



**HOLY  
WEEK  
DEVOTIONALS**



# DAY ONE

Welcome to our Holy Week devotional. In this short series, we are focusing on the events of Jesus' final week through the last few chapters of Mark's Gospel. Today's devotional was written by Marie Hammond.

Today is Holy Monday and our reading is Mark chapter 11, verses 12-25.

## **PASSAGE**

*"The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig-tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard him say it*

*On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, 'Is it not written: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"? But you have made it "a den of robbers".' The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his*

teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

*In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig-tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, look! The fig-tree you cursed has withered!' 'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered. 'Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.'"*

## **THOUGHT**

Following the events of Palm Sunday, it's Monday morning and Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem and is hungry. He explores a nearby leafy fig tree. Finding no fruit under its leaf, Jesus curses the tree within earshot of the disciples. As they descend upon the Temple courts, Jesus launches into disrupting the corrupt Temple markets. He departs leaving the religious leaders stewing in anger. Later, the disciples pass a withered tree, which they immediately recognize as the fig tree Jesus cursed. Jesus implies that it's the merciful who will boldly move the present "mountain" of the corrupt order, with the power of God's Kingdom.

This sandwich of events begins with Jesus pronouncing judgment over a tree: As it had leaves, it promised fruit: capable of satisfying hunger. When examined, it was found barren. At the Temple, Jesus walks into a bustling religious event: a hullabaloo of crowds, animals, noise and activity. The Temple was where God's presence dwelt. It was supposed to be a place of worship and a beacon of hope for the nations, where the greatest hunger could be satisfied. Indeed, from a distance the Temple looked handsomely successful. The fig tree appeared to have fine leaves, you could say. However, upon closer inspection, Jesus finds the Temple as He found the fig tree: unfruitful in its purpose. The fig tree wasn't ready to be fruitful and neither was Israel. With the same emphatic judgment pronounced over the tree, Jesus condemns the Temple's condition. The religious leaders are seething: determined to seal His fate.

God's presence has come to dwell in us, the Church: a people, not a building. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we are in Him and He is in us. Empowered by the Spirit, we're called to be fruitful across the world. We're to demonstrate God's mercy and authority, calling all who respond in faith, into the knowledge of being a home, a temple, for God's presence. We are the beacon of hope where the spiritually hungry can find satisfaction for their deepest need. By faith, we can "move mountains" and usher in God's Kingdom: where death, sickness and the enemy are defeated! Finally, with triumphant hope we look forward to the fulfilment

of the New Creation. We won't need a physical temple as a place of worship, because God will always be at home with us: eternally dwelling and ruling with His people.

May you be blessed in the knowledge that God is at home in You. A fruitful place from which He rules and brings restoration and hope to the world.

## **MEDITATION**

Welcome the Spirit's presence. Allow for a moment's silence as you do this.

### ***30 seconds silence***

How might you embrace the idea of being at home with God? Spend a few moments reflecting on the following verses from the book of Revelation. What words or phrases stand out to you? Revelation chapter 21, verses 3 to 4:

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

### ***30 seconds silence***

Ask the Lord to reveal His deep desire to be at home with you, both now and always.

Make space for a moment of silence as you do this.

***1 min silence***

We thank You, Father, that through Jesus You have filled us with Your Holy Spirit. May we be a beacon of hope to those who are hungry for You. May Your Kingdom come as you rest and rule, in and through us. Amen.

# DAY TWO

Today's devotional was written by Paul McDonald.

Today is Holy Tuesday and our reading is Mark chapter 13, verses 1-13.

## **PASSAGE**

*"As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand*

*about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved"*

## **THOUGHT**

Jesus was just leaving the Temple in Jerusalem where He had been teaching and one of the disciples, impressed by the size of the building, makes a seemingly throwaway remark: "Look. What massive stones!" King Herod was well known for his enormous construction projects and he had spared nothing enhancing the 500-year-old second Temple. Jesus' reply was striking: "Every stone will be thrown down".

The Babylonians had torn down the first Temple and taken the Jewish people into exile about 600 years earlier. Now, Jesus was predicting that this second Temple would be reduced to rubble, too. The disciples, perhaps more than a little unnerved, ask Jesus privately: "When will these things happen?"

Jesus' answer was longer than just giving a date and time. Instead, He spoke of wars, rumours of wars, persecution and deception that would happen to that generation. Jesus also spoke of the conflict between His followers and the representatives of the kingdoms of this world, and how His followers would suffer persecution.



History tells us that the Jewish nation as a whole rejected Jesus' kingdom values of grace and peace. Forty year later, they provoked a war with Rome that led to the destruction of the Temple, just as Jesus had predicted. Also, Jesus' followers suffered persecution at the hands of both the Jews and the Romans, but were helped by the presence of God's Spirit within them.

The Apostle Paul explained that all followers of Jesus were now the new Temple where God's Spirit would dwell. The Apostle Peter, perhaps remembering this conversation with Jesus in Jerusalem, described how this new bodily temple was made from living stones: referring to all of us who have decided to follow Jesus.

We too, as in previous generations, hear about or experience things that Jesus mentioned: wars, rumours of wars, disease, famine, and injustice. How are we to react when they come near to us? "Do not be alarmed", Jesus says in this passage, "stand firm" because it will pass. Keep on proclaiming the message of the Kingdom.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus, help us to have Your peace in a troubled world.

## **MEDITATION**

Welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit, let Him reveal Jesus to you afresh.

### **30 second silence**

Take some time reflecting on the following words from John's Gospel:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

### **30 second silence**

Ask the Spirit to identify areas of your life where you are troubled. Give those to God and ask Him for His gift of peace.

### **60 second silence**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of peace offered through Jesus. May we, the new living stones of Your temple, be an embodiment of Your peace for those around us. Amen

# DAY THREE

This devotional was written by Cathay Burnside.

Today is Holy Wednesday and our reading is Mark chapter 14, verses 1-11.

## **PASSAGE**

*“Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.” While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They*

*were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.”*

## **THOUGHT**

While Jesus is at Bethany, a woman comes to Him and anoints Him with a jar of perfume. Those around her are shocked because it was very expensive, and the money could have been used to help the poor, but Jesus says she has done a beautiful thing for Him, preparing His body for burial.

The Old Testament kings were anointed with oil, setting them apart for their God-ordained purpose in leading the people. Jesus is now coming as the King of kings, and He is anointed with oil just like the kings of the past. He is the Messiah, which actually means “anointed one.”

Yet, when the woman anoints Him, it is to prepare Him for His burial. His coming enthronement as king will be upon a cross, and He will be both Messiah king, and suffering servant. This king will suffer and die to break the power of Death and Hell over His people once and for all.

His anointing as king shows the kind of kingdom He ushers in, where the worldly expectations of power are turned upside down, and where forgotten ones in society, like this woman, are invited to offer precious worship.

Jesus’ anointing prophetically prepared His body for burial,

but it also prepared Jesus personally. The perfume was costly, representing the woman's financial security, and she risked social rejection to come near. It would have filled the whole room with a beautiful scent, a tangible expression of what the rightful worship of King Jesus is like. Jesus said, "she has done a beautiful thing for me"; I wonder if the costly adoration prepared His heart for what was ahead. In these uncertain and painful days, we all need comfort, and God promises to be our comforter with endless mercy and kindness for each of us. But in Holy Week, the invitation is to lift our eyes from ourselves, and look beyond our circumstances to the suffering and resurrected King Jesus.

Our worship and adoration of Jesus is personal. It's tangible. We honour Him in response to who He is; both the conquering King, and the Messiah anointed to die, always worthy of our costly adoration.

## **MEDITATION**

Take a moment to settle your heart before Jesus. Close your eyes, take some slow, deep breaths, and welcome the Holy Spirit.

### ***30 seconds silence***

Jesus said, "She has done a beautiful thing for me." Ponder those words for a few moments. "She has done a beautiful thing for me." What if that is how Jesus feels about your worship? What does sacrificial and costly worship look like for

you today?

**30 seconds silence**

Offer Him your costly worship now, knowing that it is very precious to Jesus. Spend some time honouring Him as both conquering King, and suffering servant.

**1 min silence**

Jesus, we are in awe of all that You are. May our worship be pleasing to You; may it be like a beautiful perfume poured out. As we worship You, may we see Your kingdom come all around us. Amen.

# DAY FOUR

Today's devotional was written by Jacob Parton.

Today is Maundy Thursday and our reading is Mark chapter 14 verses 12-26.

## **PASSAGE**

*“On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.*

*When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?” “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son*

*of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”*

## **THOUGHT**

At the Passover festival, Jewish people everywhere remember how God delivered their ancestors from slavery in Egypt as described in the book of Exodus. During the first century at the time of Jesus, the Jewish people of the day were facing another oppressor: the Roman Empire.

Passover was therefore an opportune time for armed revolutions. In 4 BC for example there were a series of uprisings that started at Passover, which resulted in thousands of Jews killed, including two-thousand Galileans being crucified. So, on the cusp of the Passover described in Mark’s Gospel, you can imagine how Jesus’ disciples might have been expecting him to launch a revolution against Rome bringing freedom and ushering in God’s kingdom.

Against this backdrop, Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples but this time it’s different because he orientates the



meal, what we now call the Lord's Supper, around himself. Jesus speaks about the coming of God's kingdom but also about his own body being broken and his own blood being shed. Jesus is of course referring to his imminent death the very next day through which he would bring true freedom – not from Egypt, nor even Rome - but from the powers of sin, death, and darkness. God's true kingdom was about to come.

I find it remarkable that Jesus shared this meal with his disciples, despite their misunderstandings of who he was. Even more staggering is that Judas received the Lord's Supper. In just a few hours Judas would betray Jesus but here he is, sharing in the meal that represents the new covenant or relationship that Jesus is establishing between his disciples and God.

It reminds me of how Jesus offers freedom to everyone, even to those that he should consider his enemies. Jesus' body was broken and his blood was shed for all of us, including his enemies, including you and me. Jesus teaches us as his followers to follow his example saying, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

May we bring our gratitude to the God who loves us, frees us, and has brought us into his kingdom.

## **MEDITATION**

Welcome the presence of Jesus through his Holy Spirit. Know that he is here with you now.

### **30 seconds silence**

Take a few moments to reflect on the following verse from Paul's letter to the Romans:

"...while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

### **30 seconds silence**

Thank God for Jesus' broken body and shed blood, which have been given as gifts to us. Bring any failures on your part to Jesus in this moment and receive his love and forgiveness.

### **1 min silence**

Lord Jesus, you are the God of love who chose to die for his enemies. Help us to never lose the wonder of this truth and for your sacrificial act of friendship to always be the foundation of our relationship with you. Amen.

# DAY FIVE

Today is Good Friday and our reading is Mark chapter 15 verses 1-39.

Today's devotional was written by Jacob Parton.

## **PASSAGE**

*“Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting*

to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him,

“Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees,

they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him.

Then they led him out to crucify him. A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).

Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!” In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

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*At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"*

## **THOUGHT**

Here, the hopes of the disciples and the crowds are dashed - how can a dead Messiah overthrow the Romans? He can't. The crowds choose to free Barabbas, whose murderous revolutionary tendencies contrast heavily with Jesus' refusal to fight the Romans at his arrest. In this very moment, when Jesus seems most abandoned by his followers - and potentially even by God as darkness symbolically falls over the whole land - suddenly, there is a confession of Jesus' real identity: "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

In Mark chapter 10, a few chapters before our reading for today, the disciples James and John ask Jesus to be seated at his right and left when he comes into his glory. Jesus proceeds to teach them about the heart of self-giving service,

pointing to his own purpose fulfilled on Good Friday, saying: "...even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Furthermore, he says that the positions of who'll be at his right and left in his glory are reserved for others.

The cross is Jesus' moment of glory and at his right and left are two crucified rebels. Here is the establishment of his kingdom based on his self-giving love and the gift of forgiveness for each one of us. In the passage we heard, Jesus is dressed with an ornate robe and a crown of thorns. He's mockingly called "Messiah," "King of Israel," and "King of the Jews." Roman soldiers bow before him in false reverence. Ironically, the soldiers and the crowds in their mockery actually proclaim the truth – Jesus is king, God's kingdom is coming – they just didn't expect it like this.

Jesus' cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" is just one of many quotes from Psalm 22 found in Mark 15. We're clearly meant to interpret Jesus' crucifixion through this psalm. We cannot deny the agony that Jesus and the psalm writer experienced, nor should we. Yet, I cannot help but notice Psalm 22:24:

"For he [God] has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help."

Pain and loss are not alien to any of us. Yet, God knows exactly what it means to suffer. When we see Jesus crucified, we are seeing God crucified. We can take hope in the fact God has not even spared himself from such suffering, but entered into the deepest darkness of human experience. He hears our cry for help and never turns his face from us.

## **MEDITATION**

Welcome the presence of Jesus through his Holy Spirit. Know that he is here with you now.

### ***30 seconds silence***

Take a few moments to reflect on the mystery of the cross and on these words from the theologian, Stanley Hauerwas:

“The Word that was in the beginning, the Word that was with God, the Word through whom all things came into being, the Word that shines in the darkness, the Word that assumed our flesh, suffering even unto death, is God.”

### ***30 seconds silence***

Thank God that he will never abandon us, but that he enters into the middle of our suffering with us. Ask him to reveal himself in the midst of anything you may be going through right now.

## ***1 min silence***

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are the crucified God. You are beyond our understanding, but we know that you are good, trustworthy, and faithful to us. Thank you that you never hide your face from us, but are always with us through your Spirit. Amen.



# DAY SIX

Today is Holy Saturday and our reading is Matthew chapter 27 verses 62-66, because there isn't a passage covering this day in Mark's Gospel.

Today's devotional was written by Jacob Parton.

## **PASSAGE**

"The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."

## **THOUGHT**

The Romans crucified thousands upon thousands of people. Before the cross was a religious symbol – before it was a source of hope or something to meditate on – it was an assertion of Rome's unstoppable power. It was a deterrent for any would-be revolutionaries and a torture device that destroyed a person socially, emotionally, and physically. It is no surprise, therefore, that the chief priests and the Romans think that they have won the victory against Jesus. Jesus has died. The only obstacle left in their minds was to guard his body from thieves, so that no one could pretend that he rose again from the dead, as he said he would.

In contrast to the certainty of Jesus' murderers, his disciples would have been left feeling confused. Their hopes for Jesus being the promised Messiah who would bring everlasting peace and usher in God's kingdom had been shattered and sealed in the very tomb that Jesus was laid. Their future was now uncertain, with no clear path for them to take. Were their lives still at risk for having followed Jesus? Should they have done something differently or fought harder in the garden of Gethsemane? This is the darkness and confusion of Holy Saturday.

Because we know the end to the story, it can be easy to skip this day. I know, personally, that I don't deal very well with anticipation and would rather the time of uncertainty come to an end. But, when I read through the Psalms, I find that I am in good company. There are pages and pages of people wrestling with dark times, bringing all of their confusion to God. Some receive answers, whilst others don't. For this current world season, we may want answers, but none are guaranteed. What we can affirm is that this time of confusion and despair will come to an end – just as Holy Saturday comes to an end. In the meantime, we can draw close to God, just as he draws close to us, and we can rest on his promises of his presence with us and that his goodness will ultimately overshadow darkness. The disciples didn't know it at the time, but in just a few days, they would be eating and drinking with Jesus again after his resurrection and victory over death, with his kingdom of peace established, just as he had said.

## **MEDITATION**

Welcome the presence of Jesus through his Holy Spirit. Know that he is here with you now.

### ***30 seconds silence***

Take a few moments to reflect on these words from Psalm 142:

“I cry aloud to the Lord;  
I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.  
I pour out before him my complaint;  
before him I tell my trouble.  
When my spirit grows faint within me,  
it is you who watch over my way.”

### ***30 seconds silence***

Bring yourself to God now in prayer, including any thoughts of confusion and any feelings of hopelessness. Draw close to him and know that he’s drawing close to you.

### ***1 min silence***

Lord Jesus, we thank you that Holy Saturday came to an end. Thank you that you are a God who knows suffering and bore the horror of the cross for our sake. May we remember your presence with us today and know that Resurrection Sunday is just around the corner. Amen.