

### Holy Saturday, April 3

“It is finished.” –John 19:30b

*Read this WORD in context: John 19:30*

It is finished. As our Methodist funeral liturgy reminds us: Dying, Christ destroyed our death. The battle against evil and death is won here in this moment. All the miracles, sermons, prayers, parables, acts of service have led to this critical event. What is finished is *ALL* the work of Jesus and His Father (see John 4:34; 5:36; 17:4-5). The burial of Jesus over a three day period remind us that while sin and evil have met their end, they are still *now* in the midst of their death throes. To summarize N.T. Wright, we live in between the early signs of dawn and the sunrise (or Sunrise) itself. We await the rest of the Methodist funeral liturgy: Rising, Christ restored our life. As pastor S.M. Lockridge said: “It’s Friday... But Sunday’s comin’.\*”

\* [www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/its-fridaybut-sundays-comin/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/its-fridaybut-sundays-comin/)

### Easter Sunday, April 4

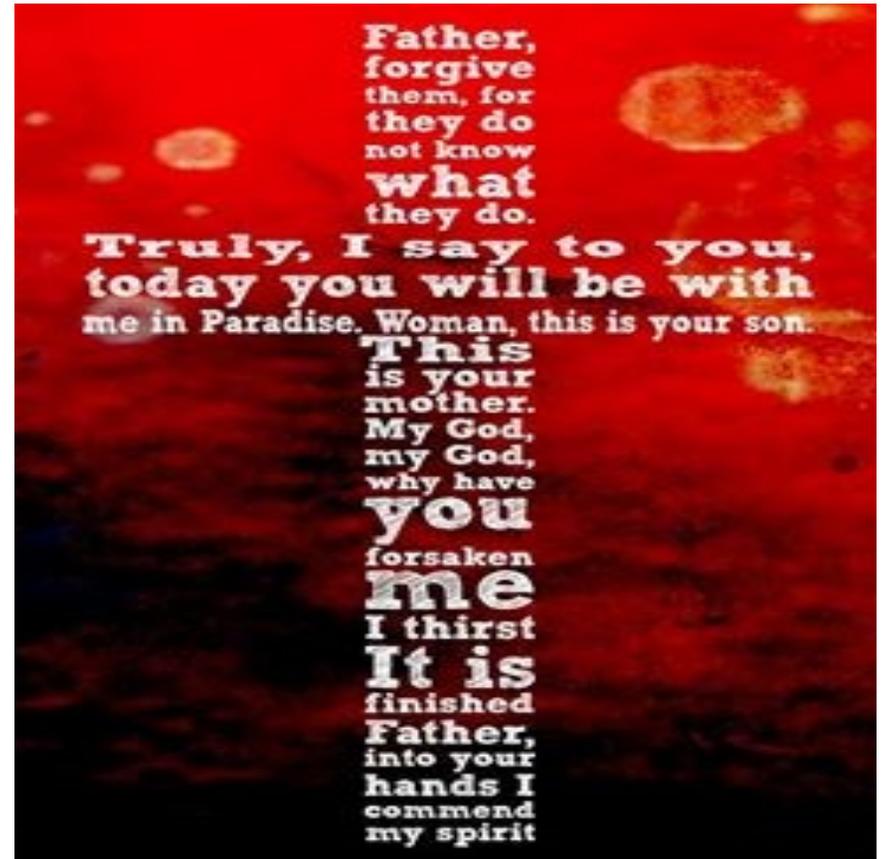
“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for? ...

Mary!” –John 20:15, 16

*Read this first resurrection WORD in context: John 20:11-18*

Hear the concern of Jesus for Mary’s grief. Hear the concern for her confusion. And hear her name being said in such a familiar way (this is what helped Mary recognize Jesus). Can you imagine standing in Mary’s place? Hearing your name said aloud on that Easter morning with love and compassion? Easter is a personal display of God’s love and power for you. Imagine Jesus saying your name and then respond out loud with Mary: “My Teacher!” (an honorific title that implies “an important personal relationship”\*)).

\* *Louw & Nida. Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.*



## Holy Week Devotions 2021

### The Seven Last Words Of Jesus

As you pray and read what have commonly been called Jesus’ last “words” (statements) on the cross, this week you may want to hold the wooden cross included in your Holy Week bag. May you draw nearer to Jesus and experience his love in fresh ways.

– Rev. Dan Underwood

- HAPPY EASTER -



**FOLKSTON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

Worshiping Jesus. Growing in Holiness. Serving the World.

**Sunday, March 28**

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

*Read this WORD in context: Luke 23:32-38.*

We are often ignorant of the depth of evil at work in our world, in humanity, and in our own hearts. Ignorance doesn't excuse us, but Jesus does sympathize with us. Because we are often unwitting and unknowing pawns of darkness, Jesus prays that we might be forgiven. The good news is God hears and answers the prayer of his beloved Son. And, when we pray for forgiveness we can be assured it will be heard and answered for we are praying along with Jesus. Our desire for forgiveness matches his desire for forgiveness. Today, let Jesus teach you by word and example how to pray: “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”.

**Monday, March 29**

“Today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

*Read this WORD in context: Luke 23:39-43.*

To be forgotten would be a terrible fate. Instead, Jesus promises “I will not forget you” (Isaiah 49:15) and it is “your sins and lawless acts I will remember no more” (Hebrews 10:17). Jesus freely welcomed a crucified criminal who turns to him as one of his own. If God could accept a criminal on the cross, God can readily accept us whatever our imperfections or wrongdoing. Use the criminal's prayer throughout today: “Jesus, remember me.”

**Tuesday, March 30**

“Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother” John 19:26-27

*Read this WORD in context: John 19:23-27*

What a heart-breaking moment. Jesus, a faithful son, shows concern for his mother. As he takes the place of the whole world on the cross, Jesus sets one of his disciples in his place as son of Mary. He establishes a new community, a community that transcends the normal human bonds of blood and kinship. Who in “Christ's family” (Galatians 6:10) do you hear Jesus saying to you: “Here is your mother... brother... sister... father... etc.”? What can you do today to tangibly “love your spiritual family” (1 Peter 2:17)?

**Wednesday, March 31**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” –Matthew 27:46

*Read this WORD in context: Matthew 27:45-47*

In the darkness, Jesus says the words most people think at some point during their life: “God, why have you forsaken me?” Words that feel so un-faithful are spoken by the one who is the author and perfecter of faith. The One who asks this question is the same One who promises us that he “will be with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). As we'll see over the next few days, Jesus uses Scripture (Psalm 22:1) to speak for him when his own words are failing in the midst of suffering. Fittingly, this Psalm closes with the words: “He has done it!” On the other side of the cross is the resurrection.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

“I am thirsty.” –John 19:28

*Read this WORD in context: John 19:28-29*

In a vivid illustration of Psalm 22:14-15 and 42:1-2, Jesus is not only physically in need of hydration, but thirsty for God's presence and rescue. The one who offers us springs of living water thirsts in our place. So that “whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14). As a form of prayer, drink some water today and give thanks for a Savior who “satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:9).

**Good Friday, April 2**

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” –Luke 23:46

*Read this WORD in context: Luke 23:44-49*

This prayer is amazing in its simplicity and power. This is a prayer of a child (the Son of God) to his Parent. The faith of a child relies not on its own power, but in the loving care of our Heavenly Father. This is a learned prayer (from Psalm 31:5). So often, Scripture speaks for us when our words alone would fail. The trust expressed in this prayer is amazing (especially when you see the rest of Psalm 31:5) in the face of certain death. Will you pray this prayer out loud along with Jesus today?