



w|e

# Lent 2024

## prayer guide

*For centuries, the church has set aside 40 days to commemorate the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before he was tempted by Satan. While there is no biblical mandate to observe Lent, and it does not grant any special graces, it is a great way to approach our Easter celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally it is celebrated in self-denial – giving something up for 40 days, also known as “fasting.” It may be food, a certain type of food, or anything else we normally attach importance to. The main purpose, however, is to spend that time in worship and prayer. This prayer guide divides the scriptures up into daily readings that you can use to follow and reflect on Jesus’ last days. Let’s give at least 15 minutes a day to read, worship, and pray in order to reflect more deeply upon the wonderful truths of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus.*

West End Baptist Church  
123 Arlington Ave.  
Greenville SC 29601  
[webcgreenville.org](http://webcgreenville.org)



**2/14 Matthew 26:1-5** When Jesus finished speaking all these words, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “You know that the Passover is two days from now. And the Human One will be handed over to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and elders of the people gathered in the courtyard of Caiaphas the high priest. <sup>4</sup> They were plotting to arrest Jesus by cunning tricks and to kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they agreed that it shouldn’t happen during the feast so there wouldn’t be an uproar among the people.

*Help me, Lord, to see the reality of Your plan for us in action.*

**2/15 Matthew 26:14-16** Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From that time on he was looking for an opportunity to turn him in.

*God, let me feel Your presence when I feel betrayed.*

**2/16 Matthew 26:20-25** That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. <sup>21</sup> As they were eating, he said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> Deeply saddened, each one said to him, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He replied, “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. <sup>24</sup> The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.” <sup>25</sup> Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You said it.”

*I thank God that He is never surprised by what happens in our lives.*

**2/17 Matthew 26:26-30** While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body.” <sup>27</sup> He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from this, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup> Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

*Lord, give me the ability to sing songs of praise in the midst of all circumstances.*

**2/19 Matthew 26:31-35** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions. <sup>32</sup> But after I’m raised up, I’ll go before you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter replied, “If everyone else stumbles because of you, I’ll never stumble.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said, “Even if I must die alongside you, I won’t deny you.” All the disciples said the same thing.

*Forgive my over-confidence in myself, so I can depend solely on You!*

**2/20 Matthew 26:36-45** Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, “Stay here while I go and pray over there.” <sup>37</sup> When he took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.” <sup>39</sup> Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it’s possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup> He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? <sup>41</sup> Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.” <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. <sup>44</sup> But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.

*I pray that God will give me the ability to support those in crisis.*

**2/21 Matthew 26:46-56** Get up. Let’s go. Look, here comes my betrayer.” <sup>47</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.” <sup>49</sup> Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I’m not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? <sup>54</sup> But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?” <sup>55</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn’t arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

*Let me never underestimate God!*

**2/22 Matthew 26:57-66** Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. <sup>58</sup> Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest’s courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out. <sup>59</sup> The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. <sup>60</sup> They didn’t find anything they could use from the many false witnesses who were willing to come forward. But finally they found two <sup>61</sup> who said, “This man said, ‘I can destroy God’s temple and rebuild it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood and said to Jesus, “Aren’t you going to respond to the testimony these people have

brought against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus was silent. The high priest said, "By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the Christ, God's Son." <sup>64</sup> "You said it," Jesus replied. "But I say to you that from now on you'll see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He's insulting God! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you've heard his insult against God." <sup>66</sup> What do you think?" And they answered, "He deserves to die!"

*God, I ask that I never be a false witness.*

**2/23 Matthew 26:67-75** Then they spit in his face and beat him. They hit him <sup>68</sup> and said, "Prophecy for us, Christ! Who hit you?" <sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant woman came and said to him, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup> But he denied it in front of all of them, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about." <sup>71</sup> When he went over to the gate, another woman saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." <sup>72</sup> With a solemn pledge, he denied it again, saying, "I don't know the man." <sup>73</sup> A short time later those standing there came and said to Peter, "You must be one of them. The way you talk gives you away." <sup>74</sup> Then he cursed and swore, "I don't know the man!" At that very moment the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Peter remembered Jesus' words, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

*Forgive me when I betray You in my lifestyle.*

**2/24 Matthew 27:27-34** The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's house, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a red military coat on him. <sup>29</sup> They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they bowed down in front of him and mocked him, saying, "Hey! King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> After they spit on him, they took the stick and struck his head again and again. <sup>31</sup> When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the military coat and put his own clothes back on him. They led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, <sup>34</sup> they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn't want to drink it.

*Lord, lead me to share in Your suffering.*

**2/26 Matthew 27:35-44** After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. <sup>36</sup> They sat there, guarding him. <sup>37</sup> They placed above his head the charge against him. It read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who were walking by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way, the chief priests, along with the legal experts and the elders, were making fun of him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others, but he can't save himself. He's the king of Israel, so let him come down from the cross now. Then we'll believe in him." <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God, so let God deliver him now if he wants to. He said, 'I'm God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The outlaws who were crucified with him insulted him in the same way.

*Lord, keep my faith strong, even when I am mocked for my faith.*

**2/27 Matthew 27:45-51; 54-56** From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. <sup>46</sup> At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?" <sup>47</sup> After hearing him, some standing there said, "He's calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup> One of them ran over, took a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the rest of them said, "Let's see if Elijah will come and save him." <sup>50</sup> Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died. <sup>51</sup> Look, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what had just happened, they were filled with awe and said, "This was certainly God's Son." <sup>55</sup> Many women were watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to serve him. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

*Help me to acknowledge that Jesus was truly God's Son!*

**2/28 Matthew 28:1-8** The Sabbath was over, and it was almost daybreak on Sunday when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a strong earthquake struck, and the Lord's angel came down from heaven. He rolled away the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> The angel looked as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook from fear and fell down, as though they were dead. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. <sup>6</sup> He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> Now hurry! Tell his disciples he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him. This is what I came to tell you." <sup>8</sup> The women were frightened and yet very happy, as they hurried from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them. They went near him, held on to his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! Tell my followers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

*I will rejoice at the empty tomb! I thank God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the salvation it brings!*

**2/29 Mark 14:17-21** That evening, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup> During the meal, Jesus said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me—someone eating with me." <sup>19</sup> Deeply saddened, they asked him, one by one, "It's not me, is it?" <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, "It's one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me into this bowl. <sup>21</sup> The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

*Lord, I ask that You give me confidence in my faith.*

**3/1 Mark 14:22-26** While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup> He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way in God's kingdom." <sup>26</sup> After singing songs of praise, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

*Lord, help me to always remember the real impact of Your last supper.*

**3/2 Mark 14:27-31** <sup>27</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will all falter in your faithfulness to me. It is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep will go off in all directions. <sup>28</sup> But after I'm raised up, I will go before you to Galilee. <sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else stumbles, I won't." <sup>30</sup> But Jesus said to him, "I assure you that on this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." <sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted, "If I must die alongside you, I won't deny you." And they all said the same thing.

*Forgive me when I falter in my faithfulness.*

**3/4 Mark 14:41-52** He came a third time and said to them, "Will you sleep and rest all night? That's enough! The time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Get up! Let's go! Look, here comes my betrayer. <sup>43</sup> Suddenly, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came with a mob carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests, legal experts, and elders. <sup>44</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: "Arrest the man I kiss, and take him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> As soon as he got there, Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi!" Then he kissed him. <sup>46</sup> Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> One of the bystanders drew a sword and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his ear. <sup>48</sup> Jesus responded, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like an outlaw? <sup>49</sup> Day after day, I was with you, teaching in the temple, but you didn't arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup> And all his disciples left him and ran away. <sup>51</sup> One young man, a disciple, was wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They grabbed him, <sup>52</sup> but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked.

*In the midst of frightening circumstances, let me feel Your presence.*

**3/5 Mark 14:53-59** They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. <sup>54</sup> Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. <sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn't find any. <sup>56</sup> Many brought false testimony against him, but they contradicted each other. <sup>57</sup> Some stood to offer false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup> "We heard him saying, 'I will destroy this temple, constructed by humans, and within three days I will build another, one not made by humans.'" <sup>59</sup> But their testimonies didn't agree even on this point.

*Let my witness be true always.*

**3/6 Mark 14:60-65** Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the gathering and examined Jesus. "Aren't you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus was silent and didn't answer. Again, the high priest asked, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?" <sup>62</sup> Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Human One! sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds." <sup>63</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we need any more witnesses? <sup>64</sup> You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?" They all condemned him. "He deserves to die!" <sup>65</sup> Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him, saying, "Prophecy!" Then the guards took him and beat him.

*When questioned about my faith, may my answers always be true and honest.*

**3/7 Mark 14:66-72** Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. A woman, one of the high priest's servants, approached <sup>67</sup> and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus." <sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about. I don't understand what you're saying." And he went outside into the outer courtyard. A rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup> The female servant saw him and began a second time to say to those standing around, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup> But he denied it again. A short time later, those standing around again said to Peter, "You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean." <sup>71</sup> But he cursed and swore, "I don't know this man you're talking about." <sup>72</sup> At that very moment, a rooster crowed a second time. Peter remembered what Jesus told him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down, sobbing.

*Lord, let me please never deny my Christ.*

**3/8 Mark 15:1-5; 9-15** At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." <sup>3</sup> The chief priests were accusing him of many things. <sup>4</sup> Pilate asked him again, "Aren't you going to answer? What about all these accusations?" <sup>5</sup> But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled. <sup>9</sup> Pilate answered them, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup> He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. <sup>12</sup> Pilate replied, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup> They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup> Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done?" They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup> Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

*Lord, grant me the courage to stand up for what I believe!*

**3/9 Mark 15:16-22** The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor's headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup> They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. <sup>18</sup> They saluted him, "Hey! King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. <sup>20</sup> When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. <sup>21</sup> Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place.

*I thank God for Jesus' willingness to suffer in my place.*

**3/11 Mark 15:43-47** Joseph from Arimathea dared to approach Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. (Joseph was a prominent council member who also eagerly anticipated the coming of God's kingdom.) <sup>44</sup> Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him whether Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, Pilate gave the dead body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> He bought a linen cloth, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was buried.

Lord, I thank you for the courage and generosity that I see around me in Your people.

**3/12 Mark 16:1-8** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) <sup>5</sup> Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

I thank God that Jesus the Christ overcame death to give us salvation!

**3/13 Luke 22:14-20** When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> I tell you, I won't eat it until it is fulfilled in God's kingdom." <sup>17</sup> After taking a cup and giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> I tell you that from now on I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until God's kingdom has come." <sup>19</sup> After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said, "This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you."

*I thank God for the faithfulness of His Disciples and for Christ's love of them.*

**3/14 Luke 22:21-23** "But look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table. <sup>22</sup> The Human One goes just as it has been determined. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays him." <sup>23</sup> They began to argue among themselves about which of them it could possibly be who would do this.

*Thank You, God, that when we face judgement, Christ stands in our place.*

**3/15 Luke 22:39-46** Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> When he arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you won't give in to temptation." <sup>41</sup> He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed. <sup>42</sup> He said, "Father, if it's your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done." <sup>43</sup> Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly. His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. <sup>45</sup> When he got up from praying, he went to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you won't give in to temptation."

Lord, help me to pray as Jesus prayed, that it be Your will and not my own.

**3/16 Luke 22:47-53** While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him. <sup>48</sup> Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Human One with a kiss?" <sup>49</sup> When those around him recognized what was about to happen, they said, "Lord, should we fight with our swords?" <sup>50</sup> One of them struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> Jesus responded, "Stop! No more of this!" He touched the slave's ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come to get him, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief? <sup>53</sup> Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you didn't arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules."

*Father, let me respond with healing instead of fear and anger in times of crisis.*

**3/18 Luke 22:63-71** The men who were holding Jesus in custody taunted him while they beat him. <sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and asked him repeatedly, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" <sup>65</sup> Insulting him, they said many other horrible things against him. <sup>66</sup> As morning came, the elders of the people, both chief priests and legal experts, came together, and Jesus was brought before their council.

<sup>67</sup> They said, "If you are the Christ, tell us!" He answered, "If I tell you, you won't believe. <sup>68</sup> And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Human One will be seated on the right side of the power of God." <sup>70</sup> They all said, "Are you God's Son, then?" He replied, "You say that I am." <sup>71</sup> Then they said, "Why do we need further testimony? We've heard it from his own lips."  
*Please help me to acknowledge that Jesus is God's Son and my Savior!*

**3/19 Luke 23:25-33** He [Pilate] released the one they asked for [Barnabas], who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will. <sup>26</sup> As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. <sup>29</sup> The time will come when they will say, 'Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.' <sup>30</sup> Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup> They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

*Please be with me when things don't go the way I want or expect them to.*

**3/20 Luke 23:34-43** Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing. <sup>35</sup> The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one." <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself." <sup>38</sup> Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews." <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? <sup>41</sup> We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

*Thank You, Lord, that we have Your assurance that we will be with You in heaven!*

**3/21 Luke 23:44-49** It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, <sup>45</sup> while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. <sup>46</sup> Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I entrust my life." After he said this, he breathed for the last time. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, "It's really true: this man was righteous." <sup>48</sup> All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. <sup>49</sup> And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

*Praise God! Jesus gave up His life willingly, for the world who hated Him.*

**3/22 Luke 24:1-9** Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. <sup>5</sup> The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words. <sup>9</sup> When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others.

*I praise God for the resurrection and my salvation!*

**3/23 John 13:36-38** Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you can't follow me now, but you will follow later." <sup>37</sup> Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I'll give up my life for you." <sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Will you give up your life for me? I assure you that you will deny me three times before the rooster crows."

*I ask You, Lord, to strengthen my faith daily.*

**3/25 John 18:12-18** Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the guards from the Jewish leaders took Jesus into custody. They bound him <sup>13</sup> and led him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. (<sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it was better for one person to die for the people.) <sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Because this other disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. <sup>16</sup> However, Peter stood outside near the gate. Then the other disciple (the one known to the high priest) came out and spoke to the woman stationed at the gate, and she brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The servant woman stationed at the gate asked Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" "I'm not," he replied. <sup>18</sup> The servants and the guards had made a fire because it was cold. They were standing around it, warming themselves. Peter joined them there, standing by the fire and warming himself.

*Father, I ask that I may always feel close to You.*



**3/26 John 18:19-27** Meanwhile, the chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, "I've spoken openly to the world. I've always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews gather. I've said nothing in private. <sup>21</sup> Why ask me? Ask those who heard what I told them. They know what I said." <sup>22</sup> After Jesus spoke, one of the guards standing there slapped Jesus in the face. "Is that how you would answer the high priest?" he asked. <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "If I speak wrongly, testify about what was wrong. But if I speak correctly, why do you strike me?" <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. <sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing with the guards, warming himself. They asked, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" Peter denied it, saying, "I'm not." <sup>26</sup> A servant of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said to him, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup> Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

*Lord, I pray that when I am in the midst of confrontation, that I would respond as You would have me.*

**3/27 John 19:14-22** It was about noon on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, "Here's your king." <sup>15</sup> The Jewish leaders cried out, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate responded, "What? Do you want me to crucify your king?" "We have no king except the emperor," the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup> Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup> Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, the Jewish chief priests complained to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews' but 'This man said, 'I am the king of the Jews.''" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I've written, I've written."

*Father, help me acknowledge Your Son as my King!*

**3/28 John 19:23-30** When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and his sandals, and divided them into four shares, one for each soldier. His shirt was seamless, woven as one piece from the top to the bottom. <sup>24</sup> They said to each other, "Let's not tear it. Let's cast lots to see who will get it." This was to fulfill the scripture, they divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. That's what the soldiers did. <sup>25</sup> Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup> After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

*I thank You, God, for the love shown from the cross for His family.*

**3/29 John 19:38-42** After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. <sup>40</sup> Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. <sup>41</sup> There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

*Thank You, Father, for the evidence of Christ's humanity in His death on the cross.*

**3/30 John 20:1-10** Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." <sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. <sup>5</sup> Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup> He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

*Thank You, Father, for the evidence of Christ's divinity in His Resurrection!*