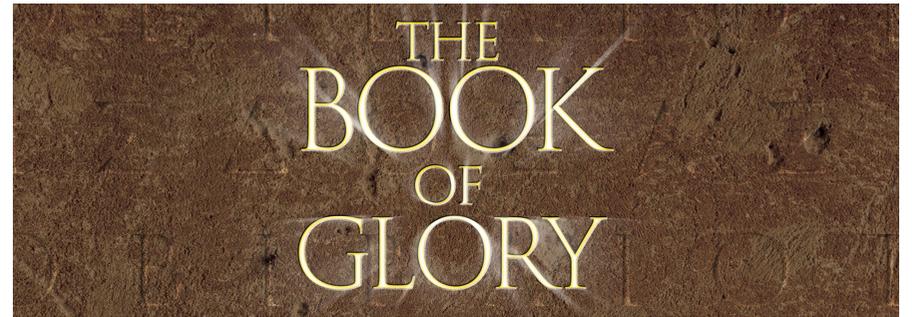


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## ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

### WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP



**John 19:12-22 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." <sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. <sup>15</sup> But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

#### Sermon Notes for April 14, 2019

##### *The Crowning Blow*

##### Seventh in the Series, *The Book of Glory*

1) The cross as coronation: what kind of king?

a) A king of love

b) A king for all

2) The Pilate I know best

#### Possible Next Best Step for You

Fully experience the holy weekend ahead. Come be a part of services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, and invite a friend to come with you.

#### Key Verse for the Week

*Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. –John 19:19*

#### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

What does it mean to you to say "Jesus is King"? Who is your Caesar that prevents you from living as a part of the kingdom?

## WE PRAY

### Sunday, April 14 | Palm Sunday

Almighty God, today we wave our palms remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As we move into this most holy of weeks and toward the great celebration of Easter, help us to always be mindful that, because of Jesus' suffering and death, we are set free from our sins and given a new life in you. Guide us in how we can best serve so that others may see your love at work in us. Amen.

-Prayer by Dr. Linda Christians

### Monday, April 15

Heavenly Father, as we turn toward you during Holy Week, guide us to find new strength in you to manage our human condition. Grant us spiritual renewal that takes us to a new place in our journey of faith. Transform our hearts so that we are changed for your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### Tuesday, April 16

Gracious God, let us confess our sins and surrender our hearts to you so that we may experience the depth of your grace. Purify our hearts, and create in us a renewed sense of faith. Lead us to your paths of righteousness so that we may be an example of abundant life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Wednesday, April 17

Dear Loving God, we thank you daily for dying on the cross to save us from our sins. We are so fortunate to have

your loving image to give us hope and guide us every day. Help us to remember the most important thing is to love each other as YOU have loved us. Amen.-Prayer by Becky Kidd

### Thursday, April 18

#### Maudy Thursday

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of family to love and care for us. Guide us to be all that you have called us to be in our family roles. Help us to share your love, peace, and grace in our family relationships so that we are united in you. Amen.

### Friday, April 19

#### Good Friday

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. We don't like to admit that we need a place to put our sin, but we do. Our secrets and selfishness and shame and shadows – today we admit that we can't handle or fix or resolve any of it, so we hang it all on you while you hang on a cross. Your sacrifice is our freedom. What wondrous love is this? Amen.  
-Prayer by Rev. David Horton

### Saturday, April 20

Gracious God, thank you for a savior who came down from Heaven to be with us and teach us. Thank you, God, for a savior who gave us a human example and who laid down his life for us. Thank you, God, for turning Good Friday into Easter Sunday. Amen.

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## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

**Washing of the Feet | Wednesday, April 17 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel**

**So many ways to pray...**

- ♦ Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- ♦ Visit the interactive prayer wall: [StLukesMethodist.org/prayer](http://StLukesMethodist.org/prayer)
- ♦ Call the prayer line: 713-402-5088

**Fervent Prayer Partners:** Are you in need of one-on-one confidential and consistent prayer? A Fervent Prayer Partner will communicate and pray with you via email as you go through a difficult time. Contact Rev. Thomas Harper at [tharper@stlukemethodist.org](mailto:tharper@stlukemethodist.org).

**We are here for you!** If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from a minister, call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156.

## WE MAKE FRIENDS

**TODAY! Palm Sunday Picnic and Egg Hunt | 11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Head to Blanton Field for this annual family tradition with live music from the contemporary worship band and lunch from Skeeter's. Enjoy inflatables, games and a cake walk before and after the egg hunt at 12:20 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults and \$10/children

**Maudy Thursday Services | April 18**

12 p.m. | Passion from the Gospel of John in chant and Holy Communion | Chapel  
7 p.m. | Holy Communion and a message from Dr. Linda Christians | Sanctuary

**Good Friday Services | April 19**

Service of the Tenebrae | 7 p.m. | Sanctuary  
Children's Service (K-5th grade) | 7 p.m. | 2nd floor Johnson Bldg.

**Anticipation of Easter | April 20 | 11 a.m. | Chapel**

Associate Organist, Jim Roman and Associate Director of Music, Grace Roman present this music for meditation and reflection on Holy Saturday.

**Easter Sunday Worship | April 21**

Traditional Services: 8, 9, 10:05 and 11:10 a.m. | Sanctuary  
Contemporary Service: 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

**The Birds & The Bees | Sunday, April 28 | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall**

Join Megan Michelson of The Birds & The Bees for information on how to talk to your children so they may be guided by your values. Childcare available with registration at [StLukesMethodist.org/events](http://StLukesMethodist.org/events).

**Alive and Well, an organ concert with Jim Roman**

**Sunday, April 28 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary**

The concert will feature music entirely by living composers. Free-will offering to benefit St. Luke's Friends of Music.

## WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.

**TODAY! Friends at Home Lenten Plant Delivery**

Share the joy and deliver a plant to a Friends at Home member! Stop by the table outside the Hines Baker Room to pick up a plant and delivery instructions.

**Easter Offering 2019 | AVDA: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse**

One in every four women in this country experiences domestic abuse in her lifetime. AVDA takes a holistic approach to change this statistic through victim advocacy, a legal services program, and their battering intervention program. Envelopes are in the pews or give online at [My.StLukesMethodist.org/EasterOffering](http://My.StLukesMethodist.org/EasterOffering).

**It takes a lot of people to welcome 6,000 on Easter Sunday!**

Help us extend a very warm welcome as a greeter or an usher. Assist during the service you attend, or come early or start late to help with a different service. Contact Jennifer Gould at [jgould@stlukemethodist.org](mailto:jgould@stlukemethodist.org).

**Saturday Serve | Gardening at Sutton Elementary | April 27 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Register at [StLukesMethodist.org/events](http://StLukesMethodist.org/events) and come get the garden ready for spring!

**"A Journey Home" | May 9 | 6:30 p.m. | Location disclosed with ticket purchase**

The Connect Community invites you to a dinner party that is as worldly as it is local. Infused with delectable cuisines and lively culture, this dinner will be one to remember. Tickets: \$100 Adult, \$40 Student. Contact: [Sheridan@myconnectcommunity.org](mailto:Sheridan@myconnectcommunity.org).