

# LOUDER THAN WORDS

## Holy Week Prayer Guide



**MISSION CITY**  
BIBLE CHURCH

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



## Words shape worlds.

You instinctively know this the moment your breath catches in your throat, your stomach drops, and regret crashes over you like a wave, all because of something you said that you wish you could take back.

Or you see it in the way someone's eyes brighten, their posture straightens, and hope flickers to life because of a single word of encouragement.

Words can launch movements and change history. They can stir souls and shift destinies. When Martin Luther King, Jr. declared, "I have a dream," he didn't just speak—he ignited a revolution. When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon and affirmed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," his words expanded the boundaries of human possibility.

But sometimes, words do something even deeper. They reach into the fabric of our being and change us from the inside out.

"I do" is a lifelong vow.

"Not guilty" is a second chance.

"I forgive you" is a new start.

"You're not alone" is a burden lifted.

And then, there are words that don't just change **us**; they change **everything**.

In the final, excruciating hours of his life, Jesus didn't waste his breath. With the weight of the world's sin pressing against his chest, his last words were not lectures, but lifelines. They did not merely echo through time—they acted. They forgave. They welcomed. They comforted. They endured. They loved.

And then they won.

This Holy Week, as we prepare for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, we will journey through the seven final statements Jesus spoke from the cross, words that still pierce the noise of our daily lives and meet us where we are. Then, on Easter Sunday, we will hear the words that changed history forever: the angel's announcement at the empty tomb.

Each day, we will reflect on these sacred sentences in the order Jesus said them, allowing them to shape not just what we believe, but how we live, and how we will pray. Take your time reading the calls to worship. Meditate deeply through the prayers of confession. Rejoice in the assurance of pardon. Pray with faith. And consider the significance of each statement Jesus made with his final breaths.

Jesus proved, on the cross and in his resurrection, that his life is **louder than words**.

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Palm Sunday** 04.13.2025

**LUKE 23:34** “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“Christ’s cross is the sweetest burden that I ever bore” (Samuel Rutherford)

“The sufferings of Christ were the greatest demonstration of love the world has ever seen” (Stephen Charnock)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” (Henry Hart Millman, 1827)

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue Your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin  
o’er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The host of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wond’ring eyes  
to see th’approaching Sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
bow Your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, Your pow’r and reign.

## READING OF THE LAW

 Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Sovereign King,  
How often do I approach You with outward reverence  
While my heart remains cold?  
I sing, I pray, I speak of Your goodness,  
Yet in secret, I entertain pride, selfishness, and sin.  
Purge me of all false worship.  
Make me sincere in love, fervent in obedience,  
And steadfast in following my King.  
Amen.  
(Adapted from Richard Baxter.)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9)

## SCRIPTURE READING

Read Luke 23:34.

The first words Jesus spoke from the cross weren’t cries of pain or pleas for relief. They were words of forgiveness. Even as nails pierced his hands and the weight of the world’s sin bore down on him, Jesus’ response was not vengeance, but mercy. This is the heart of the gospel: forgiveness, freely given, even to the undeserving.

The good news for us is that his death didn’t just make forgiveness possible, it made it complete. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, every sin, every failure, and every regret is covered by the same mercy he declared from the cross. When we trust in his finished work, we not only receive forgiveness, but we are washed clean, fully and forever.

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Lord of Glory, as You entered Jerusalem to shouts of praise, enter my heart with Your grace. Reign in me, that I may lay down my pride as they laid down their garments before You. Blessed Redeemer, let my lips never cease to cry, “Hosanna!”—not only in moments of joy, but in trials as well. May I worship You as King, not only in word, but in life. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- God, I worship you because you are my Father who . . .
- Father, forgive me for . . .
- Father, I pray for . . .
- Lord, when I am tempted to \_\_\_\_, I will trust in your power at work in me.

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Holy Monday** 04.14.2025

**LUKE 23:43** “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“Every wound of Christ speaks mercy to our souls” (Thomas Brooks)

“Christ’s blood has value enough to redeem millions of worlds” (John Owen)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (James Alexander, 1830)

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown;  
How pale Thou art with anguish,  
With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish  
Which once was bright as morn!  
What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.  
What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever,  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to Thee.  
Be near me when I'm dying,  
O show Thy cross to me;  
And for my succor flying,  
Come, Lord, and set me free.  
These eyes new faith receiving,  
From Jesus shall not move;  
For he who dies believing  
Dies safely through Thy love.

## READING OF THE LAW

 Read Psalm 32:1-5

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, You cleansed the temple with righteous zeal,  
Yet my heart is filled with idols.  
I have harbored love for the world,  
Allowed sin to make its home in me.  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
And drive out all that is unholy.  
Make me a temple fit for Your Spirit. Amen.  
(Adapted from Richard Sibbes.)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

 Read Isaiah 1:18

## SCRIPTURE READING

 Read Luke 23:43.

Picture the scene. Jesus, suspended between heaven and earth, bloodied and gasping for breath, surrounded by scorn. The crowd mocks him. Soldiers gamble for his clothes. And beside him, two criminals hang—one hurling insults, the other whispering a desperate plea.

This man has no illusions. He knows his fate is sealed. No last-minute rescue is coming. But in his final moments, he sees something the crowd does not—a King, hanging but reigning. With a whisper of faith, he turns to Jesus:

“Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And in a moment of astonishing mercy, Jesus responds: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” No time left to prove himself. No deeds to offer. No second chances to make things right. Only trust. Only grace.

His only opportunity was to die with Jesus, believing that Jesus’ death in his place was enough to bring him home. But you have been given a different opportunity. You can live for Jesus. You can work for him. Yet, make no mistake—no amount of effort, goodness, or striving will secure paradise. Only Jesus’ finished work on the cross can do that.

Are you resting in his grace? Are you trusting that his sacrifice, not your striving, is enough?

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Holy Christ, as You cleansed the temple, cleanse my soul. Drive out every idol, every sin that corrupts my heart, and make me a house of prayer for Your glory. Faithful Shepherd, teach me the lessons of the fig tree—that I may bear fruit in season and not be found barren when You return. Fill me with true faith that works in love. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Lord, I praise you for I have seen your mercy when . . .
- Lord, I confess that I’ve settled for the earthly reward of \_\_\_\_\_ instead of putting my hope in your paradise; please help me
- God, help me believe that your promised paradise is better than . . .
- Father, when the world distracts me with \_\_\_\_\_, I will think about your paradise that awaits me

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Holy Tuesday** 04.15.2025

**JOHN 19:26-27** “Woman, behold your son . . . behold your mother!”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“The price of our redemption was nothing less than the blood of the Son of God” (John Flavel)

“The death of Christ is the death of sin, and the resurrection of grace” (Richard Sibbes)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (James Montgomery, 1825)

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.  
Follow to the judgment hall;  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the worm-wood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.  
Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb  
There adoring at His feet,  
Mark the miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
“It is finished!” Hear the cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.  
Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom;  
Who hath taken Him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes:  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

**READING OF THE LAW** Read Psalm 103:11-13

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord,  
Your word is truth, yet I treat it lightly.  
You have spoken, yet I have ignored.  
You have commanded, yet I have resisted.  
Forgive my deaf ears, my stubborn will.  
Write Your law upon my heart,  
That I may walk in obedience and love.  
Amen.  
(Adapted from William Gurnall.)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Read Romans 8:1-2

## SCRIPTURE READING

 Read John 19:26-27

The compassion of Jesus is beyond compare. We see it in the way he heals the sick with a touch, speaks life into the broken, and welcomes the outcasts. But on the cross, his compassion reaches an even deeper, more unexpected place.

As agony wracks his body and darkness closes in, Jesus lifts his gaze from his own suffering to the suffering of those he loves. He looks at his mother, heartbroken at the foot of the cross, and says, “Woman, behold your son.” Then, turning to his beloved friend, he entrusts her care to him: “Behold your mother.”

Even in his hour of greatest torment, Jesus is thinking of others. As the weight of the world's sin crushes him, his heart remains steadfast—loving, providing, caring.

And he has that same compassion for you.

He endured the cross, not just to meet a temporary need, but to meet your greatest eternal need—salvation. This is love at its highest, compassion at its deepest, grace at its fullest.

Take a moment today to thank him—not just for what he suffered and accomplished, but for the unstoppable love and compassion that kept him there.

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

O Lord of truth, let me sit at Your feet as Mary did, cherishing Your words above all things. Make me love You above all earthly treasures. God of Justice, make me a light in this dark world, standing firm in truth and righteousness. Help me to render unto You all that is Yours—my heart, my life, my all. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, thank you for your compassion to me when . . .
- Father, forgive me when I haven't trusted you to provide for . . .
- Holy Spirit, help me show the compassion of Jesus to . . .
- Lord, as you showed compassion to those who treated you poorly, I will show compassion when . . .



# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Spy Wednesday** 04.16.2025

**MATTHEW 27:46** “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“True faith is always attended with a deep sense of our own unworthiness, and a high esteem of Christ’s righteousness” (John Flavel)

### CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Alas, And Did My Saviour Bleed” (Isaac Watts, 1707)  
Alas! and did my Savior bleed,  
and did my Sovereign die!  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for sinners such as I?  
Was it for crimes that I have done,  
he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!  
Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
and shut its glories in,  
when God, the mighty maker, died  
for his own creature’s sin.  
Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt mine eyes to tears.  
But drops of tears can ne’er repay  
the debt of love I owe.  
Here, Lord, I give myself away;  
’tis all that I can do.

### READING OF THE LAW

Read Psalm 22:1-5

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord,  
Judas sold You for silver,  
Yet I have traded You for lesser things.  
I have chosen sin over obedience,  
Worldly gain over eternal treasure.  
Have mercy on me,  
And let me see the worth of Christ  
Above all else.  
Amen.  
(Adapted from John Owen.)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Read Micah 7:18-19

### SCRIPTURE READING

Read Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34  
The day had raged with relentless noise—the clash of voices, the jeers of the crowd, the hammer’s brutal echo. Chaos reigned. And then, suddenly, it stopped. The sound of silence.

At the sixth hour, darkness devoured the land, a cosmic tremor of sorrow and judgment stretching three brutal hours. The sun itself seemed to recoil, as if unable to bear witness to the horror unfolding. And then, piercing the thick gloom, came the raw, anguished cry from the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The bond that had always been—eternal, unbroken, sacred—was now severed. Fellowship shattered. Not by his sin, for he had none. But by ours. The weight of humanity’s rebellion was heaped upon the sinless Son. Heaven’s justice demanded payment, and death was the price.

Matthew and Mark make a point to say he “cried out with a loud voice.” This was not resignation. This was a declaration—of love, of sacrifice, of the staggering cost of redemption. His voice rang out so that all who gathered at the foot of his cross, then and now, would understand: this is what love sounds like; this is what love looks like; this is how love feels.

Jesus bore it all—our sin, our shame, our judgment—so that through faith in him, we might stand forgiven, unshackled, and alive forevermore.

### PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Sovereign Lord, keep me from the heart of Judas, that I would never trade my love for You for fleeting gain. Guard me from deception, that I would remain steadfast in You. Gracious Father, as the world schemes against You, keep me ever watchful, ever faithful, ever longing for Your return. May I be found in Christ and not among His betrayers. Amen.

### PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, you are worthy to be praised because . . .
- Father, forgive me for the times I have forsaken my first love in Christ in exchange for . . .
- Holy Spirit, strengthen me to abide in Christ when . . .
- Lord, I will follow you even when I’m tempted to . . .

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Maundy Thursday** 04.17.2025

**JOHN 19:28** “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“He took our sins upon him, that he might bestow his righteousness upon us” (Thomas Watson)

“The sufferings of Christ were not only bodily, but also, and more especially, of his soul, which was pressed down by the weight of God’s wrath against our sins” (Thomas Watson)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (Joseph Hart, 1759)

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,

Weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands to save you,

Full of pity, love, and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,

God’s free bounty glorify;

True belief and true repentance,

Every grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,

Lost and ruined by the fall;

If you tarry till you’re better,

You will never come at all.

View Him prostrate in the garden;

On the ground your Maker lies;

On the bloody tree behold Him;

Sinner, will this not suffice?

Lo! th’ incarnate God ascended,

Pleads the merit of His blood;

Venture on Him, venture wholly,

Let no other trust intrude.

I will arise and go to Jesus,

He will embrace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Savior,

O there are ten thousand charms.

## READING OF THE LAW

 Read Psalm 69:19-21

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

My God, my God,

Why was Christ forsaken?

It was for my sin, my rebellion, my shame.

He was abandoned that I might be received.

He was wounded that I might be healed.

Forgive me, O Lord,

And let me never forsake You.

Amen.

(Adapted from Richard Sibbes.)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

 Read Hebrews 10:19-22

- Lord Jesus, thank you for tasting death for me so that I will never thirst again . . .
- Father, forgive me when, instead of seeking true satisfaction in Jesus, I seek satisfaction from . . .
- Lord Jesus, fill me with yourself so that I can live for you by . . .
- God, help me to share the good news of Living Water with . . .

## SCRIPTURE READING

 Read John 19:28.

It’s the Feast of Tabernacles. The air is thick with celebration as the people gather to remember their ancestors’ long, weary journey through the wilderness. Water, poured out in ritual, is the symbol of God’s provision, a reminder of the streams that flowed from the rock to sustain Israel in their thirst. But then, just as they get to this point in the celebration, Jesus stands in the centre of the crowd and shouts for all to hear: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” He is the true source, the fulfillment of what they celebrate. Jesus is the Living Water. The One who quenches the deepest thirst of the soul. But now, that same Jesus hangs limp on a cross. Lips cracked. Tongue swollen. And he is thirsty. How can the One who offered living water to the world now be parched? Because he is fully God, yet fully human. His body — whipped, torn, scourged beyond recognition — writhes in agony under the searing heat of the Near Eastern sun. Every nerve screams, every breath is a battle. And now, the simplest, most basic human need consumes him. Thirst. A thirst so intense it was itself a form of torture (Carson, Pillar Commentary). To downplay his physical suffering is to cheapen the price he paid. But his thirst wasn’t just physical. It pointed to something deeper. The Living Water allowed himself to be emptied, so that we could be filled in him. The source of all life tasted the dryness of death, so that we would never thirst again. Come to Jesus. Drink deeply in him and be satisfied forever.

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Master and Servant-King, as You stooped to wash Your disciples’ feet, humble me to serve as You served, love as You loved, and forgive as You forgave. Bread of Life, as You broke the bread and lifted the cup, remind me daily that my life is found in Your sacrifice. Let me never grow weary of Your table from which I eat and drink the living water. Faithful Friend, as You prayed in the garden, teach me to watch and pray, to surrender my will to Yours, and to trust You in every sorrow. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Good Friday** 04.18.2025

**JOHN 19:30** "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and bowed his head and gave up his spirit.."

## VOICES OF THE PAST

"There is no coming to the fair haven of glory, but by the stormy sea of the cross" (John Flavel)

"Christ endured the hell of the cross so that his people might never know the hell of eternal wrath" (Thomas Brooks)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Isaac Watts, 1707)

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them through his blood.  
See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## READING OF THE LAW

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord Jesus,  
You hung between heaven and earth,  
Despised, rejected, forsaken.  
Yet it was for me You suffered,  
For my sins You bled.  
How can I stand before such love?  
Break me, cleanse me,  
And make my heart wholly Yours.  
Amen.  
(Adapted from John Flavel.)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Read Colossians 2:13-14

## SCRIPTURE READING

Read John 19:30

It is finished.  
No words have come at so great a cost.  
With one final breath, Jesus achieves what heaven had  
planned from eternity past. The cross was not an accident.  
Not a tragic twist of fate. Not the cruel punishment of a  
distant Father. This was the crescendo of redemption, the  
masterpiece of divine love reaching its climactic resolution.  
And in those three words, Jesus says more than we often  
stop to hear...

..."It." The perfect life has been lived. The sacrifice has been made. The full weight of divine wrath has been hurled down, absorbed, and exhausted. Judgment has fallen, and the penalty of sin has been paid in full. The offering stretches across time, reaching every nation, every soul. Love on full display. Grace poured out. Righteousness revealed. Mercy laid bare.

"Is." Present tense. Here and now. But with eternal impact. No loopholes. No fine print. Nothing left out. The work is complete, and it covers everything.

"Finished." Done. Sealed. Accomplished. No further payment required. No penance demanded. The sacrifice of Jesus is enough—for you, for me, for the world. In fact, it is the only payment the Father will accept. Your striving cannot add to it and your failures cannot undo it. Jesus took your place, and when you believe in him, his perfect righteousness becomes yours. That is what God sees when He looks at you. What is more, the enemy our soul is conquered. Finally. Fully. Forever. His power crushed. His defeat sealed. It. Is. Finished. No words have come at so great a cost. "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Lamb of God, as You bore the weight of my sin upon the cross, let me never cease to wonder at such love. May my sin grieve me as it grieved You. Merciful Savior, forgive me, as You forgave those who nailed You to the tree. Let Your blood cleanse me, Your suffering humble me, and Your love overwhelm me. O Dying Christ, in Your thirst, in Your agony, in Your final cry, let me see the cost of my salvation, and let me take up my cross to follow You. Conquering King, though the grave swallowed You, it could not hold You. Even in the darkness of death, You were victorious. Strengthen my hope in Your triumph. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, thank you for finishing the work of redemption for me. You are worthy because . . .
- Lord, forgive me for trying to achieve my own redemption when I . . .
- Lord, help me today to meditate deeply on your sacrifice for me and everything it means for . . . (name a circumstance in your life)
- Lord, when I'm tempted to trust in my own righteousness to earn your favour, I will . . .



# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Black Saturday** 04.19.2025

**LUKE 23:46** “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!’ And having said this he breathed his last.

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“Look upon your crucified Saviour, and let his wounds speak to your heart” (Thomas Watson)

“Christ’s agony in the garden was a taste of hell, that we might never fully drink of it” (Richard Sibbes)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Behold Him Now on Yonder Tree” (George S. Smith, 1887)

Behold him now on yonder tree, The Prince of Peace, the heavenly King; O what can his transgression be, Such shameful punishment to bring? And lo, a thief hangs on each side; Who justly suffers for his crime. But why should Christ be crucified, The one so holy, so divine?

O sinner, see, for you and me, He freely suffers in our stead; And lo, he dies upon the tree; Behold, he bows his sacred head! So pure, yet he has borne our guilt, By death our ransom he has paid; It was for us his blood was spilt; Our every sin on him was laid.

O loving Saviour, take my heart, No longer can I live from thee! With all unlike thee now I part; Thy wondrous love has conquered me. I yield to thee my little all; Accept me now, Lord, as thine own; I’ll be obedient to thy call And spend my life for thee alone.

Refrain: It was for me, yes, even me, That Jesus died on Calvary; My soul to cleanse from all its guilt, His precious blood thy Saviour spilt.

## READING OF THE LAW

Read Psalm 31:3-5

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ,  
You entered the grave to conquer it,  
You tasted death to destroy it.  
Though the world mourned,  
Heaven rejoiced.  
Let me never fear the grave,  
For in You, death has lost its sting.  
Forgive my fear, my love for this fading world,  
And set my heart on things above.  
Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Read 1 Peter 2:24-25

## SCRIPTURE READING

Read Luke 23:46  
History will bear witness to no greater turning point than the moment Jesus died on the cross. Even creation itself could not remain silent. Luke tells us that darkness swallowed the land for three unbearable hours because “the sun’s light failed” (Luke 23:45). It’s unthinkable—the sun, which has burned since the dawn of time, suddenly extinguished. But in that eerie midday midnight, the weight of sin was...

...revealed. A cosmic impossibility—the darkening of the very source of light—became reality, mirroring the suffocating grip of sin and its devastating reach.

Then, as if heaven itself were tearing open, the curtain of the temple ripped in two. A veil once barring the way to God now lay in ruins, torn not by human hands but by divine decree. The barrier between God and man was gone. Jesus had made a way, not just for a select few, but for all who would come.

And now, with his mission complete, Jesus speaks his final words from the cross:

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

The exodus of Jesus is complete.

Centuries earlier, another exodus unfolded. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, their shackles of slavery broken. That deliverance began with the first Passover, when the blood of a spotless lamb shielded God’s people from death, allowing them to escape judgment and begin their march to freedom. But here, at Calvary, Jesus leads a greater exodus. His death, resurrection, and ascension mark the ultimate liberation—not from the grip of Pharaoh, but from the chains of sin and the certainty of death. Faith in his finished work leads us to a Promised Land far greater than Canaan. Jesus leads us on the march to ultimate freedom.

Why? Because our Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, has shed his blood for us. His sacrifice is our deliverance. His death is our escape. His resurrection is our invitation to eternal freedom.

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

God of the silent tomb, in times when I see no light, let me trust that You are at work. When I wait, remind me that Your promises are sure, and resurrection is near. Lord of the Sabbath, as You rested in the tomb, let me rest in Your finished work. Teach me to trust, to be still, and to wait upon You. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, I worship you because you have led me from slavery in sin to freedom in you! Help me to remember this when . . .
- Father, I confess that I haven’t rested in your finished work when it comes to . . .
- Heavenly Father, help me to trust you are at work when I see no light in . . .
- Lord, in my waiting, I will believe your promise of . . .

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Resurrection Sunday!** 04.20.2025

**MATTHEW 28:6** “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

## VOICES OF THE PAST

“The resurrection of Christ is the Amen of all his promises” (John Boys)

“Because Christ rose, we are assured that our bodies shall rise also” (Richard Baxter)

“The empty tomb is the foundation of our hope and joy” (John Flavel)

## CALL TO WORSHIP / HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus Lives and So Shall I” (Christian F. Gellert, 1757)  
Jesus lives, and so shall I; Death, thy sting is gone forever! He  
who deigned for me to die lives, the bands of death to sever.  
He shall raise me with the just: Jesus is my Hope and Trust.  
Jesus lives, and reigns supreme, and, His kingdom still  
remaining, I shall also be with Him, ever living, ever reigning.  
God has promised: be it must: Jesus is my Hope and Trust.  
Jesus lives, and God extends grace to each returning sinner;  
rebels He receives as friends and exalts to highest honor.  
God is True as He is Just; Jesus is my Hope and Trust.  
Jesus lives, and by His grace, vict'ry o'er my passions giving, I  
will cleanse my heart and ways, ever to His glory living. Me  
He raises from the dust; Jesus is my Hope and Trust.  
Jesus lives! I know full well nought from Him my heart can  
sever, life nor death nor pow'rs of hell, joy nor grief,  
henceforth forever. None of all His saints is lost; Jesus is my  
Hope and Trust.  
Jesus lives, and death is now but my entrance into glory.  
Courage, then, my soul, for thou hast a crown of life before  
thee; thou shalt find thy hopes were just; Jesus is the  
Christian's Trust.

**READING OF THE LAW** Read Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10-11

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Glorious Savior,  
You have turned mourning into dancing,  
Despair into everlasting hope.  
Because You live, I shall live also.  
The sting of death is gone,  
The victory of sin is undone.  
Fill my soul with resurrection joy,  
That I may proclaim with all the saints:  
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Amen.  
(Adapted from Isaac Watts.)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Read John 11:25-26

**SCRIPTURE READING** Read Matthew 28:6

The cosmic upheaval of Good Friday and the eerie silence of  
Black Saturday inescapably gave way to Sunday's thunder. As  
the first rays of dawn stretched across the horizon, an angel  
descended like lightning, rolled back the massive stone sealing  
the tomb, and made the greatest declaration humanity has ever  
heard:

“He is not here, for He has risen, as He said!”

Imagine the dizzying emotion of that moment. What raced  
through Mary Magdalene's mind? How fast did the other Mary's  
heart pound in her chest? They had come in sorrow, expecting  
only death, but found themselves in the presence of heaven's  
messenger, bearing news that shattered the laws of nature  
itself. They had no idea their stunned responses would be  
recorded in Scripture for all time—that generations later,  
believers would smile at Mary's moment of mistaken identity,  
when she thought the resurrected Jesus was there to fertilize  
the lawn and water the flowers (John 20:15).

But before we dismiss her as naïve or overwhelmed by grief,  
consider this: how would you have reacted?

From Friday to Sunday, the world had been turned upside  
down. Jesus had been crucified in brutal agony. The midday sun  
had blacked out as if the universe itself went into mourning. The  
temple curtain, thick as a man's hand, had been torn in two by  
unseen forces. The earth had convulsed, rocks split apart, tombs  
burst open, and long-dead saints had walked out of their graves.  
And now an angel, radiant as the sun that just hours before had  
gone dark, sat atop a boulder that had once sealed the tomb of  
God himself, casually delivering the news that the One they  
mourned was actually alive.

By all accounts, the Mary's handled this better than most of us  
would have.

Yet, in the aftermath of despair, new emotions break through:  
“fear and great joy” (Matthew 28:8).

Fear, because who could witness such a thing and remain  
unmoved? But great joy because this moment changes  
everything. Death is undone. Sin's curse is broken. The enemy's  
hold is shattered. Every promise of God stands unshakably true.  
And because of this morning, one day, we too will rise again.

This morning is not for mourning.

This is a day of celebration, of great joy and uncontainable  
rejoicing.

**He is risen from the dead!**

**He is risen, indeed!**

# HOLY WEEK OF PRAYER



**Resurrection Sunday!** 04.20.2025

● **MATTHEW 28:6** “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

## PRAYING WITH THE PURITANS

Risen Christ, the grave is empty, and my soul is full! You have conquered sin and death—let me live in the power of Your resurrection. O Lord of Life, as You stepped from the tomb in glory, step into my heart afresh with resurrection power. Let my life proclaim that Christ is risen indeed! Victorious Savior, the stone is rolled away, and my chains are broken. Let me walk in newness of life, clothed in Your righteousness and filled with Your Spirit. Amen.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, I praise you because you have defeated death and therefore, I will rise with you!
- Lord, your resurrection power is alive in me. Forgive me for not believing that when I . . .
- Holy Spirit, fill me so I will have the courage to share the good news of the risen Jesus with . . .
- Jesus, when the world tempts me to put my hope in the dead god of \_\_\_\_, I will trust in you because you are alive and reigning in me!