

2026

The background of the entire page is a grayscale photograph of three wooden crosses standing on a rocky, uneven terrain. The crosses are arranged from left to right, with the leftmost one being the largest and most prominent. The lighting is soft, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere.

Easter

**Prayer & Fasting
Devotional**

SUNDAY 29 MARCH TO SUNDAY 5 APRIL

**AT
EDGE
CHURCH**

Step in

As we step into **Holy Week**, we step into the most significant week in human history. This week, we will journey together through the days leading up to the cross, and we will culminate and celebrate at the empty tomb. What happened this week is deeply significant and has shaped humanity forever – and is still shaping humanity today. What Jesus did on the cross over 2000 years ago continues to transform lives across the globe. That hasn't changed, and this week can be deeply transformative for you too.

So, the invitation this week is not to simply tick the box, but rather, to slow down, pause, reflect and remember the life, sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.

Our vision for 2026 is BY FAITH. That means we are putting our wholehearted trust in God, stepping out and stepping in – not by sight, but BY FAITH. Our prayer is that your faith will deepen as you draw near to Jesus in scripture, prayer and reflection. So, enjoy the journey, be refreshed in the pause, and may you experience the tangible love of Christ this week.

You will notice that throughout this devotional, there will be a “Family Moment” each day. The heart behind this is to invite our kids on the journey with us, so they too can experience Jesus on a whole new level. We encourage you to take a moment with your kids each day and listen closely to their responses. This will provide you with beautiful insights on their understanding and experience of Jesus, as well as how to pray with them.

This week, may you know the deep love of the Father, the extravagant grace of Jesus and the comforting companionship of the Holy Spirit.

What is the purpose of fasting?

Fasting is an act of abstaining from food (typically) as a declaration of our dependency on God and His provision. It is a physical representation of our hunger and desire to do God's will above all else – as an act of surrender. Fasting is not a way to earn God's approval. It is a way to quiet everything else so that we seek Him first and He becomes the centre.

Although food fasts are most common, there are many different things that we have become dependent on to survive. There are various fasts that you can commit to for the next 8 days, and we encourage you to spend time with God in deciding which you will commit to:

If you have any medical concerns, please choose a fast that is safe and wise.

1. **Total fast** – abstaining from all food for a set time and only drink liquids
2. **Partial fast** – choosing to fast specific mealtimes (e.g. fasting from sunrise until sunset)
3. **Selective fast** – removing certain foods from your diet (e.g. meat, sugar, bread etc.)
4. **Soul fast** – not using things such as social media, not watching TV, etc

To help you stay consistent, here is a simple daily rhythm you can use during the fast. It is not a rule; it is a guide.

A spiritual rhythm for your fast

Fasting becomes powerful when paired with prayer and Scripture. Jesus said, "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (*Matthew 4:4*).

Here is a simple daily pattern:

A) Morning (5–10 minutes)

1. Prayer for hunger for God: "Lord Jesus, give me hunger for You above everything else."
2. Scripture reading: Use the verses in this journal, a Psalm or anything God is highlighting to you.
3. One minute of stillness: Sit quietly and pray – "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."

B) During hunger pangs (5–20 seconds)

These moments can become holy. Pray short prayers like:

- "Jesus, You are my bread."
- "Lord, strengthen my spirit."
- "More of You, less of me."
- "Purify my heart."
- "Let physical hunger awaken spiritual hunger."

C) If you are eating

Before eating: "Lord, thank You for this food. May this meal strengthen me to serve You." After eating: "Satisfy me with Your presence, not only with food."

D) Night prayer (5 minutes)

- Thank God for the day.
- Confess any sin or wrong attitudes.
- Pray for one person in need.
- Read one Psalm (Psalm 23, 27, 51, 63, 103, 131 are beautiful).

Finish with: "Jesus, form Your life in me again."

My prayer for each of us as we go into this time of praying and fasting is this: "Let my fasting become worship. Let my hunger become prayer. And let every moment draw me closer to You."

Bless you guys!

Daniel Erasmus

Day 1: Palm Sunday – Faith Welcomes The King

Scripture: *Luke 19:35–40*

Deeper dive: *Deuteronomy 30:19–20*

Palm Sunday is celebrated as the day Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. This was the anticipated Messiah; the King the Jewish people had read about and had been longing for. The One who would arrive as a mighty conqueror, toppling the Roman empire and re-establishing God's Kingdom. So, it is quite a strange picture when Jesus enters in on a donkey (one that is not even His own) with an entourage of fishermen alongside Him. In the mix of the crowd shouting "Hosanna", one can only wonder if there was some hint of doubt that Jesus really was the One. Let's be honest, this is not your typical image of a mighty conqueror and King. But Jesus often flipped the expectations of people. And even though His entrance was not as expected, in a few days, this "man on a donkey" would shake the gates of hell and topple a kingdom far more threatening than the Roman empire.

BY FAITH thought: Has Jesus been anything like you expected Him to be? Often, we have our own expectations and ideas of who Jesus *should* be. The world has painted Him in certain ways – oftentimes like a genie, waiting to grant us our every wish and expectation. Today, we are invited to examine our own ideas and expectations, to acknowledge Him as KING and to surrender our hearts to His ways, representing Him wherever we go.

Reflection

- What ideas of Jesus do I need to lay down. Have I been regarding Him as the "big man in the sky who answers my prayers", or as the King of Heaven and Earth?
- It can be a beautiful moment to sit with God as you come to a place of repentance and renewal. Ask for forgiveness and confirm in your heart that He is your King.
- After this, take some time to reflect. Think about how you can show up differently at work, at school or at home. How is God asking you to show up? You have an opportunity today to paint a clear picture to the world of what Jesus is like and to invite them, BY FAITH, to come to know Him.

Prayer: King Jesus, I welcome You into every part of my life. Come and search my heart, and help me to identify any self-centred expectations that lurk there. Help me to see You clearly, follow You fully and live my life for Your Kingdom.

Recommended worship song: You are Holy (Live) – Jesus Image

FAMILY MOMENT

Ask your kids: ***"If Jesus came to our street today, would you recognise Him? What would He be like?"***

Activity idea: Grab some leaves or make paper palms and act out the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Alternatively, get them to draw a picture of how they see Jesus.

Day 2: Monday – Faith Makes Room

Scripture: *Luke 19:45–48, 1 Corinthians 6:19*

Deeper dive: *Psalm 119:11, Psalm 139: 23–24, Matthew 5:8*

Today is marked by Jesus entering the temple with a righteous anger. He began flipping the tables and driving out the vendors who had set up shop in God's house. They were taking advantage of the festivities and capitalising on filling their pockets from their sales.

Jesus's actions seem contrary to the image we were given of Him yesterday – that of a humble man riding in on a donkey. But this stark contrast doesn't question His character; rather, it highlights what He values and how He wants us to live our lives – *holy*, not cluttered with compromise.

Following Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension, Paul reminds us that we have now become the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) – the sacred dwelling place of God's presence. A place that is devoted wholly to Him. Unfortunately, compromise will slip in and, if left unchecked, will "set up shop".

The invitation today is to clear what does not belong there, setting ourselves aside, once again, for God.

BY FAITH thought: Compromise comes in many shapes and sizes. It may be obvious ones or very subtle ones. The truth is, both will cloud our faith and clog our hearts. Although Jesus's actions in the temple may seem extreme, they're an act of kindness. He wants our lives to be free and uncompromised so that we can experience life to the full and live it BY FAITH.

Reflection

- What areas of my life have I allowed myself to compromise? Take a moment to repent and give this to God.
- Have I made space for prayer and worship outside of my regular devotional times? What distractions do I need to "flip" in my life that might help me to create more space?

Prayer: Father, cleanse my heart of anything that distracts me from You. Help me to identify any compromises I have let in. Even right now, would you bring those to mind. (Take a moment to pause.)

I ask you for Your forgiveness, and I thank You for Your kindness to me. Lead me today in Your grace. In Jesus name, Amen.

Recommended worship song: Make Room – Community Music

FAMILY MOMENT

Talk about your home as a “house of prayer.” Ask: **“Where is a special place we can pray together as a family?”**

Activity idea: Set up a “prayer spot” at home where your family can go to talk to God each day this week. Even decluttering a space to make room for this could be deeply symbolic.

Day 3: Tuesday – Faith Bears Fruit

Scripture: *Mark 11:12–14; 20–24, Matthew 21: 18–22, John 15:4–5*

Deeper dive: *Galatians 5:22–23, Matthew 19:26*

Today is marked as quite a confronting day in Holy Week. Both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark record Jesus’s interactions with a fig tree.

Because the leaves and figs bud at the same time, it appeared that the fig tree *should* have fruit. However, upon inspection, the tree simply gave off the impression of being fruitful when, in fact, it had no fruit. This was characteristic of the ripening hypocrisy found in this holy city. Hypocrisy that can be easily found in our own lives if we “just lift up the leaves”. (As you can see: quite a confronting day!)

Lifting up the leaves will reveal what’s there, or not there – and that’s the best starting point. Jesus’s lesson to us here is that our lives are meant to be fruitful. They’re meant to display the fruits of the Spirit, as Galatians 5 lists. Now, we may look and find ourselves lacking, but we should resist the urge to try to work harder at it. Fruit that is forced is often fake, and this is why it must be formed within us by the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

This entire week is an invitation for us to live differently – to live fruitful lives! John 15 highlights how this is possible. Jesus says that if we stick close to Him and spend time with Him, our lives will be slowly transformed by the Holy Spirit – and we will be able to offer this world lasting fruit. Fruit formed BY FAITH, fruit that leaves a legacy.

BY FAITH thought: The life God calls us to live is not just about ticking the boxes and following religious protocol. The invitation is to be meaningful and fruitful in the way that we live. That is found only when we are in relationship with Jesus.

Reflection

- When I “lift up the leaves of my life”, can I see the fruits of the Spirit? (Read Galatians 5:22–23 and identify the fruits God is producing in your life.) This is a great opportunity to invite God to highlight any areas of struggle.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for your faithfulness to me. Thank You that you find me as I am and that, day by day, You are patiently transforming me to become more like You. I know that as I remain in You, my life will become fruitful and beneficial to those around me.

Recommended worship song: Fall Like Rain – Passion

FAMILY MOMENT

Ask your kids: **“What kind of fruit do you like the most? Did you know that when we stay close to Jesus, our lives grow “fruit” too? What do you think love, kindness or patience might look like in our family this week?”**

Activity idea: Draw a big tree or vine on a piece of paper. Cut out small fruit shapes (or draw them) and write one fruit of the Spirit on each one (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

Day 4: Wednesday – Faith Counts The Cost

Scripture: *Matthew 26: 1–10*

Deeper dive: *Luke 21:1–4, Romans 12:1, 2 Samuel 24:24*

Two days before Passover, two very different responses to Jesus unfold side by side. While the Pharisees gather in secret to plot His death, a woman approaches Jesus in an act of remarkable devotion. She breaks open an alabaster jar and pours expensive perfume over His head. Unknowingly, she is preparing Jesus for what is about to come, and her act becomes a powerful prophetic picture of the cross that is only days away (Jesus’s body broken and His blood poured out for the salvation of the world).

What is most significant in this moment is the depth of her devotion. Her worship is extravagant and costly. Scholars believe that the perfume was made of pure nard worth around **300 denarii**, roughly a year’s wages in those days. To understand the magnitude of this gift, consider that when Jesus fed the five thousand, the disciples estimated it would take about **200 denarii** just to buy enough bread for the crowd. In other words, this was no small gesture, it was a life’s treasure poured out in a single moment of love and honour for Jesus.

While some criticised her actions as wasteful, Jesus saw it differently and welcomed it. True devotion often looks extravagant to those who do not understand the worth of Jesus. But for those who recognise who He is, nothing feels too costly to give.

BY FAITH thought: True devotion holds nothing back. When we recognize the worth of Jesus, worship becomes wholehearted and sacrificial.

Reflection

- What area(s) of my life do I find myself holding back in giving worship to God? Think of areas that cost you something – such as comfort, convenience or control.
- How can you begin to worship God within these areas?

Prayer: Jesus, today I sit here in awe of who You are – in awe of all You have done for me when I never even deserved it. Today, I set aside as a day of worship, giving thanks to you with everything I have! If it costs my comfort, so be it. If it is inconvenient, so be it. If it means letting go of the things I am trying to control, so be it. Jesus, have it all and be lifted high in my life.

Recommended worship song: Jesus Have It All (Live) – Jeremy Riddle

FAMILY MOMENT

Activity idea: Give each child a small jar or cup filled with “perfume” (water, sand or coloured water). Invite them to **pour it out completely** into a bowl or onto a plate as an act of worship, just like the woman did. As they pour, talk about how giving our worship to Jesus means more than just singing and lifting our hands; it can mean sharing our time, love or even favourite things with others.

Day 5: Thursday – Faith Serves Well

Scripture: *Luke 22:14–20*

Deeper dive: *John 13:3–5; 15–17; 34–35, Mark 10:45*

On this day, Jesus gathered His disciples for a meal – a moment filled with love, teaching and preparation for what was about to unfold in the next few hours. This would be the last time He shared bread with them, and He gave everything in that moment to show them how to live faithfully.

At the table, He gave us **communion** – a tangible reminder of His sacrifice and our freedom. With the towel, He gave us a picture of faith-filled service. Put yourself in this moment: the Creator of all things, the God who holds the universe in His hands, humbled Himself to wash the feet of His friends! Surely, it should have been the other way around.

But Jesus was showing us that living BY FAITH means stepping out with the same kind of love and humility. It means laying down pride, choosing to serve and trusting that God will guide our steps as we follow Him in obedience, even when it is uncomfortable or painful.

Here is our mission: “Love **each other**, just as I have loved you. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples” – John 13:34–35

Notice that Jesus did not give any exclusion criteria – “each other” means everyone. Even those who pose as Judas!

BY FAITH thought: Living BY FAITH is not about position; it's about posture. We are called to lead and love like Jesus: with a humble heart and a towel in hand, to whoever we encounter.

Reflection

- Who is God calling me to serve this week? Who do I find difficult to love and serve? Take time to pause and reflect. Ask God to allow you to extend forgiveness to that person.
- What practical steps can I take to show servant leadership this week?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for both the table and the towel. Help me to carry Your love into every room I walk into, and teach me to lead with a servant heart, just as You did.

Pray for courage to invite those whom you know to the Easter services. Ask God for specific names too.

Recommended worship song: Oh Lord, You're Beautiful – Jesus Culture

FAMILY MOMENT

Ask your kids: **“What’s one kind thing we can do for someone else this week?”**

Activity idea: Have a family foot-washing moment. Alternatively, write thank-you notes to someone who serves others.

Day 6: Friday – Faith Receives Grace

Scripture: *Luke 23:32–49*

Deeper dive: *Isaiah 53, Psalm 51:12, Colossians 1:13–14, Ephesians 1:5–7*

On this day, everything changed. The crucifixion of Jesus was not only a moment in history, nor was it only for those who stood at the foot of the cross that day. What took place on Good Friday echoes through eternity for every person who has lived and who will live.

The cross was not simply the place where Jesus died. It became the place where our victory was secured. Here, forgiveness was poured out and mercy flowed freely. Love was displayed in its most powerful form as Jesus willingly laid down His life. As the prophet Isaiah foretold, He was pierced for our rebellion and crushed for our sins. He endured the punishment that was meant for us, and He carried the weight of our brokenness so that we could be made whole.

This was the cost of our salvation, and yet it was a price we could never pay. Through His sacrifice, we have been rescued from the power of sin and brought into the freedom and forgiveness found in Christ.

All glory to Jesus Christ our Lord, our Saviour and our hope.

BY FAITH thought: The cross is not only a symbol of sacrifice; it is a declaration of extravagant love. By faith, we can receive the freedom and forgiveness that Jesus secured for us.

Reflection

- Have I truly paused to consider the cost of the cross and what Jesus endured for me?
- How does the Jesus's sacrifice shape the way I live, love and trust Him today? Who can I share this with today?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for what You did for me on the cross! Thank You for loving me with such a deep and costly love. I pray that You would help me to live in acknowledgment of that love. Restore to me the JOY of Your salvation and help me today to share that love with those around me.

Recommended worship song: Crown of Heaven – The Belonging Co

FAMILY MOMENT

Ask your kids: **“Why do you think Jesus chose to die for us?”**

Activity idea: Light a candle and sit in silence for a moment. Then, thank Jesus out loud for what He did on the cross.

Day 7: Saturday – Faith Waits

Scripture: *Luke 23:50–56*

Deeper dive: *Psalms 62:1, Psalm 46:10, Proverbs 3:5–6, Mark 9:24*

Saturday was a day of silence. The crowds had gone home, the cross stood empty, and the disciples had scattered in fear and confusion. Hope seemed buried along with Jesus's body. Those who had followed Him most closely were now hiding – trying to make sense of what had just happened.

A few women from Galilee returned home to prepare spices and ointments for Jesus's body. Their actions revealed the depth of their grief. They believed that death had won. We can only imagine the heaviness in the room as they prepared the spices with quiet tears, unanswered questions and hearts weighed down with sorrow and grief.

Yet, even in the silence, God was still at work.

Though it appeared that the story had ended, Heaven was preparing the greatest victory that the world would ever see! What seemed like defeat was actually the quiet moment before resurrection. God's plan had not stalled. His promises had not failed. Even in the stillness, His redemptive story was moving forward.

Sometimes, our lives have “Saturday moments” – seasons where God seems silent and hope feels distant. But faith reminds us that silence is not absence. Even when we cannot see it, God is working.

BY FAITH thought: By faith, we trust that God is working even in the silence. What feels like the end may simply be the quiet before resurrection!

Reflection

- What feels silent or uncertain in my life right now? Pray this to God.
- Am I willing to trust God’s work even when I cannot yet see the outcome? Pause and reflect. Ask God to help you even in your unbelief.

Prayer: God, help my heart to trust You in the silence. Even when I don’t see it, I believe You’re working. Help me to hold onto hope when life feels still and give me strength to wait with faith.

Recommended worship song: More Than Able – Elevation Worship

FAMILY MOMENT

Ask your kids: “**Have you ever felt like God was quiet?**” Share that even when we don’t hear or see Him, God is always working.

Activity idea: Go on a walk through nature as a family. Take a moment on your walk to be still, becoming aware of all the other sounds around you. Afterward, share what you noticed and talk about how God can be moving even when things seem still.

Day 8: Resurrection Sunday – Faith Is Found In The Resurrection

Scripture: *Luke 24:1–6a*

Deeper dive: *Ephesians 3:14–21, Romans 10:13–17*

The spices and ointments prepared on Saturday were in fact not needed. When the women arrived at the tomb early in the morning, they discovered that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Jesus was not there. He had risen. Death had been defeated!

In that moment, everything changed. What seemed like the end only days before had become the greatest victory in history. Because Jesus rose from the grave, sin no longer has the final word and death no longer holds its power. Through Him, we are given new life, a hope that cannot be shaken and the promise of eternity with God.

The resurrection also gives us a purpose. Jesus did not rise simply so that we could celebrate a moment each year; He rose so that we could live transformed lives each day! Through His resurrection, we receive the power of the Holy Spirit and the privilege of carrying the message of reconciliation to the world around us.

This is not just the conclusion of Holy Week. It is the beginning of a renewed hope and mission. By faith, we step into the life that Jesus secured for us and into the calling to share His love with others. There is a world waiting to hear this good news.

And the promise still stands today: Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! The message is the same. The method is us!

BY FAITH thought: The resurrection changes everything. By faith, we live in the hope, power and purpose made possible through the risen Christ. We carry a message and a hope that the world needs now more than ever before.

Reflection

- How will the resurrection of Jesus shape the way I live today?
- Who in my life can I share my testimony and the Good News with?

Prayer: Jesus, I believe You are the Risen King. Thank You for the empty tomb. Thank You that You didn't stay in the grave. Fill me with Your resurrection power today. Help me to live boldly, love freely and share the good news of Your salvation with those around me.

Pray for those in your life who have not yet come to know Jesus.

Recommended worship song: Gratitude – Brandon Lake | What a God – SEU Worship

FAMILY MOMENT

Shout together: **"Jesus is alive!"**

Ask your kids: **"What's your favourite part of the Easter story?"**

Activity idea: Do an egg hunt together and in one egg, put a note that says, "The tomb is empty!" and celebrate when it's found.

Closing

As we come to the end of this Holy Week journey, we are reminded that the story of Easter does not end at the empty tomb. It is only the beginning.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus changed everything. Because He lives, our faith is not simply something that we believe; it is something that we live. Each day, we are invited to step forward by faith, trusting God, following Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way of love, humility and obedience.

This week has reminded us of the depth of God's love, the cost of our salvation and the power of the resurrection. But the invitation does not end here. The same Jesus who rode into Jerusalem, who gave His life on the cross and who rose again in victory now calls us to walk with Him every day.

So, as you step out of this Holy Week and back into the rhythms of daily life, may you continue to live BY FAITH, trusting God in every season, reflecting the love of Christ to those around you and carrying the hope of the resurrection into a world that desperately needs it.

And, through your life, may many come to know the grace, freedom and new life found in Jesus!

All glory to Jesus Christ, our Risen King.

