



2025 Lenten Devotions

For Spiritual Preparation During
the Six Weeks Prior to Easter

DEVOTION SCHEDULE

DATE	WEEK	DEVOTIONAL	SCRIPTURE	HYMN	PAGE
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Penitence and Righteousness	Matt. 6:1-6, 19-21	<i>Higher Ground</i>	6
March 9	Midweek 1	Promise and Fulfillment	Isaiah 42, 43, 52, 53	<i>Here I Am Lord</i>	8
March 16	Midweek 2	Blood of the New Covenant	Mark 4:24-26	<i>Alas and Did My Savior Bleed</i>	10
March 23	Midweek 3	The Source of our Strength	Matt. 26:36-41	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	12
March 30	Midweek 4	Betrayal	John 18:1-11	<i>In the Garden</i>	14
April 6	Midweek 5	Submitting to God's Promises	Matt. 26:57	<i>Jesus Paid it All</i>	16
April 13	Midweek 6	Forgiveness	Luke 22:54-62	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	18
April 17	Holy Thursday	Christ the King	John 18:28-37	<i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	20
April 18	Good Friday	Behold the Man	John 19:1-19	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	22
April 19	Easter Vigil	Jesus Completes the Work	John 19:30	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	24
April 20	Easter Sunday	The Resurrection	John 3:16	<i>Oh Glorious Day</i>	26

PREPARING FOR EASTER

The most significant event in the Christian calendar is Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Christians can benefit greatly from this observance by preparing their hearts and minds through devotions which lead to personal repentance, prayer and commitment.

The preparation period, called "Lent", begins on Ash Wednesday, forty-six days before Easter Sunday. This period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where He fasted and where Satan tempted Him. Although many Christians do not fast during this period, we are all encouraged to make this an intentional season to focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice and resurrection.

This booklet is designed to be a reference and inspiration to Christians as they prepare (individually or collectively) during the Lenten period. This resource contains eleven devotionals, prepared by TWP members. Each devotion references a scripture and a sacred hymn. The first one begins on Ash Wednesday. It is followed by six devotions, one for each of the next six weeks leading up to the Holy Days before Easter. The remaining four devotions are to be used on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Saturday), and Easter Sunday.

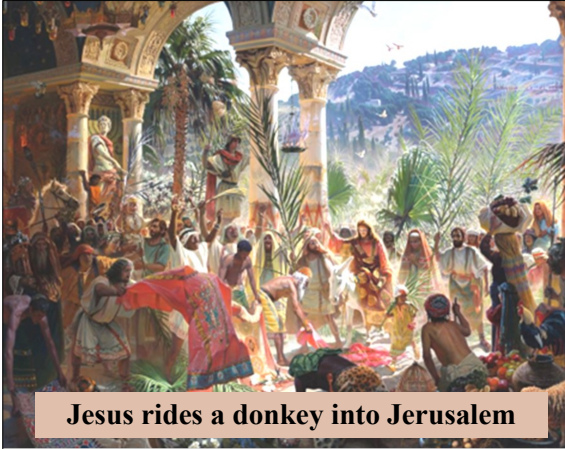
As Christians you are encouraged to use these devotions, the biblical scriptures they represent and the recording of a sacred hymn, to meditate, pray and focus on ways to improve your spiritual life and relationship with God. Hopefully, this preparation will result in your celebration of Easter with a renewed understanding of the observance, and a rededication of your life with the risen Christ.

The lyrics of a relevant hymn are shown on the page following the devotion. Recordings of these hymns can be accessed from the TWP website, under RESOURCES: Lenten 2025 Devotions.



Some of you may wish to enhance your meditation further by listening to more sacred music. The following link will allow you to view and listen to an entire Easter concert called "He is Risen". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFYSLwMX-yU>

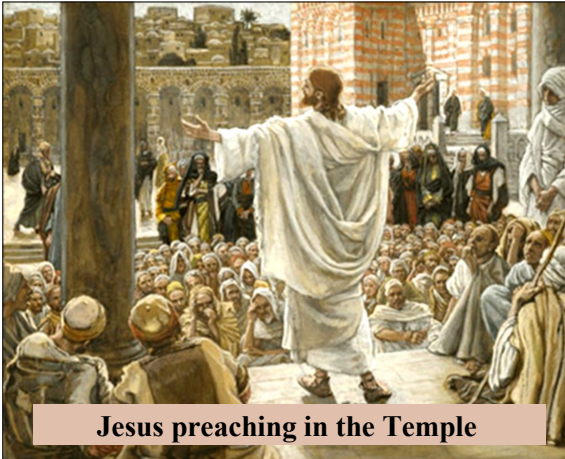
EVENTS LEADING TO EASTER



Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem



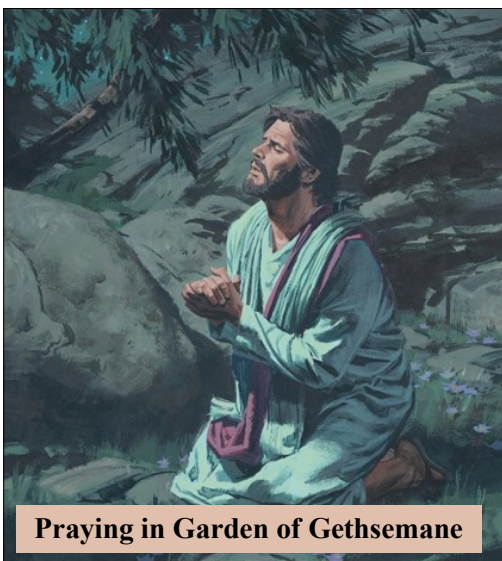
Jesus removes the moneychangers from the Temple



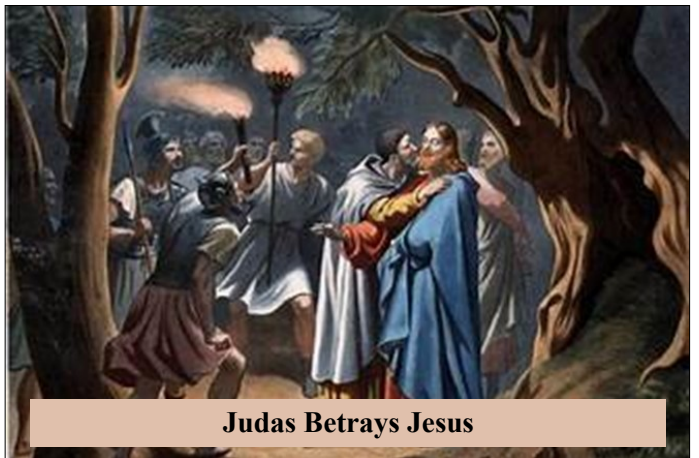
Jesus preaching in the Temple



The Last Supper



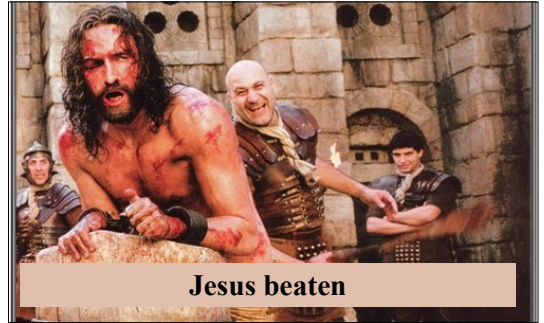
Praying in Garden of Gethsemane



Judas Betrays Jesus



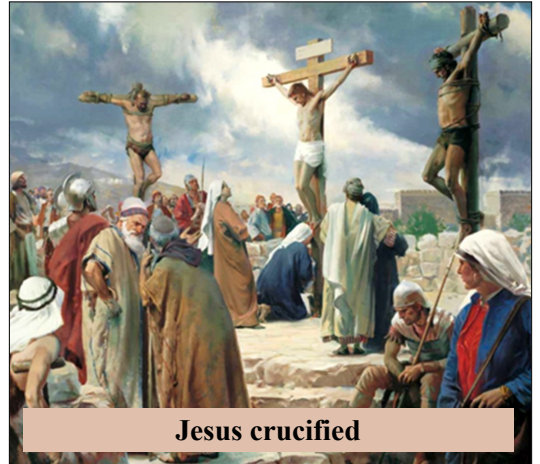
Jesus on trial



Jesus beaten



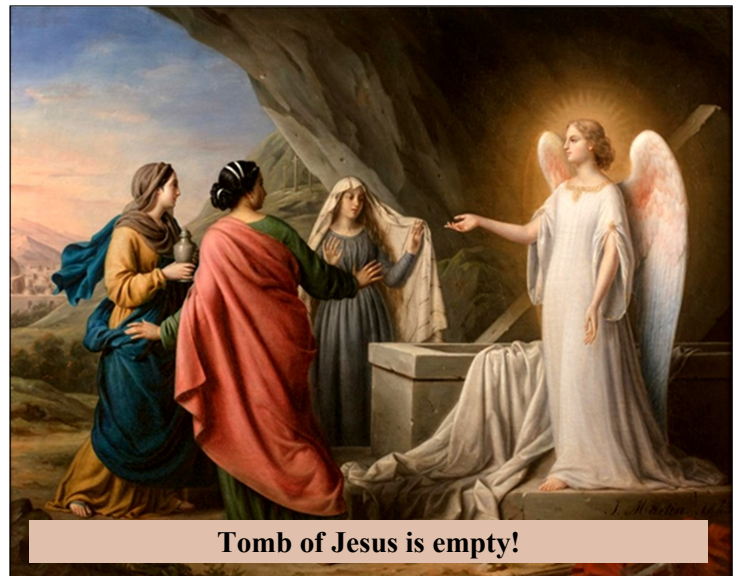
Jesus carries His cross



Jesus crucified



Jesus entombed



Tomb of Jesus is empty!

PENITENCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 6:1)

Ash Wednesday starts the season of Lent; a period when we are encouraged to engage in self-reflection and introspection.

It is a time for penitence (remorse) for our shortcomings, and a time for commitment (rededication) to grow in righteousness. It is a time to focus on becoming more like Christ in our character (nature), conscience (attitude) and conduct (faithfulness).

In the passage we read today, Jesus teaches that we are to live for the glory of God. We are to have the right motives for all that we do—which is to glorify the Father, and not ourselves. In Matthew 6:1-6 Jesus provides two examples of actions that can be used for self-serving motives and vain glory: giving publicly to the needy and offering public prayers. And in verses 16-18 He offers similar comments about seeking attention during fasting.

Each of the three examples Jesus points out may be undertaken for the wrong reasons: to seek attention, to receive honor, and to be praised by others. Jesus says that those who engage in such self-promotion do not receive a reward from God. Their "reward" (vainglory) is here on earth, not in Heaven.

In verses 19-21 Jesus turns to the things we value in life. He calls these our "treasures" (our priorities in life). Our treasures can be either material (fancy home, financial savings, collections) or non-material (status, position, activities, passions). There are many things in our lives that are important to us and that we value. Lent is a time for us to consider which of these "treasures" (priorities) might be getting in the way of our relationship with God and our growth to become more like Jesus.

In the hymn "Higher Ground", the author states in verse 3 that he wants to live above the ways of the world, and in verse 4 says "Lord, lead me on to Higher Ground." His point is that as children of God, we are to live differently. We have different standards. We seek to serve God and receive His approval...not the approval of others.

God calls those who believe in Him to follow Him - to become the children of God (I John 3:2). As God's children we are called to become more like His son Jesus Christ in the way we live our lives (1 John 2:6). During this season of Lent may we all reflect upon our shortcomings, and then rededicate ourselves to live our lives as unto the Lord in all that we do (Colossian 3:23-24).

Becky and Randy Washington



Higher Ground

**I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."**

**My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.**

**I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.**

**I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."**

**Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.**

PROMISE AND FULFILLMENT: JESUS, THE SUFFERING SERVANT

The early Christians believed that Jesus was the anointed Messiah, sent by God as Redeemer of His wayward people. Isaiah included four sections now called *Servant Songs*: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 49: 1-6, 52: 4-5; 52:13 - 53: 12. For early Christians there was promise in Hebrew scriptures and fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah described the condition of the people: *We all, like sheep have gone astray... and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* (53:6)

He emphasized the suffering servant: *He was despised and rejected by mankind; a man of suffering and familiar with pain.* (53:3)

He endured suffering to save His people: *He was pierced for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by his wounds we are healed.* 53:5

Isaiah linked redemption to suffering. Christians see parallels between Jesus and the suffering servant; both were despised, wounded, bruised, whipped and silent; akin to a lamb brought to the slaughter.

(53:3, 5,7) The Servant is the Redeemer.

The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (53:6)

He poured out His life unto death; He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors. (53:12)

Despite suffering, this servant shall be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. (52:13)

He will bring justice. (42:1)

My righteous servant will justify many. (42:1)

The triumph of Christ over death is the meaning of Easter.

The crucified one becomes the exalted one.

Lent ends not in death, but in death overcome by resurrection!

Here I Am Lord

**I, the Lord of sea and sky. I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin. My hand will save**

**I, who made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain. I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame. I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save**

**Finest bread I will provide. 'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart!**



March 16

Week 2 of Lent

Mark 4:24-26

BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT

And He said to them, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:24-26)

This statement from Jesus occurred in the Upper Room near the end of the Passover meal. Jesus was instituting what is called "communion" or the Lord's Supper. Today, it is one of two sacraments practiced in many Christian churches. The second common sacrament is baptism.

Jesus broke off a portion of the loaf of bread and passed it to one of His disciples who did the same. After Jesus had encouraged them to eat the bread, He then said, ". . . this is My body."

Then Jesus lifted up a cup, encouraged them to drink from their cups, and said, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins . . ." In the very next verse, Jesus says that He would not drink again from the "fruit of the vine" until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God. Jesus was using imagery or symbolism to communicate an idea. The bread and wine were symbols of His death on the cross.

Under the new blood covenant, Jesus could remove man's sins when he or she believed in Him. That is, their sins were remitted, or canceled, when he or she believed and trusted in God. The New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant – Mosaic Covenant or The Law. The old covenant could never remove sins since the blood of sheep and goats could not take away sin. Jesus offered Himself, the spotless lamb of God, as a sacrifice that would forgive sin once and for all. (Mark 14:24 NIV). After Christ's crucifixion, this Old Covenant was obsolete. The New Covenant gave life – spiritual life—a new and better way.

The death of Jesus' physical body made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven. This new covenant was and is the extension of God's love for us so we could live in relationship with him.

During this Lenten season, let us thank Him for the blood of the new covenant.

Diane and Tim Hutto

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?**

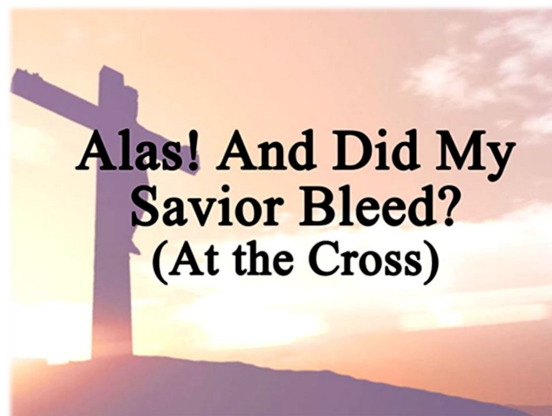
**Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For man the creature's sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away
'Tis all that I can do.**

**At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!**



THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:36-41)

Falling on His face in prayer, in a dark olive grove, Jesus is in literal agony, full of sorrow and sweating profusely. He has prayed to His Father that, if possible, the cup of God's judgment could pass from Him; though He has made it clear that He will submit to the Father's will. He returned to find His three most trusted disciples sleeping instead of "watching" with Him.

Now Jesus urges them to watch and pray. He wants them to ask that they not fall prey to temptation. Jesus may be talking about the temptation to sleep, or He might mean the temptation that will soon arrive to abandon Jesus because of danger. Jesus acknowledges that their spirit is willing to do what is right and honorable, but their flesh—their desires, appetites, urges—is weak. To *be tempted* is no sin, but when we fall to temptation, it is our fault alone.

Jesus' words provide a clear instruction for one way to battle temptation to do wrong. **Prayer.** Prayer is a God-given weapon against our own sinful desires. God provides for believers to overcome temptation, in part, through urgent and faithful prayer.

We need to submit to whatever God's will is for our lives. Jesus recognized this; He asked God to take away the suffering, recognizing that nothing is impossible for God; but He knew that God knows best. Sometimes we need God to say "No" to our prayers.

Some things are outside of the control of human beings. Sometimes our body has a mind of its own, and it is debilitating. Jesus showed all of this to His disciples, for to know that He was human, and He had struggles that are beyond Him.

So today, accept with faith that God is the ultimate Source of Our Strength in everything.
Take everything to the Lord in prayer. AMEN!

Connie and Kathy Cochran



Sweet Hour of Prayer

**Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!**

**Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

**Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

March 30

Week 4 of Lent

John 18:1-11

BETRAYAL

Reflecting on the events in the Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus entered the Garden with Peter, James, and John. Jesus prayed long and hard for God to release Him from the upcoming tragedy, but followed His plea with, "...not my will but thine be done."

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. John 18:2

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greeting, Rabbi." and kissed him. Matthew 26:49

We learn from the Old Testament the teaching of Soloman: *Do not betray another man's confidence* (Proverbs 25:9). Judas violated the confidence of Jesus, causing Him suffer "draconian consequences".

What is BETRAYAL? Betrayal is the breaking or violation of a presumptive contract, trust or confidence that produces moral or psychological conflict within a relationship amongst individuals.

Because our Lord and Savior had established a strong, trusting relationship with Judas, the pain and agony of Judas' betrayal couldn't have been greater; but our Lord exhibited the ultimate sacrifice by saying: *Friend, do what you came for?* Matt: 26:50.

After Judas kissed Him, Jesus was immediately "seized and arrested." The Lord's Son was then crucified due to the betrayal of Judas. We must know and realize that there are negative consequences from betrayal.

During this season of Lent, we should prayerfully dedicate our lives to true **honesty and integrity with all relationships**. We should reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross and give prayerful thought to the true meaning of His sacrifice.

Christ, came to serve, live, and die for our sins. Lent ends on the glorious day of Easter when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We are no longer cursed to the grave, but when we confess our sins, we are forgiven!

Tom and Donna Burdett

In the Garden

**I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.**

**He speaks, and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.**

**I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.**

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**



April 6

Week 5 of Lent

Matthew 26:57

SUBMITTING TO GOD'S PROMISES

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. Matthew 26:57

As we live out our life, submission to God's will, in place of our personal desire, clearly demonstrates our love for Christ and for God the Father.

In Matthew's account of Jesus's trial before Caiaphas and the elders, Jesus demonstrates for all humankind how He surrendered His self-will. Indeed, Jesus knowingly submits to the will of His Father, to the point of death, in this greatest example of faithfulness and obedience imaginable.

Initially, the trial was a sham with witnesses giving false testimony by distorting Jesus's words. Witnesses claimed that Jesus said He was able to destroy and rebuild the temple in three days; and was therefore a threat to Roman authority. Their attempts were so transparently false that their eyewitness testimony failed. The high priest then realized that without Jesus's own testimony, His conviction was in doubt and Jesus would be released.

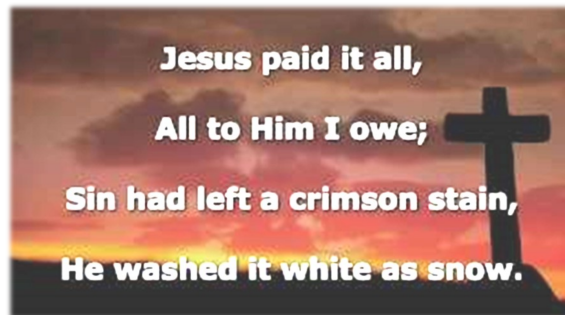
Jesus had not spoken in His defense; thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7. *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers.*

In exasperation, Caiaphas stood up and pleads with Jesus, "Do you make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against you?"

In this pivotal moment Jesus faced a decision, "to live or to die". Not speaking would justifiably demonstrate His faithfulness to prophecy and spare His life. Declaring His identity as the Son of God would demonstrate His faithfulness to the Father and result in death. His choice paid the price for our sins and gave eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Our choice is to believe that His sacrifice reconciled our sinful life with God the Father. As the sacred hymn says, "*Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*" **Praise God!**

Don and Alison Greene



Jesus Paid It All

**I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."**

**For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.**

**Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.**

**When from my dying bed
My ransomed soul shall rise,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
Shall rend the vaulted skies.**

**And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down,
All down at Jesus' feet.**

**Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

FORGIVENESS

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him:

“Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” (Luke 22:61)

Jesus knew Peter’s heart. Peter was a “go getter”; impulsive, eager, and overly emotional at times. We know Peter was restored, but the hurt in Peter’s heart lingered. In John 21:15-19, Jesus asked Peter three times *Do you love me?* John tells us that Peter was grieved over this.

Sin does that. Forgiveness from our Lord is not earned, it is given by His grace. Peter would be used mightily by the Lord on Pentecost and to establish the Lord’s church in Jerusalem and beyond. God would fulfill His promise to Peter to build His name upon Peter’s life, just as He had said that *Upon this rock, I will build my church.* Matthew 16:18. Jesus knew Peter’s heart, and He knew Peter would return with enthusiasm and devotion.

Failure is not final. We all fail, and we all blow it. The Hymn writer of *Amazing Grace* would become a pastor despite having been a slave trader. On two occasions, John Newton would realize forgiveness for his sins. First, he was saved during a horrible storm where he could have lost his life. God would preserve John a second time after he became sick on another voyage. John recognized God’s grace and sought His forgiveness. Regretfully, he did not leave the slave trade immediately. At the age of 39, he left the slave trade. With the encouragement of others, John would not only serve as a pastor, but he would become a mighty voice to end slavery in England.

John Newton is remembered for these great words: *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.* He truly understood the grace of God in this hymn which has been sung by thousands.

Failure is not final. God’s grace is more powerful than our sin.

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith..., Ephesians 2:8.

(For John Newton’s story see <http://freedomtolead.net/john-story/>)

Daniel and Amber Patrick

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.



April 17

Holy Thursday

John 18:28-37

CHRIST THE KING

“You are the king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “you are right in saying I am a king, in fact for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on this side of truth listens to me.” (John 18:37)

The scene of the interrogation of Jesus by Pilate the Roman Governor took place in the **Judgment Hall** of the former palace of King Herod. The Roman citizens could not enter, nor could they pass judgment on a convicted criminal so they handed Jesus over to Pilate to pass judgment. Pilate had heard of Jesus but never had he seen Him face to face. The interrogation went like this:

Are you the King of the Jews? he asked.

Is that what you say or has someone told this to you? Jesus answered.

What is it that you have done? he asked.

My kingdom is not of this world but now is of another place. Jesus answered.

So, you are a King then? he asked.

Jesus replied, ***The reason I came into this world is to testify to the truth; everyone who knows the truth listens to me.***

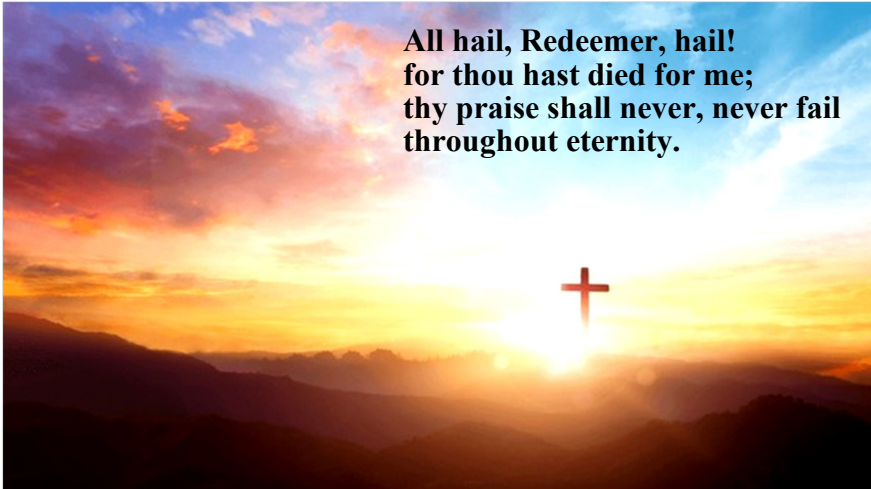
Then Pilate presented Jesus again to the people, washed his hands, and said:

You can take him and crucify him for I find no fault in him.

Frustration and anger often come to light when people don't recognize or are not willing to accept the **truth**. The Jews that brought Jesus to Pilate could not or would not see or accept the **truth**. You see, Jesus Himself is the **truth**, the life, and the way. He is the King of the Jews and King of Kings, the living Son of God, the true Messiah, the spotless Lamb of God sent to redeem the world through His death and resurrection, and we must continually revel in these **truths** and look forward to when we one day will lay our earthly crowns at His feet and crown HIM with many crowns and say:

*Awake my soul and sing, of You, oh Lord who died for me and
I will hail you as my matchless King throughout all eternity!*

Gary Allen



**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing, Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King, Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His wondering eye, At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heaven! One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him given, From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise, For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days, Adored and magnified.**

April 18

Good Friday

John 19:1-19

BEHOLD THE MAN

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. (John 19:1)

The Jewish leaders who felt threatened by Jesus' popularity arrested Him and turned Him over to Pilate to be executed. Pilate examined Jesus but found no reason for His arrest and certainly not for putting Him to death. Pilate tried to free Jesus, but the Jews were determined to have Him crucified. When Pilate felt his position as ruler was in danger he gave in to the Jews and had Jesus crucified.

But all of this was not because the Jews got their way or that Pilate gave in to them or that Satan triumphed over Jesus. This all happened because God had preordained that His Son would be crushed and humiliated and be made to be sin so that the wrath of God could be poured out on Jesus as payment for the forgiveness of the sins of all mankind.

We need to understand that God's timing of these events was perfect. Good Friday occurred the day after Jesus ate the Passover meal with His apostles. Passover was the celebration and remembrance of the Hebrews being set free from slavery in Egypt. The death of Jesus on Good Friday was timed so that mankind could celebrate and remember the setting free of humanity from slavery to sin and Satan and hell. The only thing that humans need to do is to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and follow Him.

In order for all this to happen the Second Person of the Trinity humbled Himself and became a human being while still being deity. He became the God-Man who walked on earth for 33 years as a normal person, although He was empowered to perform miracles. It was necessary for Him to become a human because, as deity, the Son of God was eternal and could not die or shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. But unlike all other humans Jesus was totally obedient to the Law of Moses and He obeyed His Father in all respects and at all times being perfectly sinless.

Jesus was tempted by Satan throughout His life, but He never sinned. So, He was the perfect Sacrifice provided by God as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. That Sacrifice was offered up to God at the cross on Good Friday.

But God raised Him up from the grave on Easter morning, proving that He was the Son of God and proving that His Sacrifice for the sins of all humanity was accepted by God. **Hallelujah!**

Dick Pitzer

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain**

**Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary**

**In the old rugged Cross, stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To pardon and sanctify me**

**To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.



JESUS COMPLETES THE WORK GOD GAVE HIM TO DO

*When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,”
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30).*

In the Greek New Testament “It is finished” is only one word: “Tetelestai”, which means: “to bring to an end”, “to finish”, “to complete”, “to accomplish”, or “to pay what one owes”. Indeed, on the cross, Jesus has “finished” in every sense of ‘tetelestai’. He accomplishes all that the Father has given him to do (John 17:4). He fulfilled all of the requirements of the law, fulfills all of our obligations, pays all of our debt to sin, and triumphs over all of his enemies (Col. 2:13-15), and sets us free from sin that we may to live His very life and experience His presence.

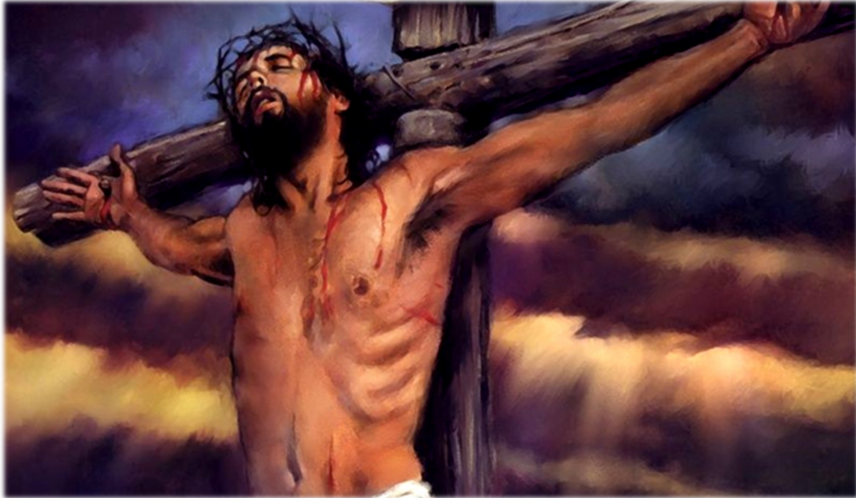
John tells us that Jesus ‘bowed his head and gave up his spirit’. Luke 23:46 tells us that Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” So, if there is any sorrow in our hearts at the sight of Jesus on the cross it should be that of a remorse that leads to repentance; for Jesus chose this road to walk; he chose to complete and fulfill his Father’s will; and in his last breath — **He gave** his life — it wasn’t taken from him (John 10:18).

Jesus could not have truthfully declared “Tetelestai — It Is Finished” if he had not with every step along the way to the cross declared “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” “Commend” in this sense means ‘to entrust’, or ‘to present for acceptance and approval’. This, too, is how we are to live – in every breath, in every step, and in every thought along the way – entrusting all of our ways and all of life to God. When you do you too may be able to say that you have completed the work that God has given you to do.

Prayer “Father, today as I rise from my bed to do all the things that need to be done — into your hands I commend my spirit. Father, as I meet the demands that others may have on my time — into your hands I commend my spirit. Father, for opportunities to tell others of my Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ – into your hands I commend my Spirit. Father, in every hour and in every day, with every thought and every word and every deed — into your hands I commend my spirit.”

None of us will ever be given the tasks that Jesus was given, but each of us has been given something to do and by His Spirit each of us has been equipped to do it. Are you doing it? May you continue in that work which our Lord has given you to do; and may you always commend your spirit to our Lord — who is the perfecter, “the great finisher”, of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Terry and Shanna Goodnight



When I Survey The Wonderous Cross

**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 to 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.**

April 20

Easter Sunday

John 3:16

THE RESURRECTION

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

At the end of 2023, we had the joy of having both daughters stay with us after Amy's surgery. Our oldest daughter, Jathniel, stayed in the hospital with Amy for six straight days. Eventually, she had to return to her family in Cincinnati. Because Charissa, our youngest, is single and able to work remotely, she was with us through the first week of January.

One morning, I greeted Charissa with the words, "She is risen."

"Don't be blasphemous," she retorted.

I understood her reaction. It sounded like I might be trivializing the ancient Christian Easter greeting of "He is risen...He is risen, indeed!" I emphatically assured her that was not the case.

"That is biblical truth," I said. "You have been raised with Christ! This is another day when you live because He lives."

Charissa immediately agreed that this was true. On this Resurrection morning, that is exactly where we should find great joy. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, you have also been raised.

- Certainly, that means you will be resurrected in the future (1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:52; John 11:25; Romans 6:5; 2 Corinthians 4:14). That is our hope. One day, we will be raised in a new body, like Jesus' glorious body. You will be like Him, for you will see Him as He is. With those resurrected bodies, we will live forever with the Lord in the place He has gone to prepare.
- But if you are in Christ, you have already experienced resurrection. You have been raised to new life. That fact is clearly stated in Colossians 3:1 "you have been raised with Christ," and Ephesians 2:5 "God made us alive in Christ, even when we were dead in sin." According to Ephesians 2:6: "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."

The song "Glorious Day" expresses well the experience of being raised with Christ. Just as Jesus walked out of the grave, so does everyone who believes in Him. They "will not perish but have eternal life." On this Resurrection morning, step joyfully into this glorious day of victory that is yours because Jesus lives.

You are risen...You are risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

John and Amy Beukema

Oh Glorious Day

**One day when Heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is He
Word became flesh and the light shined among us
His glory revealed**

**One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And took the nails for me**

**One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose, over death He had conquered
Now He's ascended, my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
From rising again**

**One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing
My Savior, Jesus, is mine**

**Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me.
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming. Oh glorious day**





An Interdenominational Church

Mission

Go, make disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded.

Matthew 28:19-20



Christ Centered

- ◆ We value the good news of Jesus as the reason for and the goal of everything we do.

Biblical Truth

- ◆ We value relevant Bible teaching that penetrates hearts, renews minds and transforms lives toward growing Christ-likeness.

Genuine Worship

- ◆ We value worship that proclaims the glory of the triune God; celebrating his holy name, great power and sovereign will.

Sacrificial Mission

- ◆ We value service and outreach that demonstrates our love for God by ministering to those in need and sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus.

Authentic Fellowship

- ◆ We value a faith family that shares spiritual gifts, personal resources, mutual acceptance and caring accountability to encourage each other to become more like Jesus.

Sunday Worship Services

Sun City Campus

811 Sun City Blvd, Georgetown
Traditional Worship

Rocky Hollow Campus

375 Foy Road (formerly CR 245),
Georgetown
Praise & Worship

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