



40 Days of Prayer

Leading up to Easter



March 9

Matthew 1:21, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Even from His birth, Jesus had come to die. His death would mean the salvation of His people. As we begin this time of prayer, ask God to prepare your heart that you might see Jesus in His glory, which reaches its apex at the cross. He came to deliver. We are to worship and praise Him as glad recipients of this deliverance.





March 10

Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Pray that your heart would hunger and thirst after righteousness. Pray that holiness in every aspect of your life would be the focus of your day today. Christ is our righteousness, and He has given His Spirit to enable us to pursue righteous living.



March 11

Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Pray that God would give you encouragement to continue on in your walk with Christ, even when life gets hard. God is the One who began the work in you, and He will be the One to make sure it is completed in glory.



March 12

Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

As you contemplate Easter's approach, pray that God would help you to see what it is that Christ endured for your salvation. Christ became the curse of God, that we might be free from the curse. Pray that God would not allow this reality to sit lightly upon your heart.



March 13

Matthew 6:21, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Our treasure must be something that will endure. We must not be content with treasure that can rust or spoil. Our treasure must be Christ. Pray that God would set your heart of Him. This is a prayer that He delights to answer, for He will give us more of Himself.



March 14

Matthew 7:24-25, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

The question we must ask ourselves is: what is my life built upon? Is it built on my job? My family? My intelligence? My money? Or is my life built upon Christ? Anything other than Christ will finally collapse, if not in this world, then certainly in the next. Ask God to show you what your life is built upon, and seek, through His grace and the Holy Spirit, to build your life upon the rock of Christ.



March 15

Matthew 8:26-27, "And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

We often have a low view of Jesus. We often think of Him as a kind man who sat with the children and healed the sick, which is all true. We don't often dwell on His power in rebuking the natural world and the world obeying His word. We must not have a small view of God, but believe in Him as He is described in Scripture. The Jesus we worship as crucified and raised, is also the One in control of all things.



March 16

John 10:10, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

Pray that God would help you to see your sin and Savior clearly. Sin promises life but only delivers death. Christ promises life abundantly and keeps His promises. Pray that Christ would be your joy today.





March 17

John 10:11, *"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep."*

**Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He has laid
down His life in order to save His sheep.
Pray that the Spirit would lead you into a closer
walk with your Shepherd. Follow His lead.
He will never lead you astray.**



March 18

Mark 11:9-10, "And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem with shouts of praise, and yet was crucified in the same week. Emotional responses to Christ do not guarantee genuine faith in Christ. Pray that your heart would be stirred by Christ, but through the Holy Spirit, rather than natural emotions like the crowd. Christ is worthy to be praised, and we are to praise Him.



March 19

Mark 12:29-30, "Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"

When asked which was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded in this way. Though this is a familiar passage, we still fall far short of its actualization. Pray that God would give you a greater love for Him, a love that is all-consuming. Pray that you would love Him with every aspect of yourself. Our love for Him cannot be reserved for only part of ourselves.



March 20

Mark 12:31, *"The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

Loving our neighbor as ourselves is impossible if left on our own. We naturally want what is best for us. Christ calls us to see others the way He sees them, with a love so great that He would die for His enemies. Pray that God would give you a greater love for those around you, both those that you like and those you dislike. This is a part of what it means to follow Jesus.



March 21

Luke 7:47, "Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

Those who are forgiven much will love much. To fail to love is to show that we do not understand the depth of our need and the grace of God given to us in Christ. Pray that God would help you to understand your need for Him that you might show love rightly to those around you.



March 22

John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

In any and every circumstance in which we find ourselves, we can take heart because Christ has overcome the world through His death and resurrection. Pray that God would enable you to experience this peace found only in Christ as you go about your day.



March 23

Luke 22:61-62, "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly."

How often we have failed our Lord. We have not spoken of Him to unbelieving friends and family members, people we have met at the store or restaurant. We have acted just like Peter; we have denied Jesus by our silence. While Peter is denying Christ, Jesus is still going to the cross. Spend time thanking God for His immeasurable grace in your life. We do not deserve it, and yet He stood in our place condemned.



A person with long, dark hair is seen from behind, looking out over a cityscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. A teal horizontal line is at the top of the image.

March 24

*Luke 23:43, "And he said to him,
"Truly, I say to you, today you
will be with me in paradise."*

To the thief on the cross who was repenting and confessing, Christ gave assurance of salvation.

We are not guaranteed the opportunity for a death-bed confession, though we are thankful that they do take place. Pray for those around you right now who are far from God. Pray that they would come to Christ and be with Him in paradise.

Christ is ready to save.



March 25

1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

We need to understand clearly that the gospel of Jesus Christ will never be viewed as cool by the outside world. The cross seems foolish to those who are lost in darkness. However, to those who are being saved, it is the very power of God. Pray that God would put people in your life to share the gospel with, that more may see it as the power of God.



March 26

John 19:11, "Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

Jesus willingly went to the cross. It was a part of the plan of God. He was willing to submit to the authorities because He knew they had been placed by God. Pray that your attitude would be the same as Christ's. If Christ willingly submitted to death, then surely, we can submit when we disagree, believing that God is moving all the while.



March 27

John 19:30, *"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

As we contemplate the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, pray that God would help you truly understand and believe that the work has been finished. For those who believe, our salvation is secure. Pray that God would open your eyes to greater depths of joy because of this reality.



March 28

2 Corinthians 5:21, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

For our sake, Christ became sin. He did not just become guilty on the cross; He became the epitome of sin. In this way, the wrath of God is absorbed by Christ, and we receive His righteousness through faith. Spend time worshiping Christ for His willingness to take our sin that we might have His righteousness. This is our salvation.



March 29

Philippians 1:21, *"For to me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain."*

We will live most fruitfully for Christ when we see our life as centered on Him, and death as gain. What have we to fear when living is Christ and death is gain? Pray that God would center your heart on Christ that you might be able to honestly make this confession along with Paul.



March 30

Romans 8:1, *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*

For those who are in Christ Jesus through faith, there is no condemnation. We have been freed from the judgment of God for our sin. Pray that God would enable you to experience this freedom, and then a desire to share it with others.





March 31

Matthew 28:18, "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Pray that Christ's authority would take central stage in your life. Pray that God would help you to submit gladly to His authority and obey what He has commanded you to do. He is good. Listen and obey.



April 1

Matthew 28:19-20, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

The commission to make disciples is not optional for the believer, it is why we are here. Pray that God would give you opportunities, that you would see these opportunities clearly, and act upon them. We are to plant the seed and water, ultimately trusting that God brings the growth.



April 2

Matthew 28:20, *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Pray that you would experience the presence of Christ in your day today. He is with you and will never leave or forsake you. Pray that this would become the fuel for your obedience.



April 3

Isaiah 41:10, *"fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

We have no reason to fear because God is with us and will uphold us. We are held, not by our own strength, but by His. Give God praise for this fact and pray for anything you might be fearful of, believing that God will be with you through it all.



April 4

1 Corinthians 2:2, *"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*

Paul says the central theme of his life was Christ crucified. Can you say the same? Spend time praying and meditating on the cross of Christ, seeing it as the only means of salvation. Pray that God would make the beat of your heart Jesus Christ and Him crucified.



April 5

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Our salvation is given by grace through faith, and not on the basis of our works. We cannot earn our place in heaven but receive it as a gift through the finished work of Christ. Spend time worshiping God for the gift of salvation you have received.



April 6

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

As a Christian, you have been made for a purpose. We are the workmanship of God. We were made to do good works. These works are not salvific, they will not save. However, we are to obey God in His call to live out our faith. Pray for God to make these opportunities for good works clear, that you might walk faithfully in them.



April 7

1 Peter 5:7, *"casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."*

Do you believe that God cares about you in all the details of your life? We are told in this passage to cast all of our anxieties on God because He cares about us. How can we know that He cares for us? He sent His Son to die in our place. Cast your cares on Him today, believing and trusting that He cares for you.



April 8

Romans 8:28, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

What a spectacular promise! All things, every pain and trial faced, every triumph and wonderful experience, will all be used for our good.

What is our ultimate good? Being made more like Jesus.

Ask God to give you confidence as you go about your day, believing that He is working everything out for our good, that we might be more like Jesus.



April 9

Acts 8:8, "So there was much joy in that city."

When someone believes in Christ, there is joy. When many individuals believe in Christ, there is much joy. There is joy for the individual who has been redeemed by Christ. There is joy for the church who receives this brother or sister. This is the joy that we long to see in our church and city. Pray that God would move in profound ways in our city, that more people might believe, that the city might have much joy.



April 10

Romans 4:24-25, "It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

The resurrection of Christ is crucial for our salvation. Said another way, if Christ is not raised, we could not be justified before God. Spend some time thinking about how important the resurrection is, and then praise God for the death of Christ and His resurrection.



April 11

Acts 2:46-47, "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

As the church was committed to Christ, to the Apostles' teaching, and to one another, God continued to add to their number. Pray for the guests who will visit North Roanoke at Easter and beyond. Pray that God would be pleased to add to our number those who are being saved. Pray that we would welcome them and disciple them well, all for the glory of Christ.



April 12

Hebrews 7:25, *"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."*

As our crucified and risen High Priest, Christ always lives to intercede for us before our Father in heaven. Confess your sin to Him and run to Him because He is gracious. He will not cast you out. He will never cease to plead His blood for your soul.



April 13

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

The life of the mind is critical for the Christian. Our mind is to be filled with things that honor and glorify God. The culture around us will bombard us with filth, and we must be prepared. Confess your sinful thoughts to God and ask that He would give you new thoughts and discipline to think about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.



April 14

Acts 14:21-22, "When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

We cannot forget that it is through trials and tribulations that we will enter the kingdom of God. Difficulties will arise. We cannot be surprised by them or disbelieve God as a result. Christ is risen. Therefore, we can endure. Whether you are in the middle of a trial, coming out of a trial, or potentially going into one, spend time asking God to prepare you for them by giving you an eternal perspective. No matter what happens, Christ is risen.



April 15

Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

In the present, there is suffering. Through the death and resurrection of Christ God is making all things new. The pain that we experience here will be nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed. Pray that God would give you an eternal perspective as you go about your day. Our seeing Jesus will give us the grace we need to endure life's difficulties.



April 16

Philippians 3:8, *"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*

The surpassing worth of the universe is Jesus Christ. He is worth losing everything else in order to have. In the end, if we lose everything and gain Him, we lose nothing and gain everything. Pray that God would cause you to treasure Christ in this way. Pray that Christ would be your life, treasure, desire, and joy.





April 17

Revelation 22:20, *"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"*

The hope of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, but that He is coming soon to make all things new. Pray that God would prepare your heart for the coming of Christ, that you might be ready for the blessed day of His return. May we look expectantly for that day.

