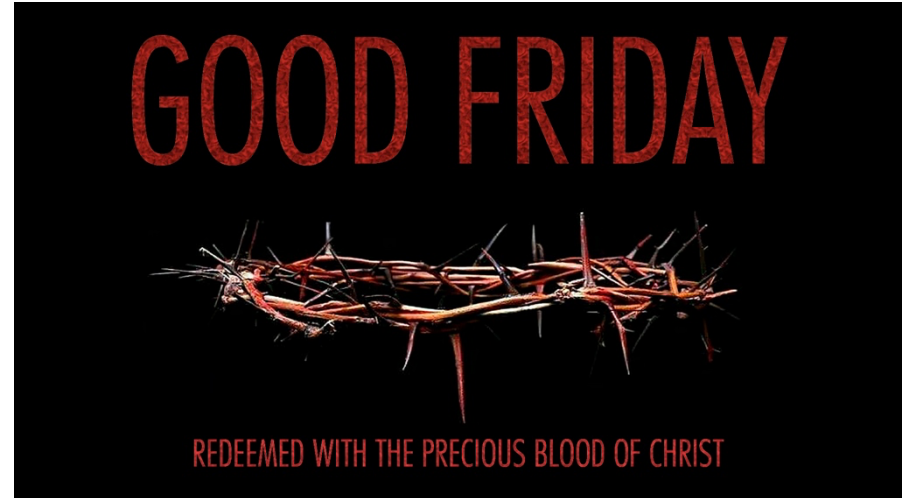




Come hear “the rest of the story”! **Join us for Easter Sunday!**

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 9:00 A.M.



Pastor Doug Wilson, BETHANY • A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
April 3, 2026, GOOD FRIDAY

Tonight we **REFLECT** on Jesus’ words from the cross — and **RESPOND** to them...  
with **wonder, gratitude, and praise.**

HEBREWS 9:14 GNT & ISV, “...how much more is accomplished by **the blood of Christ**,  
who **THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT** offered himself unblemished to God...”

LUKE 23:34 (TNIV)

Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them,  
for they do not know what they are doing.**”

- “**FATHER**” — Jesus shows us where to \_\_\_\_\_ when we are wronged.  
(see LUKE 1:46 NRSV, “My soul magnifies **the Lord...**”)
- “**FORGIVE them**” — Jesus shows us how to \_\_\_\_\_ when we are wronged.  
(see EPHESIANS 4:32 KJV, “...be ye **kind** one to another, **tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as** God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”)
- “**they do not know what they are doing**” — Jesus shows us how to \_\_\_\_\_  
when we are wronged.

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP US FORGIVE, LIKE JESUS.”**

LUKE 23:43 (TNIV)

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you,  
**today you will be with me in paradise.**”

- “**Jesus ANSWERED him**” — Jesus didn’t allow His \_\_\_\_\_ struggle to be His  
sole focus. People matter to God...so Jesus **listened** to, and **responded** to, this man.
- “**today YOU will be with me in paradise**” — Jesus **helped someone** going  
through \_\_\_\_\_ **struggle.**
- “**today you will be with me in PARADISE**” — Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
the **resources** God had given **Him.** (see MATTHEW 10:8, “Freely you have **received**; freely **give.**”)
- “**today you will be WITH ME in paradise**” — Jesus invited him into \_\_\_\_\_!

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP US LOOK FOR SOMEONE TO HELP, LIKE JESUS.”**

JOHN 19:26-27 (TNIV)

When Jesus saw his mother there,  
and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby,  
he said to her, **“Woman, here is your son,”**  
and to the disciple, **“Here is your mother.”**  
From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- Jesus reminds us that **our** pain should not blind us to the pain of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus shows us how to put the needs of **those closest to us** before our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(see PHILIPPIANS 2:3 NLT, **“Don’t be selfish... Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.”**)
- Jesus reveals how much he wants \_\_\_\_\_ to have **a place to belong**.

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP US MAKE A PLACE FOR OTHERS TO BELONG, LIKE JESUS.”** (PSALM 68:6 NIV, **“God sets the lonely in families...”**)

MATTHEW 27:46 (TNIV)

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”** (which means  
**“My God, my God, why have you FORSAKEN me?”**). [PSALM 22:1]

**We see what Jesus does when he is facing his worst day imaginable...**

- He **talks** to \_\_\_\_\_.
- He **reflects** on and speaks **God’s** \_\_\_\_\_. (PSALM 22:1)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ God how he feels.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ God. (He’s honest about how he feels...but still calls out to **“MY GOD”**!)

**WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP US TURN TO YOU WHEN WE STRUGGLE, LIKE JESUS.”**

JOHN 19 (TNIV)

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished,  
and so that Scripture would be fulfilled,  
Jesus said, **“I am thirsty.”** [PSALM 22:14-15; 69:3, 21]

<sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

**We see that when Jesus is struggling...**

- He **acknowledged** his \_\_\_\_\_. (Often we try to hide it or deny it.)  
(PSALM 63:1 NLT & NASB, **“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.”**)
- He views his circumstances **in the light of God’s** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(See PSALM 22:14-15 NIV, <sup>14</sup> **“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. <sup>15</sup> My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.”** — PSALM 69:3 NIV, **“I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.”**)

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP ME TELL YOU WHEN I’M STRUGGLING, LIKE JESUS.”**

<sup>1</sup> PETER 5:7 NET, **“...casting ALL your cares on him because he cares for you.”**

MSG: **“You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.”**

JOHN 7:37-38 TNIV, **“Let anyone who is 1 THIRSTY 2 COME TO ME 3 and DRINK.**

Whoever 4 BELIEVES in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers of living water will flow from within them.”**

JOHN 19:30 (TNIV)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **“It is finished.”**  
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ what the Father had sent him to earth to do.  
(LUKE 19:10 MSG, **“...the Son of Man came to find & restore the lost.”** [HCSB, **“to seek & to save the lost”**]; ACTS 10:38 NIV, **“...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, &...he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.**)
- The focus of Jesus’ life was to \_\_\_\_\_ **the work** His Father had given him. **(What has the Father sent you here to do? Often we aren’t aware of our calling — or we’ve forgotten it.)**

JOHN 17:4 J.B. PHILLIPS, **“I have brought you honour upon earth, I have completed the task which you gave me to do.”**

ACTS 13:36 CEB, Now when David had **served God’s purpose in his own generation**, he died...

- Are you \_\_\_\_\_ in the work Jesus finished for you?

GALATIANS 3 THE MESSAGE

<sup>2-4</sup> Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin?

**Was it by working your heads off to please God?**

Or was it by **responding** to God’s Message to you?

<sup>11-12</sup> The person who lives in right relationship with God does it  
by **embracing what God arranges for him.**

**Doing things for God is the opposite of entering into what God does for you.**

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, MAY WE BE FAITHFUL TO THE PURPOSE YOU GAVE US, LIKE JESUS WAS.”**

LUKE 23:46 (TNIV)

Jesus called out with a loud voice,  
**“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”** [PSALM 31:5]  
When he had said this, he breathed his last.

- Jesus placed \_\_\_\_\_ **about himself** into the Father’s hands. He knew — **“God’s got this.”**

PSALM 16:8-11 TNIV

<sup>8</sup> **I keep my eyes ALWAYS on the LORD.**

**With him at my right hand, I will NOT be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> **Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,**

<sup>10</sup> **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.**

<sup>11</sup> **YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE; YOU WILL FILL ME WITH JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ his Abba Father **in everything** — including his life, his breath, and his spirit. His **family**. His **relationships**. His **body**.

**SO WE PRAY: “ABBA, HELP US TRUST YOU EVERY DAY, & IN EVERYTHING... & TO OUR FINAL BREATH, LIKE JESUS DID.”**