



**Friday (4/14/2017)**

**Read John 19:16-21**

**Carrying His Own Cross**

“<sup>17</sup> **Carrying his own cross**, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).” [NIV]

What did Jesus mean when He said “take up your cross”?

The Cross represents pain and suffering, and is essentially a symbol of **death**. By asking us to take up our cross, He is calling us to die to our plans, dreams, ambitions, and ultimately die to our sins.

**Reflection & Prayer:**

- 1) Is Christ the master of your life today?
- 2) Have you put to death your own plans and sins, and surrendered your life to Jesus?

Jesus, I will faithfully carry my own cross, just as you faithfully carried yours. I will die to myself and will willingly surrender to you daily. I will let the cross do its work thoroughly in me so that sin will no longer have a foothold in my life. I know that you have overcome the world. The grave could not hold you down. You died on the cross, but you rose again. And today, I receive the new life you have made available to me through your victory over death. I want the world to see the power and victory of the cross in my life, so that they too may follow you.

**Saturday (4/15/2017)**

**Read John 19:23-30**

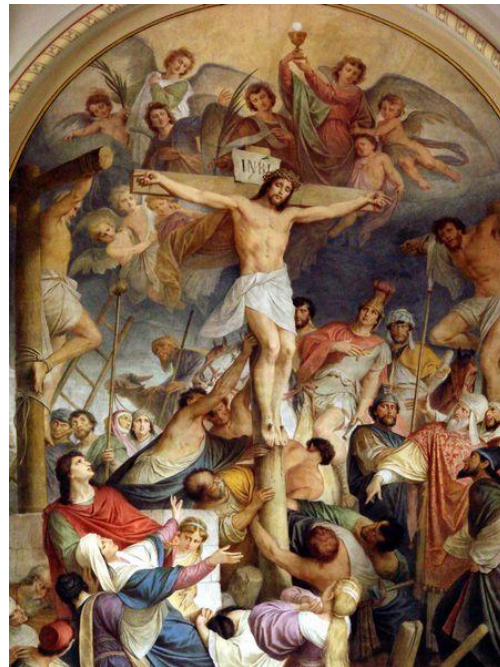
**It Is Finished!**

“<sup>30</sup> Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It is finished!**” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” [NASB]

1. Jesus fulfilled every Scripture that was written about Him, His suffering, death and resurrection.
2. He fully paid for the price of redemption.
3. Sin, Satan and death are powerless over us.

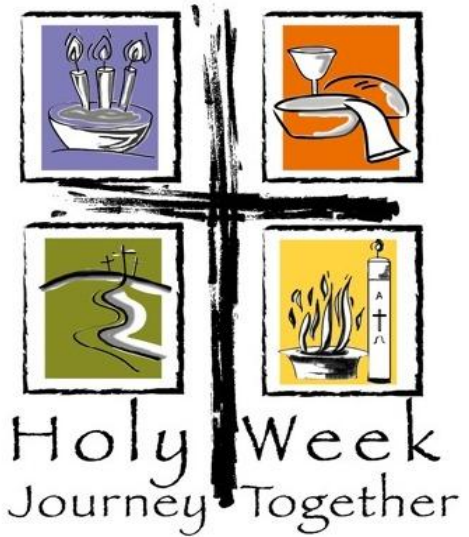
**Reflection & Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you for completing the work of redemption on the cross for us. You have defeated sin, Satan and death once and for all eternity. You have set us free from the power of Satan and the curse of sin. Because of your victory on the cross I have eternal life and hope for tomorrow.



**Fasting & Prayer Guide**

**4/9/2017 – 4/15/2017**



During the week leading up to Easter Christians around the world will focus on the last events that led to the crucifixion and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This fasting and prayer guide is designed to help us reflect on the meaning of these events and understand the struggles that Jesus went through to redeem our lives from the power of sin and Satan. As well as to prepare our hearts to celebrate the power of the resurrection and the victory over sin on the cross. There is a Scripture reading for each day, a short description of historical events, and a suggested prayer focus.

**First Evangelical Church  
of San Gabriel Valley**



### Palm Sunday (4/9/2017)

Read John 18:28-38

#### King of the Jews

<sup>37</sup> Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, 'You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.'" [NASB]

When you are being opposed and questioned for the mission that God has entrusted you, what do you say to your accusers?

- 1) He affirmed His **identity** as the King.
- 2) He defined His **purpose** on earth.
- 3) He spoke the **truth**.

#### Reflection & Prayer:

- 1) What is the significance of His identity, purpose and truth?
- 2) How can Jesus be the King of your life?

Jesus, I acknowledge and surrender to you as the King of my life. Open my eyes and show me my identity, my purpose and your truth for my life.

### Monday (4/10/2017)

Read John 18:33-38

#### My Kingdom

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, 'My **kingdom** is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'" [NIV]

The kingdom of Christ is not coming from the world, or by the power of man, but by the power of God.

### Monday (4/10/2017)

- 1) King Jesus came to rescue people from the kingdom of darkness.

#### Reflection & Pray:

- 1) What does it mean to live in God's kingdom?
- 2) How do you stand firm when you're challenged by the dark force?

Lord, thank you for rescuing us from the kingdom of Satan and transferring us to the kingdom of God.

### Tuesday (4/11/2017)

Read John 18:39-40

#### Scape Goat: Barabbas

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us **Barabbas!**" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising." [NIV]

**Sin is a robber.** Thus, those who choose sin over Christ, who would truly enrich us, are foolish.

- 1) He who chooses a sinful life before Christ is a fool.
- 2) He who chooses Christ is released from sins.

#### Reflection & Prayer:

- 1) What would Jesus want you to choose between the two?
- 2) How has sin robbed your hope and joy?

Lord, I acknowledge that I choose sin over you sometimes. Give me wisdom and strength to make the right choice every time.

### Wednesday (4/12/2017)

Read John 19:1-7

#### Crown of Thorns

<sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted together a **crown of thorns** and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; <sup>3</sup> and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face." [NIV]

The redeemer of men, who wore the thorns, was humiliated by men. The Son of God, the Lord of righteousness, was condemned, rejected, and killed by the people whom He came to save.

- 1) The crown of thorns is a symbol of suffering, pain and curse.
- 2) King Jesus carried the weight of suffering and the curse of sin on his head.

#### Reflection & Prayer:

- 1) How has Jesus released you from the power and the curse of sin?
- 2) Will you endure ridicule and humiliation for the sake of the gospel?

Lord, thank you for setting me free from the power of sin. I will follow you even through persecution and hardship; give me strength, patience, and joy in following you.

### Thursday (4/13/2017)

Read John 19:8-12

#### Authority over Me

<sup>10</sup> "...Pilate said. 'Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?' <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'" [NIV]

Pilate thought that he had the **authority** to free or crucify Jesus but he did not realize that he was entrusted by a higher authority from above.

- 1) Authority: The right and power to decide.
- 2) Jesus submitted to higher authority.
- 3) God required everyone to acknowledge and submit to authority.

#### Reflection & Prayer:

- 1) Do you recognize God's authority in your life?
- 2) Do you submit to God's authority and those who are in authority?

Jesus Christ, my Lord, my Savior, I give you authority over my mind, my will, my heart, my emotions, and my spirit. Help me to willingly submit to your authority. Take my life and consecrate it with your blood, and use it to serve your purpose in my generation.