**EASTER AT CVC** 

# Holy Week Prayer



# — THE PASSION WEEK ———

|                |  |    | MATTHEW              | MARK                 | LUKE     | JOHN                 | 9        | LOCATION        |
|----------------|--|----|----------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|
|                | TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM   | M  | 21:1-11              | 11:1-10              | 19:29-44 |                      |          | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
|                | JESUS LOOKS AROUND THE TEMPLE  |    |                      | 11:11                | .,,_,    |                      |          | JERUSALEM       |
|                | JESUS RETURNS TO BETHANY   |    |                      | 11:11                |          |                      | Ŏ        | BETHANY         |
|                | JESUS CURSES THE BARREN FIG TREE   | IM | 21:18-19             | 11:12-14             |          |                      |          | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
|                | JESUS CLEANSES THE TEMPLE  |    | 21:12-13             | 11:15-18             | 19:45-48 |                      |          | JERUSALEM       |
|                | CERTAIN GREEKS ASK TO SEE JESUS  |    |                      |                      |          | 12:20-35             | T        |                 |
|                | JESUS REBUKES UNBELIEF   |    |                      |                      |          | 12:37-50             |          |                 |
|                | JESUS RETURNS TO BETHANY   |    |                      | 11:19                |          |                      | 0        | BETHANY         |
|                | DISCIPLES SEE THE FULLY WITHERED FIG TREE  | F  | 21:19-22             | 11:20-26             | 21:37-38 |                      | _        | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
|                | JESUS' AUTHORITY QUESTIONED BY LEADERS   |    | 21:23-27             | 11:27-33             | 20:1-8   |                      |          | JERUSALEM       |
|                | PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS  |    | 21:28-32             | 11127 00             | 20       |                      | T        |                 |
|                | PARABLE OF THE VINEDRESSERS  |    | 21:33-46             | 12:1-12              | 20:9-19  |                      |          |                 |
|                | PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST   |    | 22:1-14              |                      |          |                      |          |                 |
|                | PHARISEES' QUESTION ABOUT PAYING TAXES   |    | 22:15-22             | 12:13-17             | 20:20-26 |                      |          |                 |
|                | PHARISEES' QUESTION ABOUT THE RESURRECTION   |    | 22:23-33             | 12:18-27             | 20:27-40 |                      |          |                 |
|                | SCRIBES' QUESTION ABOUT THE GREAT COMMANDMENT  |    | 22:35-40             | 12:28-34             |          |                      |          |                 |
|                | JESUS' QUESTION ABOUT DAVID'S LORD   |    | 22:41-46             | 12:35-37             | 20:41-44 |                      |          |                 |
|                | WOE TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES   |    | 23:1-39              | 12:38-40             | 20:45-47 |                      |          |                 |
|                | POOR WIDOW'S MITE  |    |                      | 12:41-44             | 21:1-4   |                      | ļ        |                 |
|                | PROPHECY - DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, LORD'S COMING   |    | 24:1-51              | 13:1-37              | 21:5-36  |                      |          | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
|                | PARABLES – TEN VIRGINS, TALENTS , SHEEP AND GOATS  |    | 25:1-46              |                      |          |                      | Ţ        |                 |
|                | SANHEDRIN PLOT TO KILL JESUS   |    | 26:3-5               | 14:1-2               | 22:1-2   |                      |          | JERUSALEM       |
|                | JUDAS AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS   |    | 26:14-16             | 14:10-11             | 22:3-6   |                      | T        |                 |
|                | PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER   |    | 26: 17-19            | 14:12-16             | 22:7-13  |                      |          |                 |
| 6:00 PM        | JESUS & THE DISCIPLES ASSEMBLE FOR THE PASSOVER  |    | 26:20                | 14:17                | 22:14-16 | 13:1                 |          |                 |
| 0.00 7 111     | DISCIPLES ARGUE OVER WHO IS THE GREATEST   |    | 20.20                | 1-1.17               | 22:24-30 | 10.1                 |          |                 |
|                | JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET   |    |                      |                      | 22.24 00 | 13:2-17              |          |                 |
|                | JESUS IDENTIFIES HIS BETRAYER  |    | 26:21-25             | 14:18-21             | 22:21-23 | 13:18-30             |          |                 |
|                | JESUS INSTITUTES THE LORD'S SUPPER   |    | 26:26-29             | 14:22-25             | 22:15-20 |                      |          |                 |
|                | THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE  |    |                      |                      |          | 13:31-35             |          |                 |
|                | JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL  |    | 26:31-35             | 14:27-31             | 22:31-38 | 13:36-38             |          |                 |
|                | JESUS GIVES THE UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE   |    |                      |                      |          | 14:1-30              |          |                 |
|                | JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES SING A HYMN & DEPART   |    | 26:30                | 14:26                |          | 14:31                |          |                 |
| 12:00 AM 🕕     | JESUS' DISCOURSE ON THE WAY TO GETHSEMANE  |    |                      |                      |          | 15:1-16:33           |          |                 |
| 12:00 AM       | JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES  |    |                      |                      |          | 17:1-26              |          |                 |
|                | JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE  |    | 26:36-46             | 14:32-42             | 22:39-46 | 18:1                 |          | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
|                | JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED   |    | 26:47-56             | 14:43-52             | 22:47-53 | 18:2-12              | Ţ        |                 |
| 3:00 AM        | JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE ANNAS  |    |                      |                      |          | 18:13-14             |          | JERUSALEM       |
|                | JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE CAIAPHAS   |    |                      |                      |          | 18:24                | Τ        |                 |
|                | JESUS IS CONDEMNED & MISTREATED THROUGH THE NIGHT  |    | 26:57-68             | 14:53-65             | 22:54-72 |                      |          |                 |
|                | PETER DENIES JESUS THREE TIMES   |    | 26:58-75             | 14:54-72             | 22:54-62 | 18:15-27             |          |                 |
|                | SANHEDRIN FORMALLY CONDEMN JESUS   |    | 27:1                 | 15:1                 | 22:66-71 |                      | ı.       |                 |
| •              | JUDAS GOES OUT AND COMMITS SUICIDE   |    | 27:3-10              |                      |          |                      | 0        | FIELD OF BLOOD  |
| 6:00 AM        | JESUS APPEARS BEFORE PILATE  |    | 27:2-14              | 15:1-5               | 23:1-7   | 18:28-38             | 0        | JERUSALEM       |
|                | JESUS APPEARS BEFORE HEROD   |    |                      |                      | 23:8-12  |                      |          |                 |
|                | JESUS APPEARS BEFORE PILATE AGAIN  |    | 27:15-23             | 15:6-14              | 23:13-22 | 18:39-40             |          |                 |
|                | JESUS IS SCOURGED AND MOCKED BY THE ROMANS   |    | 27:27-31             | 15:16-19             |          | 19:1-3               |          |                 |
|                | PILATE CONSENTS TO JESUS' DEATH  |    | 27:22-26             | 15:12-15             | 23:20-25 | 19:4-16              |          |                 |
| 9:00 AM        | JESUS IS LED AWAY TO BE CRUCIFIED  |    | 27:31-34             | 15:20-23             | 23:26-32 | 19:16-17             | <u>.</u> |                 |
| 12:00 PM 4     | JESUS ON THE CROSS FOR THE FIRST THREE HOURS JESUS ON THE CROSS FOR THE FINAL THREE HOURS  |    | 27:35-44<br>27:45-50 | 15:24-32<br>15:33-37 | 23:33-43 | 19:18-24<br>19:25-30 | U        | CALVARY         |
| 0.00 7 //      | MIRACLES ACCOMPANYING THE CRUCIFIXION  |    | 27:43-30             | 15:33-37             | 23:44-46 | 19:23-30             |          |                 |
| VISUALTHEOLOGY | JOSEPH BURIES THE BODY OF JESUS  |    | 27:57-61             | 15:38-41             | 23:43-49 |                      |          | GARDEN TOMB     |
|                |  | T  | 27:62-66             | 15.72 4/             | 20.50 55 | 19:31-42             | 7        | CARDEN IOMB     |
| 뿓              | JEWISH LEADERS SECURE THE TOMB THE WOMEN OBSERVE THE SABBATH DAY   |    | 2,.02 00             |                      | 23:56    | 17.01 72             | Ô        | AT HOME         |
| SUAL           | THE RESIDENCE OF THE STREET OF |    |                      |                      | 10.00    |                      |          |                 |
|                | MARY MAGDALENE, JOANNA, & MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES COME TO THE TOMB AND FIND JESUS RISEN   | N  | 28:1-8               | 16:1-8               | 24:1-8   | 20:1                 | <b>3</b> | GARDEN TOMB     |

# Day 1: A Better Deliverer

#### Reading: Exodus 2:23-25 // Romans 8:18-39

Months ago we started this journey through the book of Exodus—following God's sovereign hand and perfect plan amidst foolish people. But the Exodus is not just a story stuck in ancient history—it foreshadows a great deliverance, a new people, a better Moses, and an eternal Promised Land.

When we think of Easter, Exodus is not the first book of the Bible that comes to mind. But I invite you, this Easter season, to see how the slaves in Egypt, judgements on Pharaoh, bread made without yeast, commandments on stones, and people on a journey through the wilderness all point to Jesus.

The transition from Genesis into Exodus seems a bit abrupt. Things are going well—Joseph and his family have moved to Egypt, there has been forgiveness between Joseph and his brothers, and this little family is doing exactly what God had commanded Adam and Eve back in Exodus—they're multiplying.

But things go south rather quickly—a dead Joseph, a new Pharaoh, and an enslaved people. In the darkness of Egyptian bondage, the Israelites' cry rose to God, a plea for deliverance from their suffering.

Suffering, groaning, pain, and struggle are not unique to the Israelites of the Exodus. Nor are these themes alien to us—we're still groaning awaiting deliverance. Theologians often speak of the Kingdom of God being in an already/not yet state. Jesus has won the decisive victory over sin and death, and yet we're still affected by the affects of The Fall. The victory has already been won, but the full affect of that victory has not yet been realized. Paul speaks of this in his letter to the Romans (in the reading for today).

If you have been delivered from your old, sinful life by trusting Jesus to be the leader and forgiver of your life, you have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit—the firstfruits—the down-payment that there is yet more deliverance to come. Jesus will return with the armies of heaven, defeat Satan once-and-for-all, and will usher his people into the new creation where pain, sorrow, and tears will cease forever. There will be no more groaning—no more crying for deliverance.

Easter not only reminds us that Jesus has won the battle, but that he will also win the war. His body coming out of the ground is a guarantee that your body will come out of the ground. His victory on the cross and at the empty grave remind us that our groaning and cry for deliverance will soon be answered fully and finally by our great savior.

Deliver Us → Andrew Peterson

Abide → Worship Initiative

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 $\Big($  Listen on Youtube  $\Big)$ 

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DAY 1

#### **Prayer Prompts**

**Thanksgiving for Deliverance:** Thank God for hearing our cries and providing deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ. Acknowledge His sovereignty and thank Him for His unfailing love.

**Trust in Trials:** Pray for the strength to trust God during your current situations of groaning. Ask for faith to believe that God's plans are for our good, even when the path is marked by suffering.

**Surrender to God's Will:** Seek the grace to surrender your will to God, just as Jesus did. Pray for the courage to say, "Not my will, but Yours be done," in every area of your life.

**Intercession for the Enslaved and Oppressed:** Intercede on behalf of those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually enslaved. Pray for their liberation and that they would come to know the freedom found in Christ.

**Revival and Renewal:** Ask God to revive your spirit and renew your commitment to live in the freedom of His salvation. Pray that this Easter season would bring a deeper understanding of the resurrection's power in your life.

## Day 2: Better Water

#### Reading: Exodus 14:1-31 // Romans 6:1-14

Water is a common theme throughout Exodus. The little ark that Moses' mother floats him down the Nile in is intended to bring to remembrance the rescue of Noah through the flood. Years later, passing through water is again the pathway to deliverance. The Hebrew people had been miraculously delivered from their slavery in Egypt, but the fear of yet another change of Pharaoh's mind still gripped them. He had already established a reputation for relenting when things got difficult and reneging when the pressure was off. Would Pharaoh come for them again?

In his sermon on this passage several weeks ago, pastor Josh mentioned that the people lifted their eyes to see the Egyptians when they should have continued to sky their eyes and look to Yahweh who had continually proven to be their deliverer. Regardless of their fear and faithlessness, Yahweh does what he had always intended to do—get glory for himself and to let both the Israelites and the Egyptians know that he, and he alone, is God.

But there is more water to come—better water. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthian church notes that the Hebrew people were "baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea." The people are being united to Moses, but he is only able to provide a certain level of freedom. Just as the Israelites left their chains behind in the divided waters of the Red Sea, so we leave our old selves behind in the waters of baptism. Christian baptism a public declaration of our faith and a transformative moment that aligns us with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It marks our entry into a community of believers and a life of freedom and service under God's sovereignty.

This Easter weekend, we have the opportunity to witness baptisms at our services. You'll hear stories about people leaving behind what once enslaved them. This Easter, as we celebrate with our brothers and sisters who will be baptized, we are reminded to live in the freedom won by Christ—a freedom not just from sin, but to live for something greater—His kingdom and righteousness.

Join us for Holy Week Prayer Monday - Thursday // 12pm-1pm Room 104/106



Red Sea Road → Ellie Holcomb

There's a River → Bethany Barnard

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(Listen on Youtube)

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DAY 2

#### **Prayer Prompts**

**Thanksgiving for Deliverance:** Praise God for the deliverance he offers through Jesus Christ, paralleling the Israelites' escape from Egypt. Thank Him for the waters of baptism that signify our freedom from sin.

**Faith in Challenges:** Pray for faith to trust God when facing challenges, remembering how he parted the Red Sea for the Israelites. Ask for the courage to move forward in faith, even when the path seems blocked.

**Commitment to New Life:** Reflect on your baptism (<u>or the desire for baptism</u>), committing to live out the new life it symbolizes. Ask God to help you shed the 'Egypt' of your past and embrace a future oriented toward his will and ways.

**Strength to Leave the Old Behind:** Pray for the strength to leave behind old habits, thoughts, and sins that enslave. Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to live in the freedom and newness of life promised in Christ.

**For Those Contemplating Baptism:** Intercede for those at CVC (or in your LifeGroup) who are considering baptism. Pray that they would understand its significance and take this step of faith, experiencing the joy and freedom it brings.

# Day 3: A Better Guide

#### Reading: Exodus 13:17-22 // John 17:1-19

In the wilderness, God's presence among the Israelites was unmistakable—a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, guiding them through their journey. This vivid manifestation of God's guidance reassured the Israelites of His constant presence and protection.

When Jesus enters history, there are myriad misunderstandings about what he would do and how his kingdom would grow. Instead of taking a throne, he hangs on a cross. Instead of putting on a crown encrusted in jewels, he bears the crown of thorns. And after he comes back to life, he doesn't stay to rule. Jesus himself promises a better guide—the Holy Spirit.

#### John 16:7 ESV

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

The transition from the physical symbols of God's presence in Exodus to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers underscores a profound truth: God is intimately involved in our lives. The Holy Spirit guides us in truth, convicts us of sin, and empowers us to live according to God's will. Just as the Israelites followed the cloud and fire, we are called to follow the Holy Spirit's leading, trusting in God's direction and timing.

Reflecting on God's guiding presence invites us to consider how we perceive and respond to his direction in our lives. Do we recognize the Holy Spirit's promptings? Are we willing to follow, even when the path seems uncertain or challenging?

This Easter season, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and victory, let us also embrace the Holy Spirit's guiding presence in our lives. Let's seek to be attentive to his voice, willing to move when he says move, and to stay when he says stay—trusting that the God who led the Israelites through the wilderness is the same God who leads us today.

Join us for Holy Week Prayer Monday - Thursday // 12pm-1pm Room 104/106



Spirit of the Living God → Vertical

Nothing Else → Cody Carnes

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DAY 3

#### **Prayer Prompts**

**Gratitude for the Holy Spirit:** Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides, comforts, and dwells within us. Express gratitude for his constant presence in your life.

**Seeking Guidance**: Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to His leading and direction. Pray for discernment to recognize his voice amidst the noise of life.

**Courage to Follow:** Pray for the courage to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, even when it leads you out of your comfort zone or into unknown territory.

**For Clarity in Decision-Making:** If you are facing decisions or crossroads, ask God to provide clear guidance through the Holy Spirit, trusting that he will lead you in the way you should go.

**Unity and Sensitivity in the Church:** Pray for CVC to be unified and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction, that we may move together in harmony and purpose, reflecting God's love and light to the world.



# Day 4: Better Bread

#### Reading: Exodus 16:1-36 // Luke 22:7-23

In the wilderness, God provided for the Israelites with manna, bread from heaven, as their daily sustenance. Each morning they would go out to collect it, but they were not allowed to take any more than the day's provision. Those who did found maggots in their bread the next day. This miraculous provision was not just about physical nourishment; it was a lesson in faith and dependence on God for daily needs. The Israelites were to learn that their own abilities would not sustain them, only the miraculous hand of the Lord could do that.

Prior to his death, Jesus enjoys a final meal—the Passover meal—with his closest friends. He takes bread from the table and, again, uses bread as a lesson in faith and dependence on God. He breaks the bread makes a bold statement - that the bread represents his broken body that is for them. Unlike manna, which was collected daily, the sustenance Jesus offers with his broken body, and that we receive by faith, is a once-for-all provision for our souls, securing our relationship with God forever.

But, just like the Israelites, we have such a tendency to believe that God's provision is not enough—that we need to add to it with our hard work and effort. But, just like the day-old bread, our own efforts to save ourselves end up crawling with maggots. It is Jesus and Jesus alone who saves by grace through faith. Our response to grace is to thankfully receive and worshipfully enjoy.

On Good Friday we will come together and remember these precious, intimate moments through Scripture reading, prayer, worship, and by partaking of the Lord's Supper together—breaking bread in remembrance of Jesus' death on our behalf. Our prayer is that you will come with a heart prepared to tuck your knees up under the King's table and enjoy his lavish provision.





All Sufficient Merit → Shane & Shane

Yet Not I → CityAlight

(Listen on Spotify

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DAY 4

#### **Prayer Prompts**

**Thankfulness for Spiritual Sustenance:** Praise God for providing Jesus, the Bread of Life, who meets our spiritual hunger and offers eternal life. Thank him for his continuous provision in every aspect of our lives.

**Hunger for God's Word:** Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word and truth. Ask that your daily sustenance would come from spending time in Scripture and in his presence.

**Dependence on God:** Ask for the grace to continually remember that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are enough to give you new life both now and for eternity.

**Help in Sharing the Bread of Life:** Pray for opportunities and boldness to share about Jesus, the Bread of Life, with those around you who are spiritually hungry and searching for meaning. Who have you invited to Easter Services?

**Renewal of Faith:** If your faith feels stale or you're struggling with spiritual dryness, pray for a renewal of your spirit. Ask to experience Jesus' life-giving presence afresh, just as the Israelites received fresh manna each morning.

# Day 5: A Better Word

#### Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 // Romans 8:1-11

When God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, it was a foundational moment, establishing a covenant between God and His people. The law was meant to guide the Israelites in living a life that honors God and fosters community. However, it also highlighted human inability to uphold God's standards perfectly.

Over the past several weeks, as we've studied the Ten Commandments, we've seen that Jesus gets to the heart of the law. And we've seen even more clearly how short we fall of God's standard. At Christmas we celebrate the Word made flesh—Jesus coming to this earth to live the life we could never live. He not only upheld the law perfectly but also fulfilled its requirements on our behalf. Now, during the Easter season, we celebrate his death and resurrection, through which he established a New Covenant, writing the law on our hearts rather than on stone (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10).

This shift from the external law to the internal law is significant. It speaks of a relationship with God that is not based on strict adherence to rules but on the transformative power of his Spirit within us. Jesus' fulfillment of the law doesn't abolish it but rather completes it, offering us a way to live out God's commands authentically and joyfully.

How do you view God's commands? Do you see them as burdensome obligations, or the natural outflow of a heart changed by Jesus? The New Covenant—purchased with Jesus' blood—invites us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with God, where our actions stem from delight rather than duty.

Join us for Easter Saturday Night March 30 // 5:00pm Kids giant ball pit & candy event following



A Better Word → Bethany Barnard

O Lord, My Rock → Sovereign Grace

(Listen on Spotify)

( Listen on Youtube )

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DAY 5

#### **Prayer Prompts**

**Gratitude for Jesus' Sacrifice:** Thank God for Jesus, who fulfilled the law on our behalf, making a way for us to enter into a relationship with God. Praise him for the grace that covers our imperfections.

**Desire for a Transformed Heart:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to write God's laws on your heart, transforming your desires to align with His. Ask for the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in your life.

**Wisdom in Understanding God's Law:** Ask for wisdom to understand the depth and purpose of God's commands. Pray for insight into living out these principles in a way that honors him and blesses others.

**Strength to Live Authentically:** Pray for the strength to live out your faith authentically, influenced by the love and grace you've received. Ask for courage to exhibit this transformation in your daily interactions.

**Prayer for the Global Church:** Intercede for the Church worldwide (<u>specifically CVC</u> <u>missionaries</u>), that believers everywhere would grasp the fullness of what it means to live under the New Covenant. Pray for unity, love, and a powerful witness to the world about the life-changing impact of Jesus' fulfillment of the law.



# Day 6: A Better Sacrifice

#### Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 // Hebrews 9:11-29

The night before their deliverance, the Israelites marked their doorposts with the blood of a lamb—a sign that would spare them from the angel of death. This blood on the doorposts was more than a ritual; it was a symbol of salvation that would follow the Hebrew people into their worship for generations. God allowed the animal to experience the consequence of death that the people deserved. But the sacrifices never actually dealt with the sin issue—they never forgave. Hebrews reminds us that the sacrifices were just a constant reminder of sin.

But there was a better sacrifice to come. One who was not merely a symbol, but who actually had the power to forgive sin and grant new life. When John the Baptist introduces Jesus, he doesn't call him a king or ruler or leader, or even Messiah, but, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

People often ask, "how were people saved in the Old Testament?" The answer, of course, is by grace through faith. The story of the first Passover is a story of exercised faith in the blood of a lamb. In the same way, we are saved by grace through faith in the blood of the lamb—Jesus Christ, the better sacrifice.

"If he did not suffer, if he did not bleed, if he did not feel every bit of the pain of execution as he gulped for air, then he would not be the Christ we know. He was fulfilling his epochal role in history on that cross; he was not playacting, not a god pretending to die. He was the Word made flesh, who was, however strangely and incomprehensibly, full of grace and truth."

Jon Meacham

Join us for Easter Sunday March 31 // 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am Who are are you inviting to join you?



Thank you, Jesus → Charity Gayle

Destined Day → Sovereign Grace

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 $\left( \text{ Listen on Youtube} \right)$ 

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DAY 6

## **Prayer Prompts**

**Gratitude for Salvation:** Express your thankfulness for Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice cleanses us from sin and grants us eternal life. Thank God for fulfilling His promises through Christ.

**Reflection on Sacrifice:** Pray for a deeper understanding of the significance of Jesus' sacrifice. Ask God to help you grasp the weight of this act of love and to live in a way that honors it.

**Living in Freedom:** Seek God's guidance on how to live in the freedom won by Christ's sacrifice. Pray for the strength to walk away from sin and toward a life that reflects your gratitude for this gift.

**Intercession for the Lost:** Intercede for those who have not yet accepted the salvation offered by Jesus. Pray that their hearts would be opened to the truth of the Gospel and the life-changing power of the Lamb of God.

**Unity in Remembrance:** Pray for CVC and the global Church to unite in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice, especially during Communion. Ask for a renewed sense of community and shared purpose in Christ's New Covenant.

# Day 7: A Better Rest

#### Reading: Hebrews 3:7-19; Revelation 21:1-8

As we will see in the weeks to come, this generation of Hebrew people fail to enter the Promised Land due to rebellion and faithlessness.

In Hebrews chapters 3 and 4, this concept of rest evolves into something deeper and more profound, transcending a mere cessation of labor or entry into a geographical location. The author warns us against hardening our hearts like the Israelites in the wilderness and missing out on the rest of God. They compare and contrast the rest Israel sought to enter with the rest believers are invited into through Christ.

While the former was temporary and conditional, dependent on obedience and fraught with failure, the latter is eternal, secured by the perfect obedience and sacrifice of Jesus. Just as Joshua led the Israelites into the physical rest of Canaan, Jesus, our better Moss and greater Joshua, leads us into a spiritual rest—a rest from striving to earn God's favor through our own efforts, a rest in the finished work of Christ on the cross, and an eternal rest in the new creation.

I'm not sure how you're feeling this Easter season—perhaps overwhelmed, tired, run down, disappointed or sad. Part of the good news of the resurrection is that Jesus resurrection is an invitation to rest—good rest—better rest. The stripes on Jesus back and the nails in his hands are sobering reminders of the depth of your sin. But the empty tomb and the lonely burial clothes are victorious reminders that rest is possible—rest from your striving, rest from your trying to be good enough, rest from worry and fear. God's rest. True rest that will last for all eternity.

Join us for Easter Sunday March 31 // 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am Who are are you inviting to join you?

No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus

Jireh→ Maverick City

Listen on Spotify

(Listen on Youtube)

**Listen on Spotify** 

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DAY 7

## **Prayer Prompts**

**Entering God's Rest:** Thank God for the rest offered through Jesus' resurrection. Pray for the faith to enter that rest fully, laying aside your own works and trusting in his finished work on the cross.

**Rest for the Weary:** Ask God to provide rest for areas of your life where you feel weary or burdened. Pray that the truth of the resurrection would refresh and renew your spirit.

**Peace that Surpasses Understanding:** Seek God's peace in your heart, especially in areas of unrest or conflict. Pray that the resurrection peace would guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

**For Those Struggling to Rest:** Intercede for those in your community who struggle to find rest, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Pray that they would come to know the restful presence of Jesus in their lives.

**Living from Rest:** Pray for the wisdom to live from a place of rest in Jesus, making decisions and facing challenges from the security of his victory and peace, rather than from striving or fear.