

The  
**EASTER**  
**SEASON**



# Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

*An Easter Season Devotional Guide for Becoming More Like Jesus*



## How to Use This Guide:

This devotional leads us on a 40-day journey of repentance, reflection, and renewal that prepares us for the Easter Season. This devotional is designed to be used daily, excluding Sundays, following the historic rhythm of the Church.

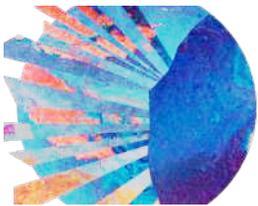
Each day includes a:

**Scripture reading**

**Short devotional reflection**

**Prayer shaped by the Peace Prayer**

**Simple, embodied practice**

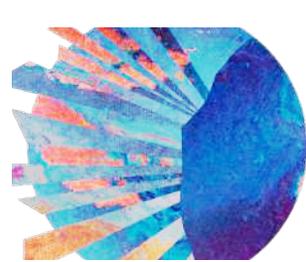


## Before you Begin:

The Easter Season invites us into a holy pause—a season of making room for God. One meaningful way to do this is by choosing to give up something for 40 days, not as a punishment, but as a practice of love. It might be food, social media, anger, negative self-talk, unhealthy habits, or anything that quietly controls more of us than we'd like to admit. When we set aside a habit, comfort, or distraction, we create space to notice our hunger for God more clearly. That small sacrifice becomes a daily reminder to turn our hearts toward prayer, repentance, and renewal. As you begin this Easter Season, prayerfully ask yourself what God might be inviting you to release, and commit to offering it each day as a simple act of devotion, allowing God to reshape your heart as you walk toward Easter.

Provided as a complement to the book, *Make Me an Instrument of Peace: Becoming Like Jesus through the Prayer of St. Francis* (NavPress, 2026), this resource was developed by its author and our Directional Leader, Pastor Mark DeYmaz.





# week one

February 18–21

Theme: Surrender Before Service

## Wednesday, February 18

Scripture: Joel 2:12–13; Matthew 6:1–6

### Reflection

This season begins with a summons, not to self-improvement but to return and be closer to Jesus by our self-reflection. This reflection confronts our illusions of permanence, control, and self-sufficiency. They tell the truth we spend most of the year avoiding: we are finite, dependent, and in need of mercy. Before peace can be practiced outwardly, the self must be dismantled inwardly. God does not anoint the defended ego or the self-justifying heart. Transformation begins where resistance ends. Surrender is not weakness; it is the doorway through which grace enters and reorders our lives.

### Prayer

Lord, before I try to fix what is broken around me, search what is broken within me. Prepare me to be used as an instrument of your peace.

### Practice

Write down one habit, posture, or reaction you are praying about and maybe fasting from this season.

## Thursday, February 19

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1–3

### Reflection

Jesus is not merely a teacher of peace; he is the Anointed One through whom God restores what has been fractured by sin, violence, and despair. His peace flows from divine calling, not human effort. It is rooted in God's initiative to heal, restore, and reconcile. When we embrace Christ's anointing, we are not invited to strive harder but to participate more faithfully. Peace is not manufactured through willpower; it is born through alignment with God's redemptive purposes. To walk in his anointing is to become conduits of what God is already doing in the world.

## Prayer

Anointed Christ, align my life with Your own and Your purposes for me today.

## Practice

Read Isaiah 61 aloud slowly. Notice what the Anointed One removes and what is given in its place. Sit briefly with the One you most need to receive.

## Friday, February 20

Scripture: Luke 4:16–21

### Reflection

Jesus names His identity before he demonstrates his power. In doing so, He resists the temptation to prove Himself on the world's terms. The kingdom of God does not advance through spectacle or self-promotion, but through faithful embodiment of God's purposes. Peace rooted in identity frees us from the anxiety of performance. When we live from who we are in Christ, rather than what we must prove to others, our lives bear a quiet authority that reflects the presence of God more convincingly than words ever could.

### Prayer

Jesus, help me live today from who I am in You, not what I feel pressured to prove.

### Practice

Pause before reacting to something today. Ask, "How can I represent Jesus well in the moment?"

## Saturday, February 21

Scripture: Matthew 5:9

### Reflection

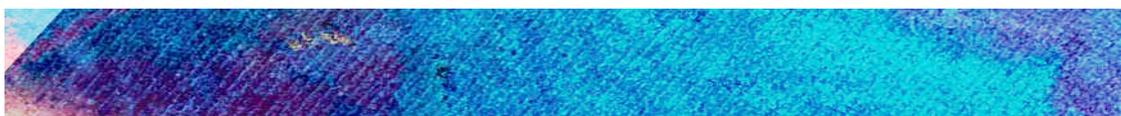
Peacemaking requires the courage to step into conflict without surrendering compassion, to speak truth without weaponizing it, and to pursue reconciliation without controlling outcomes. Peacemakers refuse both passivity and aggression. To be called a child of God is not a sentimental affirmation; it is a vocation. Those who bear the likeness of the Prince of Peace enter tension with humility, patience, and resolve, trusting that God is at work even when resolution remains elusive.

### Prayer

Prince of Peace, teach me to pursue peace without fleeing truth.

### Practice

Identify one strained relationship and hold it before God without trying to resolve it yet.





# week two

February 23-28

Theme: Where There is Hatred, Let Me Sow Love

## Monday, February 23

Scripture: Romans 5:8

### Reflection

The love revealed in Christ is not reactive or conditional. God does not wait for humanity to become worthy before acting; love moves first, absorbing risk and misunderstanding. This is the pattern of the kingdom. To sow love where hatred exists is to resist the instinct to protect oneself through withdrawal or retaliation. Such love is costly because it relinquishes control over outcomes. Yet it is precisely this vulnerability that reflects the heart of God and creates space for transformation.

### Prayer

God of steadfast love, form within me a love that moves first even when the outcome is uncertain.

### Practice

Identify a relationship or situation where you have been waiting for the other party to change. Take one concrete step of goodwill without expectation of response.

## Tuesday, February 24

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-45

### Reflection

Jesus dismantles the assumption that love should be reserved for those who affirm us. By grounding love in the character of the Father, he removes it from the realm of preference and places it squarely within obedience. To love an enemy does not deny the reality of harm or disagreement. It refuses, instead, to allow opposition to shape our character. In loving this way, disciples bear witness to a kingdom not governed by retaliation but by grace.

### Prayer

Father, teach me to love in ways that reflect your generosity, not my preferences.

## Practice

Pray deliberately for the spiritual, emotional, and material well-being of someone whose views or actions trouble you.

## Wednesday, February 25

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:9

### Reflection

Retaliation promises satisfaction but delivers bondage. Peter reminds the church that blessing is not a tactic but a calling. When believers refuse to mirror hostility, they interrupt the cycle of harm and reveal a different way of being human. Peacemaking begins with restraint, trusting that God alone can secure justice and meaning.

### Prayer

Lord, govern my reactions so that I will better govern my words.

### Practice

Notice where you feel provoked today. Practice silence or restraint as a deliberate act of faith.

## Thursday, February 26

Scripture: John 13:34–35

### Reflection

Jesus stakes the credibility of his movement on love, and not persuasion or dominance. Love becomes the visible sign of his presence in the world. Where love is absent, even correct beliefs lose their persuasive power. The church's witness rises or falls not on how loudly it speaks, but on how faithfully it loves.

### Prayer

Jesus, let my love make your presence unmistakable to those around me.

### Practice

In one conversation today, listen attentively without preparing a response.

## Friday, February 27

Scripture: Isaiah 8:12–13

### Reflection

Fear often shapes communities even more than faith does. Isaiah warns against absorbing the anxieties of the surrounding culture, reminding God's people that



reverence must be rightly ordered. When God alone is regarded as holy, fear loses its authority. Love becomes possible when faith in the Anointed One displaces fear of others or circumstances.

**Prayer**

Lord, recalibrate my fears so that You alone are regarded as holy.

**Practice**

Name one fear influencing your reactions. Release it in prayer.

**Saturday, February 28**

Scripture: Matthew 5:48

**Reflection**

Spiritual maturity is not measured by perfection, but by a growing integration of belief, desire, and practice under God's rule. Over time, love shaped by God's character becomes less reactive and more resilient, capable of enduring tension without retreating into hardness. Because Jesus does not give up on us, we are freed to persevere in the slow, unfinished work of becoming like him. Wholeness is formed through faithful endurance, not instant transformation.

**Prayer**

Form in me a steady, enduring love.

**Practice**

Reflect on how you have matured spiritually through difficulty or failure in your life.

**Notes & Reflection**

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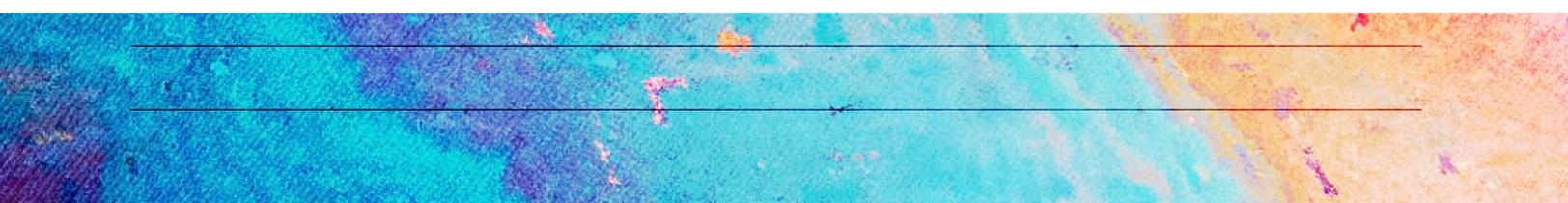
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# week three

March 2–7

Theme: Where There Is Injury, Pardon

## Monday, March 2

Scripture: Matthew 18:21–22

### Reflection

Forgiveness is not a quota to be managed but a posture to be cultivated. Jesus refuses to quantify mercy because he knows that unforgiveness binds the wounded to the past. Pardon loosens injury's grip on identity, allowing healing to begin even when reconciliation remains uncertain. In this way, forgiveness is not the erasure of memory but the reorientation of the heart, freeing us from being stuck or controlled by what has already occurred.

### Prayer

Merciful God, loosen my grip on what continues to wound me.

### Practice

Name one offense you are still carrying. Offer it to God without resolving how it should be repaid.

## Tuesday, March 3

Scripture: Matthew 18:32–35

### Reflection

Jesus exposes the danger of receiving mercy without extending it. Forgiveness withheld becomes a form of captivity, connecting the injured party to resentment rather than release. Likewise, grace received but not practiced distorts the soul. When mercy is treated as a private possession rather than a shared gift, it ceases to transform and instead reinforces the very bondage it was meant to break.

### Prayer

Lord, remind me how much I have been forgiven.

### Practice

Write a brief prayer releasing your right to retribution.

## Wednesday, March 4

Scripture: Luke 23:34

### Reflection

From the cross, Jesus forgives without minimizing injustice. Pardon does not deny harm; it refuses to perpetuate it. Forgiveness absorbs the weight of offense rather than returning it. This is the costly heart of peacemaking. In forgiving, Jesus exposes a power greater than violence, one capable of interrupting cycles of harm without becoming captive to them.

### Prayer

Jesus, shape my forgiveness after Your own.

### Practice

Sit silently for several minutes, holding Christ's words in prayer.

## Thursday, March 5

Scripture: Colossians 3:13

### Reflection

Forgiveness is not a singular emotional release but a practiced way of life. It is sustained obedience shaped over time, renewed whenever resentment resurfaces. The command to forgive "as the Lord forgave you" anchors pardon not in personality or temperament, but in memory; specifically, the memory of grace already received. Forgiveness does not deny pain or bypass accountability. Rather, it refuses to allow injury to become a ruling power in the soul.

### Prayer

Give me strength, Lord, to forgive again today.

### Practice

Release a recurring grievance without rehearsing it.

## Friday, March 6

Scripture: 1 John 1:9

### Reflection

God's forgiveness is not abstract or partial. It is permanent, relational, and restorative. John reminds the church that confession is not humiliation but liberation: an act that brings what is hidden into the healing light of God's faithfulness. Those who struggle to forgive others often struggle first to believe that they themselves are truly forgiven. Grace received honestly, however, becomes the wellspring

from which mercy flows outward. Without this assurance, forgiveness becomes performative rather than transformative.

**Prayer**

Loving Father, thank you for grace that gives me what I don't deserve and mercy that withholds from me what I do deserve.

**Practice**

Confess honestly. Trust that God's grace and mercy are yours in full, gifts not rewards, restoring what sin has fractured.

**Saturday, March 7**

Scripture: Micah 7:18-19

**Reflection**

Micah portrays God as one who does not merely tolerate mercy, but delights in it. This is a startling claim in a world that often equates justice with severity and strength with retribution. God's joy is found not in punishment, but in restoration. To forgive, then, is not simply to obey a command; it is to align oneself with God's own delight. Mercy lifts the burden of grievance from the heart and reorients the soul toward freedom rather than control.

**Prayer**

Make mercy my reflex, Lord.

**Practice**

Recall a moment when forgiveness set you free. How did you then live?

**Notes & Reflection**

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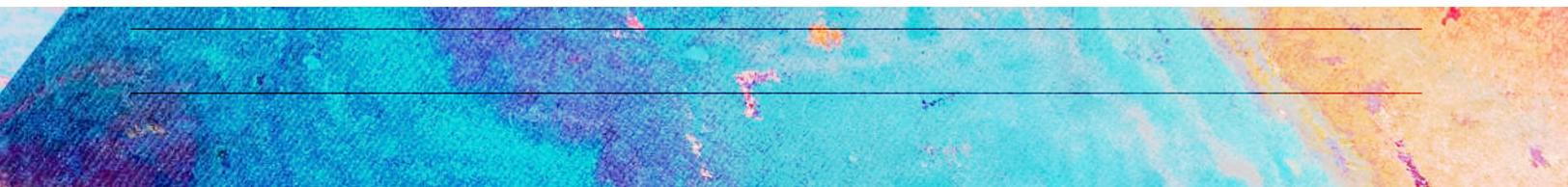
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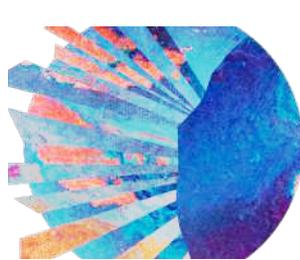
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# week four

March 9–14

Theme: Where There Is Doubt, Faith

## Monday, March 9

Scripture: Mark 9:24

### Reflection

The father's prayer in Mark's Gospel captures the tension at the heart of faith: belief and doubt coexisting in the same soul. Jesus does not reject this prayer. He receives it. Faith, in this sense, does not express certainty but dependence, while attempts to suppress doubt often deepens it. Faith grows through exposure, as questions are brought before God and into his presence rather than hidden or denied. This kind of trust is courageous because it rejects pretense.

### Prayer

Lord, meet me in my believing and unbelief.

### Practice

Name one unresolved tension and entrust it to God.

## Tuesday, March 10

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

### Reflection

Faith anchors the soul not in visible outcomes, but in God's character. The writer of Hebrews describes faith as assurance because it rests on who God is, not on what can be proven or predicted. In seasons of ambiguity, faith resists the urge to demand immediate clarity. Such trust does not eliminate uncertainty; it places uncertainty within the larger story of God's faithfulness. Faith endures not by controlling the future, but by remaining anchored in the One who holds it.

### Prayer

Lord, anchor my trust in you alone.

### Practice

Choose patience today wherever clarity is lacking.

## Wednesday, March 11

Scripture: Psalm 13

### Reflection

Psalm 13 gives voice to the experience of waiting when God seems absent. Rather than silencing lament, Scripture preserves it as faithful speech. The psalmist's honesty does not signal spiritual failure, but relational trust. Lament refuses two false options: despair that abandons God and denial that pretends all is well. Instead, it names pain directly before the One who is able to bear it and in doing so, becomes an act of hope.

### Prayer

Hear my questions, O Lord, and be patient with me.

### Practice

Pray Psalm 13 slowly, allowing its honesty to give voice to your own.

## Thursday, March 12

Scripture: John 20:27

### Reflection

Jesus does not meet Thomas with rebuke but with invitation. He does not shame doubt; he engages it. Faith matures not through coercion or pressure, but through encounter, through meeting the risen Christ in the midst of uncertainty. This moment reveals that doubt, when carried honestly, need not be an obstacle to faith but can become a doorway into deeper trust. Christ is not threatened by our questions; he meets us within them.

### Prayer

Jesus, meet me where my own trust is fragile.

### Practice

Bring your questions into prayer looking for Christ and not necessarily answers.

## Friday, March 13

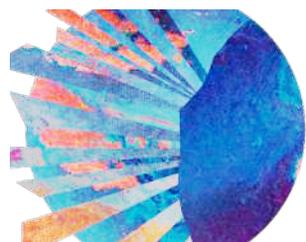
Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

### Reflection

Trust deepens as control is surrendered. Proverbs calls for reliance on God's guidance, not on understanding. This kind of trust is not passive; it is an active release of self-sufficiency in favor of dependence. Acknowledging God in all our ways requires attentiveness, humility, and patience. Direction often becomes clear only after the need for certainty has been surrendered.







# week five

March 16–21

Theme: Where There Is Despair, Hope

## Monday, March 16

Scripture: Lamentations 3:31–33

### Reflection

Despair suggests suffering is final and God has withdrawn. Yet Scripture declares otherwise. God's mercy does not cancel suffering, but it restrains it and redeems it. As Lamentations reminds us, His compassion never fails, even when circumstances seem to contradict it. Hope is sustained by God's abiding presence in the trial.

### Prayer

Faithful God, sustain me when hope feels distant and strength feels thin.

### Practice

Identify a source of discouragement you have been avoiding. Name it honestly before God without rushing toward resolution.

## Tuesday, March 17

Scripture: Romans 5:3–5

### Reflection

Hope is not the absence of suffering but its transformation. Paul describes a formation process in which hardship, patiently endured, reshapes the soul. Hope emerges not because circumstances improve, but because God's love is poured into hearts that remain open under pressure. In this way, hope is formed not by escape from suffering, but by God's sustaining presence within it.

### Prayer

God of endurance, form hope within me through what I cannot escape.

### Practice

Remain present to a difficult task or conversation today without attempting to shorten or avoid it.

## Wednesday, March 18

Scripture: Psalm 42:11

### Reflection

The psalmist addresses the soul directly, refusing to let despair narrate reality unchecked. When emotions lag behind truth, hope becomes a deliberate practice rather than a spontaneous feeling. Speaking truth to the soul requires memory, remembering who God has been when circumstances threaten to obscure his presence. Hope, in this sense, is an act of commitment. It steadies the heart by anchoring it in the enduring faithfulness of God, not in immediate relief.

### Prayer

Teach my soul to hope in you again, O God.

### Practice

When discouragement arises, repeat the psalmist's words slowly as prayer: "I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God."

## Thursday, March 19

Scripture: John 16:33

### Reflection

Jesus does not offer comfort through escape. Instead, he reframes suffering by locating it within a larger victory. Peace and affliction coexist in the present age, but despair does not have the final word. Christ's triumph does not erase pain; it reorients it. By acknowledging trouble while declaring victory, Jesus invites his followers into a resilient peace, one that does not depend on circumstances but rests in the assurance that suffering will not define the end of the story.

### Prayer

Jesus, anchor me in your victory when circumstances overwhelm.

### Practice

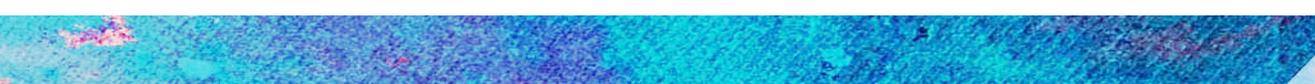
When defeating self-talk arises, counter it by naming one unchanging truth about God or Christ's victory.

## Friday, March 20

Scripture: Hebrews 6:19

### Reflection

Hope is not an anesthetic for suffering; it is an anchor that prevents drift when storms persist. The writer of Hebrews describes hope as securing the soul when external stability collapses. It holds not because conditions improve, but because







# week six

March 23–28

Theme: Where There Is Darkness, Light

## Monday, March 23

Scripture: John 1:5

### Reflection

Darkness is neither imagined nor minimized in Scripture, but it is never ultimate. John declares that light persists regardless of resistance. Darkness may oppose, but it cannot extinguish what God has set in motion. Followers of Christ are not called to eradicate darkness through force or fear, but to remain faithful to the light they have received. Witness is sustained not through dominance, but through perseverance, bearing light patiently where shadows linger.

### Prayer

Light of the world, shine through me in hidden and ordinary ways.

### Practice

Choose faithfulness in a task that will go unnoticed.

## Tuesday, March 24

Scripture: Matthew 5:14–16

### Reflection

Jesus does not command his followers to generate light, but to recognize that they already bear it. Light emerges naturally when lives are aligned with God's goodness. Visibility is the fruit of faithfulness, not self-promotion. When disciples live truthfully, generously, and humbly, light reveals itself... not to draw attention to the self, but as a reflection on the One from which it came.

### Prayer

Let my life quietly reflect your goodness, O God.

### Practice

Do something good today on behalf of God without telling anyone about it.

## Wednesday, March 25

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8

### Reflection

Walking as children of light requires intentional alignment. Light is not asserted through argument or force, but embodied through integrity, consistency, and obedience. The contrast between light and darkness becomes visible through daily choices shaped by Christ. Transformation unfolds gradually as habits are reordered and desires reshaped by truth.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to walk in the light you have given.

### Practice

Identify one habit that obscures light and take a concrete step toward change.

## Thursday, March 26

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2

### Reflection

Isaiah reminds us that light often appears after long seasons of darkness. God's illumination is most evident not in comfort, but in places marked by grief, fear, and uncertainty. The promise of light does not deny suffering; it announces God's presence within it. Hope emerges when God enters spaces we assumed were beyond redemption.

### Prayer

Enter the shadowed places of my life, Lord.

### Practice

Bring encouragement into the life of someone today battling discouragement.

## Friday, March 27

Scripture: Psalm 27:1

### Reflection

Fear loses its grip when God's presence is recognized. The psalmist does not deny the threat; he reorients it. Light reframes reality, reminding us that danger does not determine destiny. Confidence in God's presence does not eliminate fear, but it places fear in proper proportion, subject to trust rather than mastery. When God's character is rightly understood, fear no longer governs our response but directs



us toward deeper trust.

**Prayer**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; who shall I fear?

**Practice**

Name something you fear. Release it to God today by affirming your confidence in him.

**Saturday, March 28**

Scripture: John 8:12

**Reflection**

Those who follow Jesus do not walk alone or aimlessly. Light provides both direction and assurance, guiding us forward even when the destination remains unclear. Clarity is often given along the way, not before the journey begins. Following Christ means trusting the light available now rather than demanding full visibility. Faith advances one obedient step at a time.

**Prayer**

Lead me forward in your light, Lord.

**Practice**

Prepare your heart for Holy Week by simplifying your schedule over the next seven days where possible.

**Notes & Reflection**

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# holy week

March 30 – April 4

Theme: It Is in Dying That We Are Born

## Palm Sunday, March 29

Scripture: Luke 19:37–44

### Reflection

Jesus enters Jerusalem amid celebration, fully aware that the crowd misunderstands the nature of his kingship. They long for triumph; he embodies surrender. The peace he brings will not be won through force but through faithfulness unto death. True peace often arrives in forms we do not initially recognize or welcome.

### Prayer

Hosanna, Lord. Save me in the way only you can.

### Practice

Notice an expectation you hold about how God should act, then set it aside and praise him.

## Monday, March 30

Scripture: John 12:24

### Reflection

Jesus teaches that growth comes not from holding on, but from letting go. In God's kingdom, life multiplies when it is released rather than preserved. What we cling to tightly often withers; what we surrender bears fruit. Letting go becomes an act of trust in God's generative power. Like branches connected to the vine, fruit is borne through abiding in him, not produced through effort apart from him.

### Prayer

Teach me to loosen my grip and trust you with the lives of those I love.

### Practice

Release one area where you are trying to control an outcome that no longer belongs to you.



## Tuesday, March 31

Scripture: John 13:21–27

### Reflection

Jesus confronts betrayal without abandoning love or purpose. His faithfulness is not contingent upon the loyalty of others. Even in moments of profound disappointment, he remains anchored in obedience to the Father. Faithfulness endures when trust is broken. In this way, Jesus shows us that obedience can remain steady even when relationships do not.

### Prayer

Lord, strengthen my faithfulness where trust has been broken.

### Practice

Refuse cynicism today when disappointment arises.

## Wednesday, April 1

Scripture: Matthew 26:36–46

### Reflection

Gethsemane exposes the cost of obedience. Jesus does not suppress anguish; he brings it fully before God. True surrender does not deny pain; it entrusts pain to the Father's will. Here, honesty and trust coexist, modeling a faith strong enough to endure suffering without escape. Christ's obedience in this moment is both heroic and faithful, marked by presence before God rather than escape from suffering.

### Prayer

Not my will, but yours be done, O Lord.

### Practice

Without distraction, sit with a measure of discomfort today for several minutes.

## Maundy Thursday, April 2

Scripture: John 13:1–17

### Reflection

Jesus reveals the true shape of authority by kneeling. Power is redefined as service; leadership is expressed through humility. Peace is enacted not through dominance, but through love that stoops. Those who follow Jesus are formed by this same posture. Such love does not diminish authority; it redeems it. In God's kingdom, greatness is measured not by power, but by faithfulness in serving God and others.



## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, form my heart to serve rather than control, and teach me to lead through humility.

## **Practice**

Serve someone today without explanation or recognition.

## **Good Friday, April 3**

Scripture: Luke 23:33–46

### **Reflection**

The cross stands as the ultimate instrument of peace. Violence is absorbed rather than returned. Love bears the weight of sin and suffering without retaliation, breaking the cycle that binds humanity to death. Here, peace is purchased not by force, but by sacrificial love. In giving Himself, Christ exposes the futility of violence and reveals a power stronger than death. This is the peace that reconciles not by conquest, but by self-giving love.

### **Prayer**

Jesus, I receive your self-giving love.

### **Practice**

Spend time before a cross, either in your church or in your home. Do not explain it or rush past it. Allow Christ's self-giving love to remain before you without response.

## **Holy Saturday, April 4**

Scripture: Matthew 27:57–66

### **Reflection**

Holy Saturday teaches the discipline of waiting. The work of God continues even when evidence is absent and hope feels suspended. Silence does not signal abandonment. Trust matures in the space between promise and fulfillment. This day reminds us that God is often most active when he appears most hidden. Waiting, then, becomes an act of faith rather than resignation.

### **Prayer**

Teach me to trust your work in silence.

### **Practice**

Rest. Resist urgency. Prepare for resurrection.







Celebrating the  
**EASTER**  
**SEASON**  
at Mosaic

**Ash Wednesday, February 18th**

Drop-in Prayer @ 11:00am-1:00pm

**Palm Sunday, March 29th**

Worship @ 9am & 10:30am

Peacemakers Lunch @ 12:00pm

**Good Friday, April 3rd**

Stations of the Cross @ 6pm

**Easter Sunday, April 5th**

Sunrise Prayer @ 7am

Breakfast @ 8am

Worship @ 9am & 10:30am