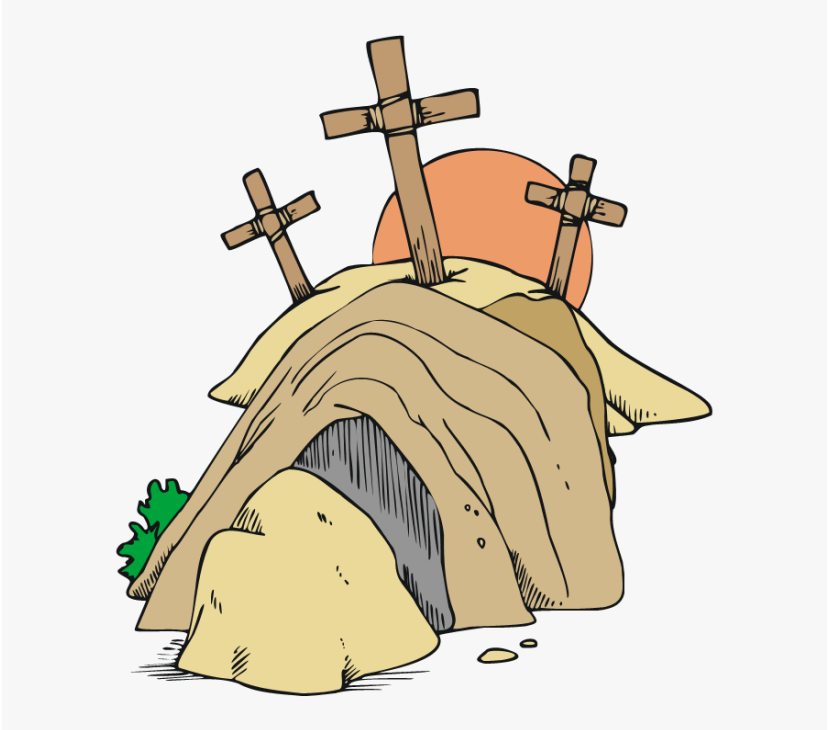


*Wyoming Baptist Church*  
*March 29 – April 4*

## **Daily Devotional**

He died for you



# **Holy Week**

**Week 7: March 29 – April 4**

The following series of daily readings, questions, and prayers has been designed by Pastor Tom Cullen to lead up to the sermon for the coming week. There are five daily studies for each week. Allow about 15 minutes a day to complete each daily devotional. This is not to take the place of any devotional you may now be doing but only is a supplement.

The weekly sermons can be heard at [wyomingbaptist.com](http://wyomingbaptist.com)

Each week's daily devotional guide is also available online at [wyomingbaptist.com](http://wyomingbaptist.com)

Sermon Schedule  
*Members of one another*

March 28 – Serve one another (John 13:1-17)

April 4 – Easter Sunday - What difference does the resurrection make? (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)

April 11 – Be united with one another (Ephesians 4:1-16)

April 18 – Pray for one another (James 5:16)

April 25 – Encourage one another (Hebrews 10:19-25)

## Sermon Series Devotional Guide

# He is Risen

This week we take a bit of a break from our usual study to focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Traditionally, this is a very solemn week in the life of the church as we think of our Lord's crucifixion and our sin that nailed him there. But the truth is, we worship a risen Saviour, not a dead martyr. So, the last part of our week, we'll also be meditating on the truth of the resurrection.

But we begin focusing on the cross of Christ. And when you think of it, it seems like a strange place to start. For many in our culture, the cross has become a piece of jewelry or an adornment for a church building. At the time of Jesus however, the cross wasn't a religious symbol it was an instrument of torture and shame. It was viewed a disgusting, revolting and cursed. (see Deuteronomy 21:23)

Alister MacGrath likens the early Christian preaching of the cross to a modern business or corporation choosing a hangman's noose, lynching tree, firing squad, gas chamber or electric chair as its logo. What advertising agency would advise you to choose an instrument of execution as the symbol of your organization? "Its members would instantly be regarded as perverted, sick, having a morbid obsession with death, or having a nauseating interest in human suffering....Only an organization determined to fail as quickly and spectacularly as possible would be mad enough to choose such a symbol."

But that's what the early Christians did. They made it the center of their faith. So Paul would say to the Galatians, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

As you prepare to go through the study this week, ask that the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus would be brought home to your heart again. Pray that the sacrifice of Jesus would be the center of your faith and witness.

**Read**

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❖ John 18:28-40

**Study**

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1. Previous to this, Jesus has been arrested while in the garden. The high priest has questioned him and Peter has denied him three times. It is clear in our text that the Jewish authorities want Jesus dead. Why don't they execute Jesus themselves?

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2. When Pilate questions Jesus, what does he discover?

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3. What is the nature of Jesus' kingship? How is it different from Pilate's rule?

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4. What does this title tell you about the sin of those who want Jesus dead and the wonder of his sacrifice? How does Jesus appeal to Pilate? (verse 37)

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5. What is Pilate's conclusion about Jesus?

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6. What feelings do these events evoke in you toward Jesus?  
Toward Pilate?

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### Notes

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- ❖ John 18:29 At this time Rome ruled the ancient world. The governor or prefect they placed over Judah was Pontius Pilate. He was in charge of keeping the peace and furthering the ideas and plans of Rome. The Jews hated him, and for good reason. He once provoked them by having his soldiers parading down the street on a Jewish holy day carrying a portrait of the emperor. The Jews saw it as an idol. Believing it to be an act of blasphemy, the Jews rioted, and Pilate was severely reprimanded by his superiors in Rome. So, when the Jewish officials bring Jesus to Pilate he wants to do two things: he wants to win back their favour, and he wants to avoid any more undo attention from Rome.

### Reflect

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- ❖ Think about Jesus' Kingship. Is he King of your life? Are there any areas in your life marked "out of bounds" to Jesus?
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### Pray

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- ❖ Use Psalm 24:7-10 to shape your personal prayer:

*“Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory.”*

*For our church:*

- ❖ Pray for our partners in mission, Bill and Janice Dyck. As they are now on furlough pray that they will know God’s leading and presence. Pray for their ministries in Bolivia. Janice has been teaching music to vulnerable children in the “red light” district of Cochabamba and taking part in the worship team at their local church. Bill has been helping to organize support for pastors through a ministry called Pastoring of Pastors, in addition to teaching and guest speaking.
- ❖ Pray for the church in Bolivia. Pray that it will be strengthened by the truth of God’s word and know spiritual growth in the midst of difficult times.
- ❖ As we begin the visioning process tonight. Pray that God will grant us a vision that glorifies him and exalts the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***Tuesday March 30***

### **Read**

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- ❖ John 19:1-16

### **Study**

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1. Why, after declaring him innocent, does Pilate have Jesus flogged?
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2. What do you think Pilate is trying accomplish by having Jesus wear a crown of thorns and a purple robe?

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3. Again, Pilate declares Jesus innocent (verse 6). What reason do the Jews give for wanting Jesus dead? What reaction does Pilate have to this news?

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4. From verse 8 on we over hear the conversation between Jesus and Pilate. Who is in control? Whose robes seem like a true mockery?

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5. How does verse 15 reveal the true heart of the chief priests?

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**Reflect**

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❖ Read Isaiah 53:1-9 and see how closely Isaiah’s prophecy matches the events we have read so far.

**Pray**

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❖ Let this prayer of Rev. Peter Marshall guide your prayer today:

*“Our Father, we are beginning to understand at last that the things that are wrong with our world are the sum total of all the things that are wrong with us as individuals. You have made us in your image, and our hearts can find no rest until they rest in you.*

*We are too Christian to really enjoy sinning and too fond of sinning to really enjoy Christianity. Most of us know perfectly well what we ought to do; our trouble is that we do not want to do it. Your help is our only hope. Make us want to do what is right, and give us the ability to do it.*

*In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.”*<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ Pray for our partners in mission, Tim and Kallie Hutton as they serve in Bolivia. They are working to get churches involved with strategic community development projects as well as expanding the capacity of the seminary to train effective leaders. Pray that God will sustain them as they proclaim the truth of Christ. Ask God to keep them from all that seeks to overwhelm and discourage them.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Marshall, *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1949) 145.



**Read**

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❖ John 19:17-27

**Study**

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1. Unlike many movies that depict Jesus' crucifixion, John's description of the event is restrained. Notice what John *does* tell us and tell why you think these facts are important.

Jesus is crucified among thieves.

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Pilate places a notice above Jesus' head that reads, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

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The soldiers cast lots for the garments of Jesus.

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Jesus gives His mother to John's care.

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**Reflect**

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What verse caught your attention today? Why? What is

God saying to you through it?

## Pray

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- ❖ Express your thoughts to God about what you have learned today. Talk to God.

*For our church:*

- ❖ Pray for our pastoral search team. Pray that they would know this truth as they meet together *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”* (James 1:5).
- ❖ Pray that God will send us a pastor who like Barnabas is *“full of the Holy Spirit and faith.”* (Acts 11:24)

## Thursday April 1

## Reading

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- ❖ John 19:28-42

## Study

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1. What does verse 28 -30 tell you about who is in control of this whole situation?  

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2. Why do you think Jesus said, *“It is finished”*? What was finished?  

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3. How would verse 34 enable someone to argue against those who say that Jesus wasn't truly a man but only seemed to take on human form and only appeared to die?  

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4. Who buried Jesus? Do you think that Jesus' death still has the power to change people's half-hearted devotion to full fledged allegiance? How? (If you have time, trace Nicodemus' faith journey by re-reading John 3:1-15; 7:45-52)
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## Notes

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- ❖ John 19:29 Don't confuse this drink with the "*wine mixed with myrrh*" that Jesus was offered on the way to the cross (see Mark 15:23). That drink was a sedative designed to dull the senses and the pain of the event. Jesus would have none of it, as He resolved to drink the full cup of suffering the Father had given Him. The drink offered in our text is not a sedative but a thirst quencher that would prolong life and consequently the pain. The use of the word "*wine vinegar*" recalls Psalm 69:21 where the same noun is used.
- ❖ John 19:31 "The Mosaic law insisted that anyone hanged on a gibbet (usually after execution) should not remain there overnight (Deuteronomy 21:22,23). Such a person was under God's curse, and to leave him exposed would be 'to desecrate the land'. Presumably this would be viewed as doubly offensive if the day on which the desecration took place was a "special Sabbath". So the '*Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.*' They may also have been hoping that this further mutilation would in the

eyes of the people make Jesus appear to be plainly accused and abandoned by God.”<sup>2</sup>

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## Reflect

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- ❖ We read a portion of Isaiah 53 earlier. Now take time to read the whole chapter and note all the parallels between this passage and Jesus’ death.

## Pray

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- ❖ “Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.”<sup>3</sup>

*For our church:*

Pray for your neighbours. Bring them by name to God and ask that He would show them the truth that “*God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16)

**Friday April 2**

## Read

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<sup>2</sup> D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 622-623.

<sup>3</sup> From the hymn, “Rock of Ages”. Words by Augustus M. Toplady.

## Study

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1. Mary Magdalene is the first to go visit the tomb of Jesus. What does she see? What does she do in response? And what does she assume has happened?

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2. Try to imagine what Peter and the other disciple (we believe it to be John) are thinking as they run to the tomb.

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3. When Peter and John arrive at the tomb, what do they see? Why do you think John gives us the details as he does? Why would it be important?

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4. What didn't Peter and John understand at this point? Read Luke 24:25, 26, 45, 46 to discover why they did not understand.

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**Reflect**

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- ❖ Read John 2:18-22. Why is the resurrection the greatest sign Jesus gives us?

**Pray**

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Begin by giving thanks to God for the wonder of the resurrection. Perhaps pray through Psalm 16:7-11.

*For our church:*

- ❖ Pray for our church in general. Remember each age group, family group, single. Ask God to lead us as we work together for the Kingdom of God. May our vision be His vision, may our wills in be in line with His will.
- ❖ Pray for our worship together today and Sunday. Ask God to glorify his name in us as we praise his name together.

## *Additional Notes*

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