

JESUS
SET HIS
FACE



J E S U S
S E T H I S
F A C E

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51



BLE

CHURCH FAMILY

As we enter Holy Week together, this devotional is an invitation to slow down and walk with Jesus—step by step—as He set His face toward Jerusalem. These stations are not meant to be rushed but received. They invite us to notice His obedience, His compassion, and His love, even when the path was heavy and the cost was great.

Our prayer is that these reflections would help you create space to listen, to be honest with God, and to remember that Jesus meets us not only in moments of joy, but also in suffering, waiting, and silence. Whether you read this alone, with family, or in community, may you sense the nearness of Christ as you trace His journey to the cross.

As you walk this road, trust that God is at work—even when the story feels unfinished. We follow a Savior who did not turn away, who chose love, and who invites us to follow Him with the same trust.

May this Holy Week shape our hearts and prepare us for the hope that is coming.

With gratitude and prayer.

Your Pastors

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THIS DEVOTIONAL

The Stations of the Cross—also called the Way of the Cross or *Via Dolorosa*—are a historic Christian practice that guides believers through the final moments of Jesus’ life, from the garden to the tomb. Rooted in early pilgrimages in Jerusalem, the stations were later adopted by churches worldwide as a way to spiritually walk the path Jesus took to the cross.

Rather than a reenactment, the Stations of the Cross are a spiritual pilgrimage. Moving from station to station, worshippers pause to read Scripture, pray, and reflect, allowing Christ’s suffering, obedience, and love to shape their hearts and deepen their faith.

This devotional follows that same rhythm in a format suited for personal, family, or group use. Each station includes Scripture, reflection, and prayer, inviting you to slow down, remain present, and trust that even in suffering and silence, God is faithfully at work, leading us toward redemption.



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

This devotional is meant to be used slowly and prayerfully, not rushed. You may choose to reflect on one station each day from March 21–April 4, or walk through multiple stations in a single sitting between March 30–April 2. Small groups may also choose to use one or two regular meetings before Good Friday (April 3) to journey through all 14 stations together. However you engage, begin each time by pausing, taking a deep breath, and asking God to help you listen with an open heart.

For families or groups, consider reading the Scripture and reflection aloud, then allowing a moment of silence before discussing the guided questions. For younger children we created a separate coloring devotional designed just for them. You may choose to use that alongside this one or at a different time that fits your family best. There is no pressure to have all the answers—this is a space to reflect, listen, and be present together. QR codes throughout the devotional link to short pastoral reflections and additional thoughts for each station, offering guidance and encouragement along the way.

As you move through the stations, resist the urge to rush toward Easter. Holy Week invites us to sit with sorrow, sacrifice, and waiting. Trust that God is at work in every moment—even in the silence—and allow this devotional to shape your heart as you follow Jesus, step by step, to the cross.

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:36-41



Before Jesus is betrayed or arrested, He enters the garden of Gethsemane—not to escape what is coming, but to face it. Here, Jesus is honest about His sorrow and fear. He does not hide His pain or rush past it. Instead, He brings it openly before the Father, showing us that real faith makes room for honesty.

Jesus knows the road ahead will lead to suffering and death, yet He does not turn away. He pauses to pray, wrestling with the weight of what is coming. His prayer reveals both His desire for the pain to pass and His deeper trust in the Father's will. In this quiet moment, obedience is chosen over avoidance.

Gethsemane reminds us that following God does not mean the path will be easy. It means trusting God when it is hardest. Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem, choosing love even when it costs Him everything—and He walked this road so we never walk it alone

My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death... Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. — Matthew 26:38–39

Reflection

- When have you faced something difficult that you wished could be avoided?
- How do you usually bring fear or sorrow to God?
- What does Jesus' prayer teach you about trust?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for choosing obedience when it was costly. Help us trust the Father even when the path is heavy. Amen.



JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

Mark 14:43-46



Jesus is betrayed by someone close to Him. Judas approaches with a kiss—a sign of friendship used as a weapon. In this moment, Jesus is surrounded by hostility, yet He does not resist or retaliate. He allows Himself to be taken.

This betrayal reminds us that following God does not protect us from being hurt by others. Even those closest to us may disappoint or wound us. Jesus understands that pain deeply.

Still, Jesus remains steady. He does not lash out or flee. He trusts that even betrayal cannot derail God's purpose. Love continues forward, even when trust is broken.

Judas said, 'Rabbi!' and gave him the kiss.
Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested
him.— Mark 14:45-46

Reflection

- Have you ever been hurt by someone you trusted?
- How does Jesus' response challenge the way you respond to betrayal?

Prayer

Jesus, You know the pain of betrayal. Help us respond with grace instead of bitterness. Amen.

JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN

Luke 22:66–71



Jesus stands before the religious leaders, falsely accused and misunderstood. Though He speaks the truth plainly, it is rejected. His words are not accepted—they are condemned.

This moment shows us that truth is not always welcomed, even by those who claim to serve God. Jesus does not argue or defend Himself. He remains faithful to who He is, even when it costs Him everything.

Following Jesus sometimes means standing firm when others disagree or misunderstand. Jesus models true courage—faithfulness without compromise.

They all shouted, So, are you claiming to be the Son of God? And he replied, ‘You say that I am.
— Luke 22:70

Reflection

- When has it been hard to stand for truth?
- How does Jesus’ calm courage speak to your own faith?

Prayer

Jesus, give us courage to remain faithful when it’s costly. Help us trust You with the outcome. Amen.

JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER

Matthew 26:69–75



Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, denies knowing Him—not once, but three times. Fear overwhelms loyalty. In a moment of weakness, Peter chooses self-protection over faithfulness.

Jesus knew this would happen. He was not surprised by Peter's failure. And still, Jesus loved him. This station reminds us that failure does not cancel grace.

We all stumble. We all fall short. The story of Peter does not end with denial—but with restoration. Jesus meets failure with grace and mercy.

Peter remembered what Jesus had said...
And he went away, weeping bitterly.
— Matthew 26:75

Reflection

- Where does fear sometimes shape your choices?
- How does knowing Jesus meets failure with grace and mercy change you?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for loving us even when we fail.
Restore our hearts with Your grace and mercy. Amen.

JESUS IS JUDGED BY PILATE

Mark 15:1-15



Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, yet he gives in to pressure. To keep the peace, he sacrifices justice. Jesus stands silent as the crowd chooses comfort over truth. This moment challenges us to consider our own choices. How often do we remain silent when we know what is right? How often do we choose ease instead of obedience?

Jesus accepts injustice without bitterness. He trusts the Father, even when human systems fail. His kingdom is not built on power, but on faith.

So Pilate released Barabbas...
Then he ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. — Mark 15:15

Reflection

- When have you felt pressure to stay silent?
- What does Jesus' response teach you about courage?

Prayer

Jesus, help us choose faithfulness over comfort. Give us strength to stand for what is right. Amen.

JESUS IS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS

John 19:1-15



Jesus is beaten, mocked, and humiliated. The soldiers twist a crown of thorns and press it onto His head, laughing as they strike Him. The King of heaven is treated as a joke by those He came to save.

This moment reminds us that Jesus did not just suffer physically—He endured shame. He allowed Himself to be ridiculed and degraded, taking upon Himself the cruelty of the world.

Jesus remains silent. He does not fight back or defend His dignity. He absorbs the violence and mockery, choosing love over revenge. His suffering is not meaningless—it is purposeful.

The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head... and they struck him across the face. — John 19:2-3

Reflection

- How do you respond when you are mocked or treated unfairly?
- What does Jesus' silence teach you about humility and strength?

Prayer

Jesus, You endured shame for our sake.

Help us respond to hurt with grace and trust in God.

Amen.





JESUS BEARS THE CROSS

John 19:16-17



Jesus is handed the cross—the very instrument of His execution—and He carries it Himself. Each step is heavy, each breath painful, yet He continues forward. The cross is not only a symbol of death, but of obedience. Jesus willingly shoulders the burden placed before Him. He does not turn back.

This station reminds us that following Jesus may require carrying weight we did not choose. Still, Jesus goes first, showing us the way of faithful endurance.

Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull.

— John 19:17

Reflection

- What burdens feel heavy in your life right now?
- How does knowing Jesus carried the cross first give you strength?

Prayer

Jesus, help us trust You as we carry what is hard.
Give us strength to keep walking with You. Amen.

JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON OF CYRENE

Mark 15:21



Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry Jesus' cross. He did not plan for this moment. He was simply passing by—and suddenly his life intersects with Jesus' suffering.

Simon reminds us that God often invites ordinary people into holy moments. Sometimes we are called to help carry burdens we did not choose.

Serving Jesus does not always look dramatic. Sometimes it looks like stepping in when help is needed, even when it's inconvenient.

A man named Simon... was forced to carry
Jesus' cross.

— Mark 15:21

Reflection

- When have you been unexpectedly asked to help someone?
- How might God be inviting you to carry another's burden?

Prayer

Jesus, open our eyes to serve where You call us.
Help us respond with willing hearts. Amen.

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Luke 23:27-31



As Jesus walks toward his death, a group of women weep for Him. Even in His suffering, Jesus turns outward—speaking words of warning and compassion.

Jesus shows that His concern extends beyond His own pain. He invites people to reflect, repent, and prepare their hearts for what is coming.

This moment reminds us that compassion and truth often go together. Jesus cares deeply—and He speaks honestly.

Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.
— Luke 23:28

Reflection

- How do you respond to the suffering of others?
- Where might God be calling you to compassion and honesty?

Prayer

Jesus, shape our hearts with compassion and truth.
Teach us to see others as You do. Amen.

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Luke 23:33-34



Jesus is nailed to the cross. The pain is real and overwhelming. Yet from the cross, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness—not anger.

“Father, forgive them,” He prays. Even in agony, Jesus chooses mercy. Love is not extinguished by suffering.

This station calls us to a deeper understanding of forgiveness. Jesus forgives freely, even when forgiveness feels undeserved.

Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

— Luke 23:34

Reflection

- Is there someone you struggle to forgive?
- How does Jesus' prayer reshape your view of mercy?

Prayer

Jesus, soften our hearts to forgive as You forgive.
Teach us love that reaches beyond pain. Amen.



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Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudeorum
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JESUS PROMISES PARADISE TO THE THIEF

Luke 23:39-43



As Jesus hangs on the cross, one of the criminals beside Him mocks Him. The other, however, recognizes who Jesus is. With little strength left, he asks Jesus to remember him. It is a simple request—honest, humble, and full of trust.

Jesus responds with grace. He does not lecture or delay. He offers hope immediately: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Even in His final hours, Jesus continues to save.

This moment reminds us that no one is beyond redemption. Grace meets us wherever we are, even at the very end. Jesus’ mercy is not limited by time, past mistakes, or circumstances.

Jesus replied, I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.

— Luke 23:43

Reflection

- What does this moment teach you about God’s grace?
- Have you labeled someone in your life as, “beyond redemption”?
- How does Jesus’ response bring hope to broken places?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that Your grace is never too late. Help us trust fully in Your mercy. Amen.

JESUS SPEAKS TO HIS MOTHER AND JOHN

Luke 23:33-34



Even as He suffers, Jesus notices the people He loves standing nearby. He sees His mother and His close friend John. In the midst of pain, Jesus makes sure they will care for one another.

This moment shows us the heart of Jesus. He does not turn inward. He continues to love, protect, and provide. His concern is not only for the world, but for individuals.

Love remains at the center of everything Jesus does—even on the cross. His care for others does not fade with suffering.

Dear woman, here is your son...Here is your mother. And from then on this disciple took her into his home.— John 19:26-27

Reflection

- Who has God placed in your life to care for?
- How does Jesus' example shape the way you love others?

Prayer

Jesus, teach us to love faithfully, even when it costs us. Help us care for those You place in our lives. Amen.



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Luke 23:44-46



Darkness covers the land as Jesus takes His final breath. With His last words, He entrusts Himself completely to the Father. Nothing is left undone.

Jesus does not die in defeat. He dies in trust. His work is finished, His mission fulfilled. Love has been poured out fully.

This moment invites us into reverence and silence. Jesus gives His life so that we might truly live.

Then Jesus shouted, Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands! And with those words he breathed his last. — Luke 23:46

Reflection

- What does it mean to trust God completely?
- How does Jesus' surrender shape your faith

Prayer

Jesus, we place our lives in Your hands.
Teach us to trust You fully. Amen.

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

Matthew 27:57-60



Jesus' body is placed in a tomb. The stone is rolled into place. It feels like the end. Silence settles in.

This station invites us to sit in the quiet. Waiting can be uncomfortable. Questions linger. Hope feels distant. Yet God is still at work—even when nothing seems to be happening.

The story is not finished. What feels like an ending is only a pause. God's promises are still alive, even in the silence.

Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth... He rolled a great stone across the entrance. — Matthew 27:59-60

Reflection

- Where are you waiting on God right now?
- How does trusting God in silence grow your faith?

Prayer

Jesus, help us trust You in the waiting.

Teach us to hope, even when the story feels unfinished.

Amen.



HOLY SATURDAY WAITING IN THE SILENCE

Holy Saturday is the day between loss and hope. Jesus' body lies in the tomb. The stone is sealed. The world feels quiet and unresolved.

For the disciples, this day was filled with confusion and grief. Their teacher was gone. Their expectations were shattered. The promises Jesus spoke felt distant and unclear. All they could do was wait.

Holy Saturday reminds us that waiting is part of faith. God does some of His deepest work in silence. When nothing seems to be happening, God is still present. When answers feel delayed, God is still faithful.

Many of us know this kind of waiting. We wait for healing. We wait for clarity. We wait for prayers to be answered. Holy Saturday tells us that waiting does not mean God is absent—it means the story is still unfolding.

The tomb is not the end. It is not defeat. It is a pause. Beneath the silence, God is preparing something new. Light is coming, even if it has not yet dawned.

So we wait.

Not without hope.

Not without trust.

But with quiet expectation—knowing that God keeps His promises.



A PRAYER
FOR HOLY
SATURDAY

God,

We confess that waiting is hard.
Teach us to trust You in the silence.
Help us believe that You are still working,
even when we cannot see it.

As we wait, hold our hearts steady
and prepare us for the joy that is coming.

Amen.



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