



HOLY WEEK

2025 PRAYER GUIDE



HOLY WEEK 2025 PRAYER GUIDE

As we enter Holy Week, we want to be ready and expectant of all that God wants to teach us and do through us. This seven-day prayer guide is designed to help prepare our hearts to reconsider how the events of the week of Jesus' death and resurrection impact our everyday lives in the here and now.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

In this guide you will find a daily passage to read and abide in on your own. You will also find some quick reflection questions and specific prayer points prepared for each day within the four movements of our Prayer Tool. If you are unfamiliar with our Prayer Tool you can get an explanation at saalemchapel.org/discipleship-tools.

You'll also find a daily church-wide prayer request as we look ahead to our weekend services on Good Friday & Easter.

You can use this guide on your own or gather together with individuals in your family, Life Group, Abide Group, or other relational circles and share this time of prayer together. Additionally, you can sign up to receive this guide daily by email by visiting saalemchapel.org/holyweekguide.

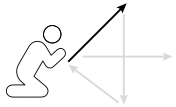
READ AND ABIDE

MATTHEW 21:1-11 - "EXPECTING HOPE"

REFLECT

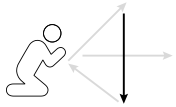
1. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, the people of God celebrated with enthusiasm believing that this was their promised King. Waving palm branches, a symbol of peace and victory, and crying out "Hosanna" which means "Save us now!" seemed the only fitting response as they saw Him riding in on the donkey. Though they assumed He was arriving to free them from their Roman oppressors, that day the victorious peace Jesus would bring would be the peace He would establish between God and man.
 - *Do you remember the first time you experienced the hope and joy that Jesus offers? When was the last time you experienced hope for the future?*
2. Though some celebrated that day, others doubted. "If this is our king, why did He come like this?" "Why isn't he doing what I want?"
 - *Where have you been tempted to doubt that Jesus is alive and reigning in your everyday life? Where can you invite Him to rule and reign in your heart today?*

PRAYER



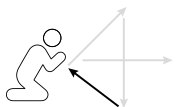
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Take a few moments to thank God for the ways He has been working recently to confirm to you that Jesus is your ultimate hope.



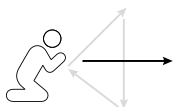
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Pray that God would help you live in submission to His will, even in those times when it seems to not align with your timeline or your desired outcomes.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Are there any needs (material, relational, physical, etc) that you can bring to God today as your source of hope? Is there any sin you need to confess or anyone you need to forgive? Take a moment to share these needs with your Father.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

Where is the enemy trying to steal, kill, or destroy the hope that God intends for you to experience in your everyday life? Pray that God will protect you from the temptation to doubt where your hope comes from, and guide you with the spiritual awareness to reject the enemy's lies and refocus on the truth.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Pray for our upcoming Good Friday and Easter services. Ask that the Gospel will be clearly proclaimed and visibly lived out in us as we welcome those who are desperately seeking the hope only Jesus can give.

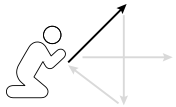
READ AND ABIDE

LUKE 19:41-48 - "THE THINGS JESUS WEEPS FOR"

REFLECT

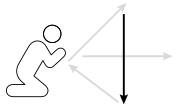
1. When Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem, scripture says He wept. Because even though there had been celebration as He entered the city, His own people would not truly recognize who He was and what He came to do, which in turn resulted in many of them rejecting Him.
 - *Have you ever failed to recognize Jesus' work in your life, only to realize it later? How did that realization affect your heart?*
2. When Jesus entered the temple, His Father's house, and found it full of merchants and money-changers abusing the vulnerable and creating obstacles to worship for those seeking God, He became angry with righteous indignation and started cleaning house. Jesus came to break down the barrier that sin created between God and His people.
 - *What are the obstacles that have taken up residence in your heart that are keeping you from freely experiencing your relationship with Jesus? Where might Jesus be prompting you to do some "house-cleaning" today?*

PRAYER



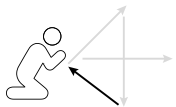
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Take a few moments to thank God for the faithful love and mercy He has shown you, even perhaps in times where you may have missed at first what He was doing.



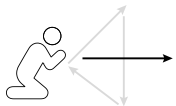
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any obstacles to true worship that have taken residence in your heart. Pray that God will help give you clarity on how you should respond in obedience to His will for you.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Sometimes our immediate needs are often the very things that create obstacles to worship, because we do not take time to entrust these to the Lord but instead try to carry these heavy burdens alone. Take a few moments to bring these immediate and pressing needs to your Father who loves you and wants to give you good things.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

Sometimes when we recognize we missed out on something Jesus calls us to do, the enemy likes to tempt us with guilt. Pray today that you will not listen to the lie of guilt, but live in the relentless love of Christ.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Sadly, many people leave the church because of obstacles to worship. Sometimes these obstacles take the form of relational conflicts, tribalism, or even the oppression of legalism. Whatever the case, these barriers can make it hard to truly encounter Jesus. Some of those individuals may be joining us this Easter. Would you pray that nothing would stand in the way of them meeting the real Jesus?

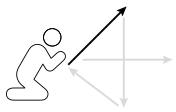
READ AND ABIDE

JOHN 13:1-16 - "HE LOVES TO THE END"

REFLECT

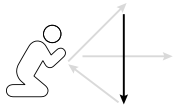
1. Even though His time was short, Jesus's priority was for His disciples to experience His love. As He knelt down to wash their feet, He was showing them the kind of humble love He wanted them to receive for themselves and give to others.
 - *How do you need to receive Jesus' love today? Who do you need to show Jesus' love to today?*
2. At first, Peter objected to Jesus' desire to wash his feet, thinking a task like this was beneath Jesus. Jesus lovingly reminded Peter and the other disciples that the first in His kingdom are the first to serve, not to be served.
 - *How does Jesus' posture as a humble servant challenge your thinking this week about what is beneath you as one of His disciples? How might changing your posture toward serving others open your heart to receive and share Jesus' love more freely?*

PRAYER



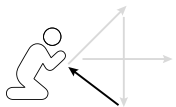
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Take a moment to make a list of all the faithful ways Jesus is serving you with His love in this season. Thank Him for His love. Think of others in your life who have modeled Jesus' love to you, thank God for them too.



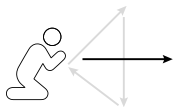
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Serving others is often a battle of wills because it challenges our pride and view of what is "beneath us". Pray that you will submit yourself in humility to serve others in the love that Jesus has served you with.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Jesus' love did not stop at the cross, His love for you only continues to grow in the everyday. How can He serve you in your need today? There is no need beneath Him to respond to. Tell Jesus the needs on your heart today, big or small.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

Pray that God will protect you from the temptation of pride, one of the biggest obstacles to genuine love. In place of pride, pray that Jesus will fill your heart with His love today in such a way that it has no place to go but to overflow into the lives of other people.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Jesus' love for his friends provoked Him to serve. Take time today to pray for everyone serving on our volunteer teams this weekend. Pray that we would reflect the humility and love of Jesus as we serve one another and our guests.

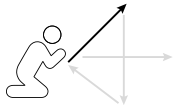
READ AND ABIDE

MATTHEW 26:17-30 - "A SEAT AT THE TABLE"

REFLECT

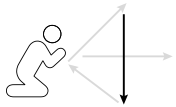
1. Long before this interaction at the table, God's people shared a similar meal around a table hundreds of years before as slaves in Egypt. When Pharaoh refused for the tenth time to release the Israelites, God promised to send the Angel of Death to each home in Egypt. The promise of Passover was that God, in order to preserve His people from death, would "pass over" the homes of those who had spread the blood of a spotless lamb upon the doorframe of their homes. The relevance of salvation through the blood of another was not lost on the disciples that night at the table even as Jesus claimed it would be HIS body to be broken and HIS blood to be shed that would free his people once again from the slavery of sin.
 - *What is something you have been enslaved to in your life? Where is Jesus inviting you to look to what He has accomplished already on the cross to give you a life of freedom, peace, and joy?*
2. Though Jesus identified Judas as the betrayer, everyone at the table would ultimately abandon or deny Him in some way that night. They would either, like Peter, violently deny they ever knew Jesus, or simply scatter in fear. And yet, these inconsistent, scared, disloyal disciples were the very ones Jesus sat with that night and shared the depth of His heart and the truth of His sacrifice, and who later would become the leaders of His church.
 - *How have failures in your past kept you from believing there was a seat for you at the table with Jesus? How do you need to receive that His love for you is not based upon your consistency but out of grace?*

PRAYER



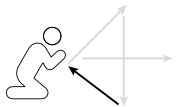
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God today that your salvation and His love is not given based upon your faithfulness, but upon Jesus.



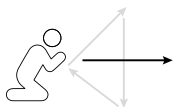
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Though Jesus as the ultimate Passover lamb came to free you from slavery to sin, sometimes if we're honest, we don't really want to walk away. Pray for wisdom to be obedient to leave your sin behind and follow Jesus into forgiveness and freedom.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Being obedient to walk away from sin and walk toward Jesus is not always easy. How do you need God to provide so you can be obedient to do what He is calling you to do? Ask Him to reveal your next step.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

Some poignant words from Jesus later that night in the Garden remind us of the reality of the daily war we fight spiritually when He said, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Pray for His protection today to keep you from the temptation to return to your sin and the temptation to forget that His love and grace are not dependent on your consistency.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Who in your life needs to know there's a seat at Jesus' table for them? Consider inviting them to join you this weekend at our Good Friday and Easter services. Pray for them by name - and for others who may come to Salem Chapel for the very first time, wondering if Jesus has a seat for them.

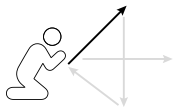
READ AND ABIDE

LUKE 23:1-49 - "HE SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON"

REFLECT

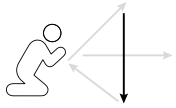
1. Though only a few days had passed between the two events, this week that began with jubilant cries of "Hosanna!" now transformed to violent chants of "Crucify Him!" Even more shocking, when given the chance to release Jesus, the people chose to release Barrabas instead, a known criminal and murderer. And yet in the midst of all the visceral anger, murderous threats, and agony, Jesus prays for his people: "Father, forgiven them, because they do not know what they are doing."
 - *Where have you chosen a "Barrabas" over Jesus in your life? Do you think Jesus' love for you in those moments any less sincere?*
2. The penalty for our sin was ultimately so much more than the physical beatings, the pain of crucifixion or the agony of death, but also included Jesus' experience of the entire holy wrath of God as it was poured out on Him for our sins. It's difficult to read and process the events of that first Good Friday, but reflecting on how intense it was just allows us a greater clarity to grieve the cost and receive the gift all the more.
 - *Where are you grieved today over the cost of your sin? How does reading the events of the cross impact your understanding of the great value that Jesus sees in you? How would your life look different if you lived as if you believed that truth every day?*

PRAYER



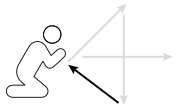
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Thank God today that He loves you so much that He did not spare even His own son so you could have life.



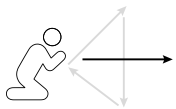
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Is there a "Barrabas" in your life that's looked more appealing as a savior to you than Jesus in the circumstances of your life? Pray that you would surrender yourself to the leading of the only Savior that gave Himself so that you would have life and have it abundantly.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Today, pray that God will give you a greater awareness of His love even as you grow in your understanding of Jesus' sacrifice.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

Genesis 3:15 foreshadowed Jesus' death on the cross as the enemy striking His heel, but the final part of the promise in that verse was that Jesus would crush the enemy's head. Pray today that the Holy Spirit will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus even as the enemy seeks to deceive and discourage you with doubts about Jesus' love for you.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Pray for our Good Friday services this evening. Ask that the weight of the night will serve as a clarifying moment for each of us as we reflect anew on Jesus' love poured out on the cross.

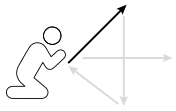
READ AND ABIDE

LUKE 23:50-56 - "WAITING IN SILENCE"

REFLECT

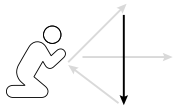
1. There is not much recorded surrounding the events of the Saturday after Jesus' death and burial. Because the Sabbath began on Friday at sundown, Jesus' friends and family rushed to get his body prepared for burial before they would have to observe the day of rest. Thankfully, a man named Joseph of Arimathea was willing to offer his tomb for the body and Jesus was placed within. Upon completing the burial preparation, the friends of Jesus departed to begin the observation of the Sabbath. One can only imagine the thoughts going through the heads of Jesus' closest friends on what is often called "Silent Saturday." Because it was the Sabbath, they literally had to sit in this silence and wait.
 - *How have you had moments in your life where you have felt forced to simply sit in your grief and wait? How did Jesus minister to you in those moments?*
2. In some ways it seems fitting that with Jesus' final words on the cross, "It is Finished" came a day after to rest and soak in the promise of those three powerful words.
 - *Where do you need to rest in the promise of "It Is Finished" today?*

PRAYER



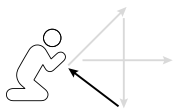
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Thank Jesus that because of His work on the cross, your debt is paid!



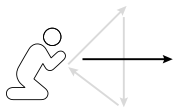
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

Pray that you will truly rest in the promise that there is nothing you can do to add or take away from the work that Jesus has already done.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Are you sitting in a place of waiting today? Pray that Jesus will help you rest in Him even as you wait to see His salvation in this situation.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

One of the most devious lies of the enemy is to tell us "IT IS NOT FINISHED." Pray today that you will live each and every day confident that Jesus is all that is necessary for your salvation and resist the temptation to believe you are defined by your works and not by the grace of God.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

Pray today for those who struggle to believe the Gospel is freely given. Ask that doubts, fears, or past experiences would not be used by the enemy to discourage anyone from coming to our services tomorrow to hear the truth proclaimed.

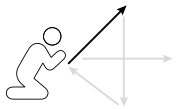
READ AND ABIDE

MATTHEW 28:1-10, 16-20 – “I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

REFLECT

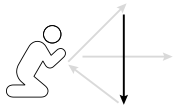
1. When the two Marys arrived at the tomb that Sunday morning, you have to wonder what they expected to see. Luke 24:1 tells us they were carrying spices with them that morning. I don't think it would be a stretch to say that they expected to find a dead body in that tomb despite Jesus' repeated promise to rise again. I can only imagine that they were more than happy to be wrong when they heard the angel proclaim, "He is not here. For He has risen, just as He said." The resurrection changed everything. If "It is Finished" represented the transaction, "He is Risen" is the receipt.
 - *How does Jesus' resurrection reinforce all His promises to you? What hope does this give you in your everyday life and for the future?*
2. We are very familiar with Jesus' charge after His resurrection to the mission of making disciples in Matt. 28:19, but often overlook the statements He makes just before in verse 18 and just after in verse 20, "All authority has been given to me on Heaven and on earth" and "I am with you always." There is nothing in life, in death, in heaven, or in earth that is not subject to King Jesus and nothing in any of those places could every separate me from the love and presence of King Jesus the Resurrected One.
 - *Where do you need to remember Jesus' authority and presence in the everyday circumstances of your life today?*

PRAYER



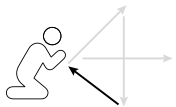
UPWARD - PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Thank Jesus today for His promises, power, and presence in your life.



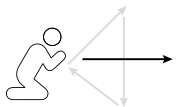
DOWNWARD - PRAYERS OF SUBMISSION

If there are any areas of your life that feel out of control today, pray that you would first recognize Jesus' authority over the situation and look for Jesus' presence with you as you seek His will in how to respond.



INWARD - PRAYERS OF NEED

Jesus' death brought you life. What still needs to come to life in you today? Pray that Jesus will do what only He can do to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.



OUTWARD - PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION & DIRECTION

The mission of Jesus in Matthew 28 was borne directly out of the miracle of the resurrection. Because they had seen, they were sent. The enemy will try to minimize your story and convince you it's not worth sharing. Pray for Jesus to protect you and use you as you seek to share with others what He has done in your life.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER FOR TODAY

He is Risen Indeed! Pray for our church family and every guest joining us today for our three Easter services at Salem Chapel. Ask that the Gospel would go forth with power, the testimonies of those being baptized would be impactful, the worship would be authentic, and the love of Christ's body would shine brightly as we celebrate our risen King together!

