



## Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

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### Will Saturday 1 April



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#### **Ezekiel 37:21–28**

Say, Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of

peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

### **John 11:45–53**

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.” He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

What will happen next? These two readings for today speak of what will happen soon or further in the future for the first listeners and readers. We are on the cusp of Holy Week, a week where we know the pattern of events starting with tomorrow, Palm Sunday and Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, turning the tables in the temple and beyond. However, how will these readings, services, prayers and events impact us this week anew. How will we allow this Holy Week to shape our faith, to connect to God deeper and enter into this great story of God’s love for humanity?

### ***A Prayer for the Beginning of Holy Week (from Creighton University)***

Loving God,  
I am just beginning to realize how much you love me.  
Your son, Jesus was humble and obedient.  
He fulfilled your will for him by becoming human and suffering with us.  
I ask you for the desire to become more humble  
so that my own life might also bear witness to you.  
I want to use the small sufferings I have in this world  
to give you glory.  
Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth.  
Strengthen my life by the example of Jesus.  
Help me to be with Jesus in this week  
as he demonstrates again his total love for me.  
He died so that I would no longer  
be separated from you.  
Help me to feel how close you are  
and to live in union with you.



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The word for each day is taken from Trevor Hudson’s *40 words for 40 days Pauses for Lent*.