

March 25 to 31

Berlin District

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
(John 3,14+15 (NSRV))

It's all done!

These words from the Bible set the scene for Holy Week. Many churches hold passion services, with Jesus' ordeal and suffering playing a very special, central role in our thoughts, in our prayers and in our silence. Good Friday and Easter Sunday in particular show us the limits of our fragmentary understanding and comprehension. With regard to Jesus' death, the Bible also offers various different interpretations that are not easily reconciled. We spend all our lives trying to come to terms with Good Friday and Easter Sunday. While both days are at the absolute heart of our faith, they still remain out of reach and beyond our understanding.

St John the Evangelist has his own special view of Jesus' journey. His focus is always on the story be-

hind the story. For John, the lifting up of the Son of Man is a double metaphor. On the one hand, it naturally symbolises the Crucifixion that Jesus is about to face. On the other hand, these words also proclaim the glorification of the Son of Man. John doesn't see Jesus as a failed religious leader whose life ends ignominiously on the cross. Instead, with these last steps he fulfils his mission of giving eternal life to those who believe in him. On the cross at the end, Jesus cries out: It is finished! Mission accomplished. It's all done!

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I GIVE THANKS

- for the pastors and lay people in the church who use many different and personal approaches in this season to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ.
- that we have been given eternal life in Christ and that we are in his hands, in life and in death.

I PRAY

- for our world which is currently seeing a shift in the balance of power with separatist tendencies coming to the fore.
- that we may succeed in building bridges to each other and to do whatever we can in the interests of peace.
- for the special quietness of Holy Week, that we may find a quiet moment of time to think about Jesus on his way to the cross and take him into our hearts
- for the worship services in the next few days, that they may reveal where we expect the salvation of the world to come from.
- for understanding that paths of suffering and deprivation don't have to be an impasse but can lead us to life.

Berlin District

In total there are 27 churches in the Berlin District with around 2,000 Methodists in the federal states of Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. In some cases they are more than 100 km apart. They are part of a world where, for most people, the Christian tradition was demolished more than two generations ago.

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