



# **JOURNEY** *to the* **CROSS**

40 DAY EASTER JOURNAL

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2025



**“Father,**  
*forgive them”*

## *Luke 23:26-34 CSB*

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But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that he be crucified, and their voices won out. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate decided to grant their demand <sup>25</sup>and released the one they were asking for, who had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

<sup>26</sup>As they led him away, they seized Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were mourning and lamenting him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. <sup>29</sup>Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the women without children, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup>Two others — criminals — were also led away to be executed with him. <sup>33</sup>When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

SPEAKER \_\_\_\_\_ / /

SUNDAY SERMON

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## WEEK 1

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### **DAY 1**

*Luke 23:26-34*

Our theme for the next few days is “Forgiveness.” Define “forgiveness” in your own words.

### **DAY 2**

*Mark 15:1-20*

Describe what happened to Jesus just before the Crucifixion. How do those events deepen the power of Jesus asking for the Father to forgive?

### **DAY 3**

*Isaiah 53:1-7*

This passage in Isaiah is a prophetic picture of the coming Messiah which Jesus fulfilled in his life and death. What are some of the phrases it uses describe Jesus? Which one resonates the most with you?

## DAY 4

Peter connects the prophecy in Isaiah 53 directly to Jesus. How does he also connect Jesus' suffering to the way we are to live as Christians? Does Peter teach anything about how to forgive when we've been wronged?

1 Peter 2:20-25

## DAY 5

In Matthew 6, Jesus gives a model for how we are to pray. How does Jesus' forgiveness of us relate to how we treat or forgive others? Why do you think Jesus included forgiveness as part of his teaching on prayer?

Matthew 6:7-15

## DAY 6

What does Paul teach about forgiveness in this letter to the Colossians? How could the other things he commands in these verses help Christians forgive one another more easily?

Colossians 3:12-17

“today  
***YOU***  
will be  
***with Me.***”

## *Luke 23:34-43 CSB*

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Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.”, And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He saved others; let him save himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”

<sup>38</sup>An inscription was above him: This Is the King of the Jews.

<sup>39</sup>Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup>But the other answered, rebuking him: “Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things 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>And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”





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SUNDAY SERMON

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## WEEK 2

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### **DAY 7:** Luke 23:34-43

Our theme for the next few days is “Grace.” Define “grace” in your own words.

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### **DAY 8:** Psalm 22:10-18

Psalm 22 is a lament that is also a prophetic description of Jesus’ crucifixion. Where do you see yesterday’s reading in Luke 23 echoed in this psalm?

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### **DAY 9:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

In his letter to Timothy, Paul gives his testimony of how grace changed him. How does Paul sum up the mission of Christ? What is your testimony about Christ’s grace in your life? Who were you before, and who are you now that he has saved you?

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### **DAY 10:** Romans 5:1-11

In Romans, Paul talks about our justification which enables us to stand in grace. Look up what “justification” means. Why is Paul so amazed that Jesus would justify us with his blood? What did we do to be justified and how does that help us stand in grace?

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**DAY 11:** Ephesians 2:1-10

Dallas Willard writes that grace is the opposite of earning, not the opposite of effort. With that in mind, what is the difference between being saved by grace and saved by works? How does grace relate to doing the good works God has prepared for us to do?

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**DAY 12:** 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Paul says the Lord told him that His grace was enough for him when he was feeling weak and wounded. How does experiencing the grace God help you when you are suffering? Think about a time when life's circumstances made you weak, but God made you strong.

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“Woman, behold your son.  
*and to the disciple,*  
Behold your mother.”

## *John 19:16-27 CSB*

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Then he handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Crucifixion**

Then they took Jesus away. <sup>17</sup>Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The king of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the king of the Jews.’ ”

<sup>22</sup>Pilate replied, “What I have written, I have written.”

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. , This is what the soldiers did.

### **Jesus’s Provision for His Mother**

<sup>25</sup>Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, 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 hour the disciple took her into his home.

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SUNDAY SERMON

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## WEEK 3

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### **DAY 13**

*John 19:16-27*

Our theme for the next few days is “Kindness.” Describe the kindness of God in your own words.

### **DAY 14**

*Hosea 11:1-4*

What is the picture of God that the prophet Hosea paints? How have you experienced God as a kind father in your life?

### **DAY 15**

*Titus 3:1-8*

How does Jesus’ life and death show us the kindness and goodness of God? How does Paul encourage Christians to respond to the Savior’s kindness?

## DAY 16

Paul teaches the Romans the purpose of God's patience and kindness in their lives. What is His kindness meant to do? In what ways have you ignored God's kindness by either judging others or being unrepentant?

Romans 2:1-5

## DAY 17

Hospitality is one of the practical ways we can live out kindness. What did Jesus teach about hospitality and kindly inviting all people in? How could you apply this teaching to a real situation in your life?

Luke 14:12-14

## DAY 18

In the Old Testament, God's love for us is described as kind, merciful and loving (Ex. 34). Later in the New Testament, Jesus commands us to love as we've been loved by God (John 13:34). Read Paul's definition of God's love in 1 Corinthians, but replace the word 'love' with your own name. Which of these loving actions is the easiest for you to do? Which is the most challenging?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7





*“My God,  
My God, why  
have you forsaken me?”*

## *Matthew 27:39-49 CSB*

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Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

<sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him and said, <sup>42</sup>“He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God rescue him now #— #if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup>In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him taunted him.

### **The Death of Jesus**

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness came over the whole land. , <sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni? ” that is, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me ?” ,

<sup>47</sup>When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling for Elijah.”

<sup>48</sup>Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and offered him a drink.

<sup>49</sup>But the rest said, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

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SUNDAY SERMON

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# WEEK 4

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## **DAY 19:** Matthew 27:39-49

Our theme for the next few days is "Acceptance". Describe a place or group where you feel welcomed and accepted. How did you first get invited or included into that group?

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## **DAY 20:** Isaiah 59:1-2, 9-13

In these verses, Isaiah teaches us that sin separates us from God and His righteous presence. Think of that practically. Have you ever experienced God as distant and then realized it was because of a sinful habit or attitude that was separating you from Him? How did you return to God's presence?

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## **DAY 21:** Psalm 22:1-9

The Psalms were Jesus' prayer book. On the cross, Jesus quotes Psalm 22 not just to fulfill a prophecy, but also as a sincere cry from his heart. Has the Bible helped you express your pain or your desires to God? Are there any scriptures you pray back to God regularly?

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## **DAY 22:** Luke 22: 39-46

Looking back to Jesus in the Garden the night before he was crucified, what did he pray and why? Do you believe that the Father answered his prayer?

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**DAY 23:** John 1:9-14

If we believe in Jesus, we become a child of God. What rights and privileges to children get from their parents? What do good parents give to their children? What privileges and gifts have you received because God is your Good Father?

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**DAY 24:** Matthew 3:13-17

What did the Father say to Jesus at his baptism? At this point in this life, what had Jesus done? As we learned in John 1, if we believe in Jesus, we are sons and daughters of God, just like him. So what can you know about God's love and acceptance of you?

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“*I Thirst*”



### *John 19:28-29 CSB*

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<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, “I’m thirsty.”

<sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.



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SUNDAY SERMON

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### **DAY 25**

*John 19:28-29*

Our theme for the next few days is “Suffering.” Jesus was fully God (Col. 1:19) but he was also fully human (Phil. 2:6-8). Therefore his physical suffering on the cross was as painful and real as it would have been for any of us. When we think about the crucifixion, why is it important to understand that Jesus is both divine and human?

### **DAY 26**

*Psalm 22:1-19*

On Days 8 & 21, we talked about Psalm 22 as a prophetic picture of the Messiah and a lament that Jesus prays during the crucifixion. Read the psalm again, this time focusing on the physical suffering it describes. How does this paint a picture of the actual pain of Jesus’ crucifixion?

### **DAY 27**

*Psalm 69:13-29*

Psalm 69 is another lament that reflects Jesus’ suffering. Why do you think the Bible includes prayers like Psalm 69? Have you experienced pain like this psalmist? How did you pray in your suffering?

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## **DAY 28**

*Isaiah 53:8-12*

As we learned on Day 3, this passage in Isaiah is a prophetic picture of the coming Messiah. How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy in his life and death? How can knowing Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies strengthen your belief in him?

## **DAY 29**

*1 Peter 2:22-25*

More than 650 years after Isaiah, Peter quotes his prophecy and connects it to Jesus, then Peter describes how Jesus' death affects our lives today. In your own words, how does Jesus' death change the way you live?

## **DAY 30**

*Romans 8:16-26*

How does Paul connect our earthly pain and Jesus' suffering? What specific ways does he teach we can walk through our own suffering?



“It is *finished*.”

<sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,  
“It is finished.”  
Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

*John 19:30 CSB*

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SUNDAY SERMON

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# WEEK 6

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## **DAY 31:** John 19:30

Our theme for the next few days is “Tetelestai”, the Greek word translated “It is finished” in English. Why do you think Jesus said this word right before his death on the cross?

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## **DAY 32:** Colossians 2:13-15

“Tetelestai” was an accounting term in the ancient world that denoted the full payment of an outstanding debt. How does Paul describe our debt and how it relates to Jesus’ death?

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## **DAY 33:** John 17:1-8

“Tetelestai” was also used by servants and others to report that they had successfully completed a mission they were sent on. How did Jesus describe his mission in this passage in John? How did the crucifixion complete Jesus’ mission?

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**DAY 34:** Hebrews 10:1-18

The book of Hebrews shows how Christ fulfills the law and practices of the Old Testament. How does Christ's death on the cross fulfill or finish the Old Testament commandments to make sacrifices?

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**DAY 35:** 1 Peter 1:17-21

"Tetelestai" was also the word that priests said to declare an animal, such as a lamb, perfect and acceptable to be sacrificed. How does Peter describe Jesus in this passage? Why were lambs sacrificed in the Old Testament?

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**DAY 36:** Romans 5:12-21

How does Paul contrast Adam and his actions to Jesus and his action on the cross? How did Jesus finish what Adam began?

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

*Luke 23:44-49 CSB*

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<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, <sup>45</sup>because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. <sup>46</sup>And Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.”, Saying this, he breathed his last.

<sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous!” <sup>48</sup>All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. <sup>49</sup>But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.



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SUNDAY SERMON

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## DAY 37

Our theme for the last few days of Lent is “trust”. What does it mean to trust someone or something?

Luke 23:44-49

## DAY 38

Who buried Jesus’ body? What do you know about these men from this passage or other places in the book of John? What kept them from following Jesus and trusting him during his time on earth?

John 19:38-42

## DAY 39

Matthew’s Gospel gives different details about Jesus’ burial. Who did the Romans and religious leaders not trust? Why do you think Matthew included their actions in his account of Jesus’ death and resurrection?

Matthew 27:59-66

**DAY 40:** Mark 9:30-32

Imagine you are one of Jesus' followers living in the days between his crucifixion and his resurrection. Did they have anything they could trust in? How did fear and misunderstanding affect their ability to trust?

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**EASTER:** Luke 24:1-12

Jesus is risen! How does the truth of Jesus' resurrection help you trust in the power of his crucifixion?

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SUNDAY SERMON

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