



THE  
GREATEST  
LOVE  
OF ALL



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2021

Prayer Ministry



Dear Father,

We come to You in awe and gratitude for the great work that Jesus has done on the cross. We pray that You will speak to us as we reflect on the events of Jesus' journey to save us. We ask that You help us to consider Jesus' words and actions, that they will speak to us. Father God, today, we come to You to humble ourselves as You have, in the manner of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen

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# Foreword

According to church tradition, Passion Week or Holy Week commences on the week before Easter. Passion Week is a pivotal moment in Jesus' life and is a significant event that Christians should know. In this prayer guide, using the four gospels, we trace the journey of Jesus during the week leading to His crucifixion and then to His resurrection. It is indeed a necessary spiritual event for Christians.

In commemoration of Passion Week, we remember the great sacrificial love of Jesus through fasting and praying, self-reflection and repentance. It is only through meditating on the sufferings borne by Jesus and by tracing His steps in this journey that we can fully appreciate the importance of this festival to our faith. Let us, therefore, meditate on this greatest love of all.

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# FASTING & PRAYER GUIDE

## Why do we fast?

To be able to pray intently and to learn to focus solely on God. Let us learn to rely entirely on God, to find in Him nourishment beyond food, and to base our security in God rather than in material things.

God requires His people to humble themselves before Him. (Matt 18:4, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6, Matt 23:12)



# 1. **Standard fast (Common fast)**

It is to abstain from all food except water.

For example, Jesus (Mat 4:2, Luk 4:2); Elijah (1 Ki 19:18)

# 2. **Total fast (Absolute fast)**

It is to abstain totally from all food and drinks. Such a fast usually does not last more than three days.

For example, Esther (Est 4:16)

# 3. **Partial fast (Daniel fast)**

It is to abstain only from certain foods. Some restrict themselves to a single type of food during the fast.

For example, John the Baptist lived on locusts and wild honey (Mat 3:4); Daniel ate only vegetables when he fasted. (Dan 10:2-3)

## The power of fasting and praying

- Fasting and praying allows the Holy Spirit to work freely within us. (Eph 3:20)
- It allows the Holy Spirit to rule and govern our carnal nature. (Gal 5:16-17, Rom 8:7)
- The Holy Spirit can then work within us so that we can discipline our bodies to keep ourselves under control. (1Cor 9:25-27)

When we fast and pray according to biblical principles, it can unleash the power to transform individuals, families and even cities.

# DAY OF GLORY



*28 March*

Palm Sunday

**Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)**

**A**s they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

## Meditation

Imagine yourself as a character in this story. What is your reaction to Jesus?

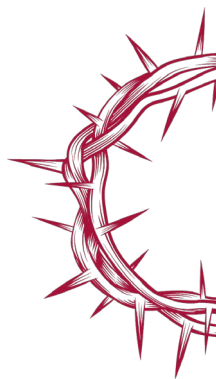
Would you willingly give up your donkey or would you reject this unusual request from a stranger?

Would you recognise and honour Jesus as King and Saviour? Or would it be hard for you to perceive His glory as He rides into Jerusalem on a humble donkey?

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: That our eyes would be open to recognise God's glory all around us.

For the church: That the people of God would lift up the name of Jesus, so that the whole city may be stirred and may come to know Jesus as the one who saves.



## Prayer

Glorious God,

You are matchless in splendour and majesty. Yet at times, Your glory manifests in unexpected, unattractive, and undesirable places. Help us Lord, to remain humble, so that we may be able to recognise You everywhere - even in the simple, lowly and despised places.

Amen.

# DAY OF AUTHORITY

*29 March*

**Matthew 21:12-15 (NIV)**

**J**esus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.” The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

## Meditation

Consider Jesus' response and what He said as He entered the temple courts. Is there a word or a phrase that stands out to you?

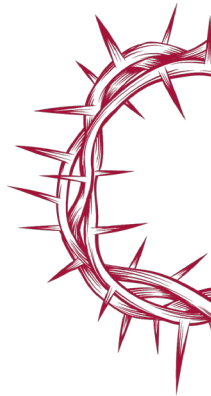
How might God be using this to speak to You through His word?

Notice how Jesus declares that the temple is His house. Notice how He demonstrates His authority over His place and ministry.

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: Invite God to cleanse us (His temple), and ask for a heart of repentance.

For the church: To be dedicated and fully devoted to His service. That we will acknowledge His Lordship over us.



## Prayer

O Holy God,

Your Holiness cannot be compromised. We pray the prayer of David in Psalm 51; “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin”. Please forgive us, as You are a compassionate and loving Father. Once again, we invite You to take Your place as Lord and King over our lives.

Amen.

# DAY OF CHALLENGE

29 March

**Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)**

**H**earing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

## Meditation

At this point in the story, the chief priests, teachers of the Law, and various leaders are challenging Jesus - attempting to trap Him so that the crowd will turn against Him.

Imagine how the Sadducees and Pharisees might feel as they hear Jesus' response to their trick question.

Jesus preaches love in the face of a challenge from His enemies. What might this mean to His enemies?

What do these commandments - to love God and love your neighbour - mean to you?

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: That we will learn to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

For ourselves: That we will be able to show love to our neighbours - even to our enemies.



## Prayer

O Lord our God,

You are Lord alone. We love You with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our strength. Help us to keep these commandments on our hearts. Enable us to love our neighbours well, especially when it is difficult. May we do what is right and good in Your sight.

Amen.

# DAY OF SILENCE

*31 March*

**O**n this day, there is no clear record in the Bible about what Jesus said or did. Therefore, we shall observe this day as a 'Day of Silence'. This is the day before Jesus' arrest, which came about because Judas conspired and betrayed Jesus.

It has been speculated that Jesus might have been drained physically, mentally, emotionally, and perhaps even spiritually, after a period of confrontation, controversy, and conspiracy. The likely reason for the silence is that Jesus retreated to rest. The Bible also records for us many instances when Jesus retreated to be alone, to pray and to draw strength from the Father.



## Meditation

On this day of silence, recall and reflect on the events of the past three days. Take time to also contemplate the magnitude of what Jesus Christ is about to undergo in the days ahead.

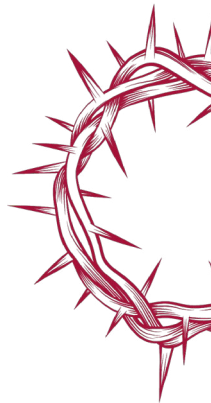
What is it about Jesus' journey that you can draw strength from? What is it about Jesus' journey that you can encourage others with?

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: Ask God to help us find time for more rest and silence in our daily lives.

For ourselves: That God would renew our strength and trust. That we will "be still, and know that (He) is God" (Ps 46:10)

For others: That we will do our part in bringing rest for others



## Prayer

O Lord,

You showed us that there is a time to choose Solitude and Silence over people. Still our hearts, as we acknowledge that You are our God. Renew our strength as we trust in You in our challenges and sufferings. Help us also to share Your love by extending grace and rest to those around us.

Amen.

# DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

*1 April*

**Matthew 26:17-29 (NIV)**

**O**n the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ He replied, ‘Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, “The Teacher says: my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”’ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?’ Jesus replied, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.’ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?’ Jesus answered, ‘You have said so.’

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’

## Meditation

This was the last meal Jesus had with His disciples before His arrest, and the words He spoke were significant. From Jesus' perspective, how would you feel if you knew you were going to spend your last moments with the disciples? What would you do then? Why do you think Jesus pointed out that Judas was about to betray Him? What character did Jesus show?

It was also at this time that Jesus instituted the Holy Communion. Let us ponder on His covenant and humbly bring our transgressions and weaknesses to the feet of Jesus, for He will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: Let us be always grateful for the life Jesus sacrificed for us and let's not take it for granted and trample on His grace.

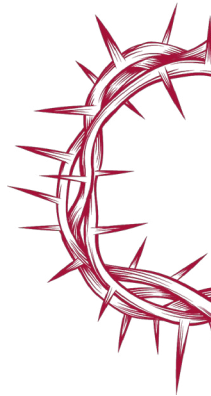
For ourselves: By eating and drinking the body and blood of Jesus, we have received the life of Jesus in us. Let us pray that we may live the life of Jesus freely, joyfully, and powerfully.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving Your life willingly for our sin without any reservation. Once again, We proclaim that through Your body broken for us, we are healed; and through Your precious blood shed for us, we are forgiven! Help us to live a holy life.

Amen.



# DAY OF CRUCIFIXION

*2 April*

**Matthew 27:33-54 (NIV)**

**T**hey came to a place called Golgotha (which means ‘the place of the skull’). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the jews.

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God.

Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God." In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?').

When some of those standing

there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge.

He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.'

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The

bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son



## Meditation

This is a historic moment - Jesus completed the most important mission that He came to this world for. Let us ponder and feel what Jesus experienced - enduring excruciating suffering, mocking and insults.... Before Jesus gave up His spirit, what emotions did He held on to as He exclaimed, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

What is the significance of the curtain of the temple being torn in two? What does this mean for your life (in the past and in the present)?

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: To have a deeper understanding and experience of the sacrificial love of Jesus, and to be filled with this love so that we are willing to respond to it unconditionally.

For ourselves and for the church: That God will remove the veil that prevents us from knowing the Lord, just as the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, so that we may renew our intimate relationship with God the Father and be deeply connected to Him.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Oh You who loves us so much, today we want to be filled with Your love again. Thank You for bearing all the costs for our sins, which we know we cannot bear on our own. Freely we have received the grace so teach us how to freely give. Now that we are Yours and You are ours, we will continue to live deeply in Your love.

Amen.



# DAY OF THE GRAVE

*3 April*

Matthew 27:57-61 (NIV)

Church of Singapore

**A**s evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

## Meditation

Imagine that the disciples had just experienced the strangest and most terrible day. The Lord Jesus, whom they believed in, had been arrested, beaten, crucified, and had died! Quieten yourself and consider, is there anything that you want to do for the Lord?

Now Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple because he feared the Jews, came forward to take care of Jesus' burial.

What do you think was the force that moved him to reveal his "secret" and be the first disciple to publicly take care of the body of the Lord?

Joseph placed the body of Jesus in his own new tomb. Nicodemus offered a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes for the Lord's burial. Mary broke an alabaster flask of very costly oil for the Lord's burial. They gave their best for Jesus' burial. Are you willing to give to the Lord Jesus all that you love and all that you have?



## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: To confess and repent of our sins for being a “secret Christian” in the presence of those more learned or of higher authority. May the Lord renew and revive us.

For the church: To raise up many true disciples like Joseph, to serve the Body of the Lord.

## Prayer

Loving Abba Father,

Thank You for giving Your Son Jesus Christ to die for unworthy sinners like us. Through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, He revealed the true meaning of love. There had been times when we were afraid to do anything because we were worried what others might think of our faith. We were afraid of being ostracized or laughed at. We chose to be a Christian in secret. And because of this, we have gradually lost life testimony, and have fallen short of the glory of God. For this, we repent of our sins before the Lord and ask for His forgiveness. We want to be true disciples of Jesus, just like Joseph, and to break away from our old habits. We actively seek and strive for the opportunity to serve the Lord and to respond to His love to be His true disciple.

Amen.



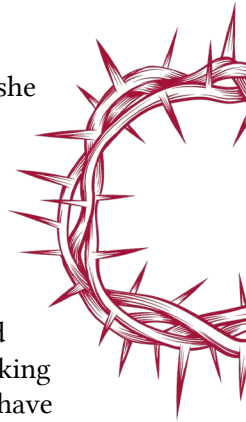
RESURRECTION  
SUNDAY  
*4 April*



**John 20: 6-18 (NIV)**

**T**hen Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.



## Meditation

In the graveyard, Mary wept alone. Her tears covered her eyes and she could not recognize Jesus and did not know that He was near her! The disciples, too, were full of doubts. They did not yet understand what the Scriptures said about Christ rising from the dead. Hence, they did not believe in the messages of the angels or the words of Christ Jesus. Do you have doubts that Jesus rose from the dead? Are you in unbelief? Or do you have a lack of faith?

Today, Jesus instructs His people to lift up their heads, see Him, and hear His call: “Go and tell my disciples that I am risen from the dead!” Everyone should speak of the testimony of the Saviour’s resurrection!

The empty tomb is proof; The Lord Jesus Christ has risen! Jesus is alive! And because He lives, so will we. If you believe, you will enjoy the power of Jesus’ resurrection. Hallelujah!

## Prayer pointers

For ourselves: To repent of our unbelief, doubt and the lack of faith in the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

For the church: To experience the awakening of the Holy Spirit, and to return to the power of the resurrection.

## Prayer

Loving Father God,

We give thanks and praise You! May our spiritual eyes be opened to know the meaning of Scripture, so that we may know that Jesus Christ rose from the dead! Each and every one of us can bear the same witness as Mary; "I have seen the Lord!".

In the name of Jesus Christ, I renounce doubts, a lack of faith and thoughts, words and deeds of unbelief. I believe You are the Son of the living God, crucified for my sins, buried, and on the third day You rose from the dead.

Father, I pray that my faith will never be shaken, and give me the courage to tell others the wonderful news of Jesus' resurrection. We also ask for the power of Your resurrection to revive our church, empower the church to spread the Gospel, so that those who believe in You will also experience a new resurrected life. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen!



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2021

Prayer Ministry



Dear Heavenly Father,

We bless Your holy name and we humbly bow down in worship. Father, we thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, that we may now know the greatest love of all and be saved from eternal death. Thank You for loving us and grafting us into Your family.

Help us O Lord to continue to walk in faith, in love and in obedience to Your wonderful will for us. May we continue to be transformed by Your word and grace. Help us also to impact those around us that they may come to Your saving grace. In Jesus name we ask and pray,

Amen.

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