

The background of the cover is a large, textured, multi-colored shape that resembles a rainbow or a sunburst. It starts with a blue and green section on the left, transitions into a large yellow section, and ends with a red section on the right. The texture is composed of many small, overlapping dots or speckles. At the top, there are two overlapping circles: a blue one on the left and a yellow one on the right. The word "EASTER" is written in a bold, sans-serif font across these circles, with the letters "EA" in blue, "ST" in red, and "ER" in yellow. Below "EASTER" is the text "GREEN ACRES" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

**EASTER**

GREEN ACRES

HOLY WEEK

**DEVOTIONAL**



## GREEN ACRES FAMILY,

As we look expectantly towards Easter, your GABC Staff and I have been praying that this Easter is unlike any we have experienced together before! Not because of our preparation or because of the fun we will have together, but because we want this Easter to be “bathed in prayer.” That is why we, along with the GABC Prayer Ministry have put together this Holy Week Devotional and Prayer Guide!

Our hope is that you would allow God to move in your life in such a way that you can look back at Easter 2024 as a pivotal time in your faith and be able to give Him the Glory!

Here are 5 suggestions to get the most from this booklet...

**1. Each day during Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) choose a time to read the daily devotional thought and follow the prayer guide.** If you are a morning person, read and pray in the mornings. If you are a “night owl,” read and pray at night.

Oswald Chambers stated, “Prayer doesn’t fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.”

**2. Repent of any known sins then ask God to reveal what is hidden in your heart.** (Psalm 139:23-24) Sometimes, we can grow calloused enough to be unaware of the sin that has “so easily entangled us.” Ask the Lord to show you...it will change your life!

**3. Ask God to bring people into your path with whom He is already working.**

People are seeking Christ. It is beautiful when God brings them into your life. Be open to that possibility! James says, “you have not because you ask not” (James 4:2-3).

**4. Look for opportunities to invite others to come and celebrate Easter at GABC.**

Go into the “highways and byways and invite people” to be your guest this Easter. This invitation is a tremendous opening to sharing the Gospel. It is said that people are more open to coming to church on Easter than at any other time of the year. Take advantage of that!

**5. Place your Easter Focus on Christ.** Approach Easter Resurrection Sunday with holy expectancy. What if God did something amazing in your heart this Easter? He will if you are open to it!

He is risen. He is risen indeed!



Michael Gossett  
Lead Pastor

## PALM SUNDAY – JESUS’ TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM!

As Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, a very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and did the same. That’s why we call it “Palm Sunday.” The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!,” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!,” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,’” John 11:25

We have so much to be grateful for this week. The enemy knows that, and you can bet, he will do everything he can to distract us from Holy Week’s true meaning.

In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ our King!

### **Matthew 21:7-11**

7 They brought the donkey and the colt; then they laid their clothes on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. 9 Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted:

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

I have often wondered what it must have been like on that Sunday when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus chose to ride in to the city on a donkey, which directly fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Zech. 9:9. In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized **peace**, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with **peaceful intentions**.

Just like today is littered with conflict and trouble, the story was the same 2000 years ago! What could be more attractive to a people who were troubled and oppressed than a King’s arriving symbolizing peace!

Jesus is the King, but also the “Prince of Peace.”

The Bible says that Jesus “wept for Jerusalem.” Amid the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn’t be long before these same people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Savior.

**Luke 19:41-42**

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

Have you ever cared so deeply about someone else that you wept for them? How about care so deeply for an entire group of people that you were brought to tears over the trouble that they had brought upon themselves? Jesus wept for Jerusalem because the people were like sheep without a shepherd. He cares for you in the same way!

**PRAY:**

“Thank you for being compassionate towards hopeless people like me. Like you were to the crowds gathered in the Holy City, you look on me with compassion as well. Thank you for knowing me fully and loving me completely. I am so thankful that you came not to be served, but to give your life as a ransom for me.”

**FOR FURTHER STUDY: READ MATTHEW 21, JOHN 11:25**

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## MONDAY - JESUS AND THE MONEY CHANGERS

Only Yesterday Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey and was greeted so warmly by the people. They said “Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Everything was going smoothly.... But then on Monday:

### **Matthew 21:12-13**

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

We can sometime forget that Jesus, while being the Prince of Peace, was not always peaceful. Many places in the gospels we see Jesus “stirring up” people towards righteousness, truth and closeness with the Father. The famous interactions with “the Woman at the Well” in John 4:5-30, Jesus Healing on the Sabbath in Luke 6:6-11 or when Jesus called out the hypocritical religious people of his day by saying they were like a “den of vipers” in Matthew 12:34 are just a few examples. “Holy Monday,” as some call it, has a parallel in our personal lives. Jesus comes, and priorities are overturned, assumptions swept aside. Elizabeth Sherrill says it this way: “The “first thing” He did after entering Jerusalem is the “first thing” He does on entering a life: He goes straight to the temple, to the place where we worship, and cleans out whatever is not part of God’s design.”

### **PRAY**

“Father, would you stir up my life to holiness and reveal to me those things that do not please you? Allow me to see my life as you see it and my sin as you see my sin. I will confess it to you and seek your forgiveness.”

### FOR FURTHER STUDY READ MARK 11:11-33

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## TUESDAY - JESUS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Tuesday afternoon would be the last time Jesus would publicly teach in the temple as a free man. His words on that day would be His closing argument—His manifesto. When Jesus left the temple that Tuesday, the chief priests and the scribes sought how to arrest Him by stealth and kill Him.

### **Mark 14:1**

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a cunning way to arrest Jesus and kill him.

When Jesus is invited into someone's life as Lord and Savior remarkable things begin to happen. He brings with him love, compassion, grace mercy and righteousness. He also brings conviction of sin. And sometimes, in fact quite often, that interferes with the religious community that can be bent on rules and control. Such was the case on this Tuesday of Holy Week. The religious leaders of the day were not at all pleased that Jesus was turning people's hearts away from them... and towards Himself.

### **PRAY**

"Thank you, Lord that in spite of Tuesday marking the darker side of Holy Week, that this week does not end in darkness but in incomprehensible light! Align my heart with yours Jesus. We praise you as we sing "Hosanna to the King of Kings." You knew what awaited in Jerusalem, and yet you rode the donkey into town in obedience to the Father. Thank you for doing that for me!"

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY: READ MARK 13 AND 14**

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## WEDNESDAY - THE PLOT TO BETRAY JESUS

Have you ever felt betrayed? Ever had a very close friend turn their back on you for their own personal gain? We have all experienced this in some form, haven't we? It could be the pain that comes with trying to "fit in" while navigating Junior High. It could be when a "trusted" friend tells others your embarrassing secret. Or maybe it is simply a broken promise that you were counting on. Whatever your experience, betrayal is among the most painful emotions we encounter.

Jesus is intimately familiar with being betrayed...

### **Matthew 26:14-16**

14 Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. 16 And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.

Jesus experienced the ultimate betrayal. While He knew it was coming, the sting and sense of abandonment was profound. Only 4 days later, a sinless Jesus would hang on a cross and do the unimaginable. He would ask the Father to "forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing!" (Luke 23:34) The very people who betrayed, beat and crucified Him were covered in Jesus' prayer to the Father.

We are called to forgive those who have betrayed us as well. (Matt 6:15) Would you be willing to forgive them?

### **PRAY**

"Forgive me Lord Jesus as I can be so easily distracted from following you. The wounds brought about by others and even the wounds I have knowingly and unknowingly inflicted on others, have taken up too much space in my heart. Give me the grace and faith to forgive those who have betrayed me, and the awareness to know when I have been guilty of the same. Thank you for forgiving me."

FOR FURTHER STUDY READ MATTHEW 6  
LUKE 22:3-6; MATTHEW 26:14-16

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## THURSDAY - LOVE THEM ALL!

Some people call this day "Maundy" Thursday and for good reason! The word "Maundy" comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin "mandatum," which means "commandment." It refers to what Jesus said in the Upper Room during the Last Supper He says,

### **John 13:34-35**

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus' words are easy to hear and look good on a bumper sticker or a refrigerator magnet. But it gets a little bit harder when we must live it out! He does not say we are to tolerate one another. He does not say we are to just be nice to one another or even to protect one another. He says we are to love one another! LOVE! But what about the person who has different theology than me? Love them. What about when they have a different political affiliation than me? Love them. Different lifestyle? Love them. Doesn't like me? Love them. Wounded me? Love them.

Would you be willing to love EVERYONE?

### **PRAY**

"Jesus, you humbled yourself and washed the disciples feet. Their nasty grimy feet. You laid aside your garments and took a towel... and began to wash the disciples' feet; You alone are worthy to command, me to love in a self-sacrificing way. You showed us how to serve and sacrifice during that Passover celebration. I know you want me to love in tangible ways not just in what I say. Help me to deeply love people because you have loved me."

## FOR FURTHER STUDY READ | JOHN 3:11-18, JOHN 13

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## FRIDAY - GOOD FRIDAY REALLY IS GOOD!

On this day of the week, we read of the judgment, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ at Calvary.

### **1 Peter 3:18**

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.

Each Gospel (books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) tells the story of the Crucifixion. In short: After being betrayed by Judas, Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers and put on trial for claiming to be the king of the Jews. That was contrary to Roman law and offensive to the Jews. He was severely beaten, sentenced to death by crucifixion, and forced to carry his cross up a hill while wearing a makeshift crown made entirely of skull piercing thorns. As we have read, in Luke 23:34, Jesus asked God to forgive his executioners even as he was tortured, saying “ Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Don't be surprised that the day Jesus was Crucified is called “Good” Friday. For without the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus we would be without hope. Will you stop for a moment and read the Gospel accounts of the Crucifixion and imagine what Jesus went through for you and me to experience the forgiveness of our sins?

### **PRAY**

“Lord Jesus, remind me in this stillness of the price you paid for my salvation. You willingly laid your life down that I might experience a personal relationship with the You! I know that the only thing I bring to this process is the sin that made it necessary. Open my eyes that I might see “Easter” the way you want me to.”

**FOR FURTHER STUDY READ MATTHEW 26-28, MARK 14-16,  
LUKE 22-24 AND JOHN 18-21**

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## SATURDAY - JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA STEPS UP!

I do not like waiting. Not in a line, not for a delivery, not for answers and not for the final score of a game. Many witnessed Jesus taken off the cross and laid in a borrowed tomb.... that was it. Over. Finished. All night Friday, and all-day Saturday the disciples, who were very afraid, waited and wondered. Would this Jesus, who hinted that maybe death couldn't hold him, come back from the dead?

### **Luke 23:50-56**

50 There was a good and righteous man named Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, 51 who had not agreed with their plan and action. He was from Arimathea, a Judean town, and was looking forward to the kingdom of God. 52 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. 53 Taking it down, he wrapped it in fine linen and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever been placed. 54 It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed along and observed the tomb and how his body was placed. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

Each Gospel account is very similar in the account of what occurred between the death of Christ and His resurrection. Each share in describing that a man by the name of Joseph made provisions for Jesus's body to be laid in a new tomb and Mary Magdalene and the other Mary intended to assist in preparing the body with spices and oils. The women ran out of time before it was officially the Sabbath, so the anointing of the body would have to wait until Sunday morning.

### **PRAY**

"Lord Jesus, I do not know what was happening in the Spiritual realm while Jesus Body was in the borrowed tomb and still behind the sealed stone. While your earthly followers hid themselves out of fear and confusion. Would you open my eyes and heart to the expectation of the resurrection?"

**FOR FURTHER STUDY READ MATTHEW 27, MARK 15, LUKE 23,  
AND JOHN 19**

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## RESURRECTION SUNDAY - HE ISN'T HERE! HE IS RISEN!

The first Easter Sunday I experienced after giving my life to Jesus was remarkable! I'd grown up in a home where the traditional "American Easter" was celebrated complete with brightly colored eggs, chocolate rabbits, fancy clothes and of course, "the hunt!" Nothing much about why we celebrated all these things, but we had a good time as a family!

After I met Jesus, it was different! Easter became so much more than those things I had grown up with! The Savior that I encountered only months before had my complete attention. His brutal death, humiliating burial, and glorious resurrection was better, so much better than I imagined.

### **Mark 16:2-7**

2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they (Mary Magdalene and Mary mother of James, and Solome) went to the tomb at sunrise. 3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?" 4 Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he told them. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.'"

### **PRAY**

"Father, your gift to me has been opened, complete, and today I celebrate, in awe, the finished work of Jesus. Death is defeated by His sacrificial death, burial and resurrection. Thank you for the hope I have found in you because of Jesus. I know my debt has been paid. Thank you that my shackles are gone. Thank you for an empty tomb. Thank you for the mission in the Great Commission. I praise you for this! And may my life say, "He is risen, indeed!" AMEN

FOR FURTHER STUDY READ MARK 16:1-7; MATTHEW 28:1-20;  
JOHN 20:1-21

# EASTER

GREEN ACRES

This Devotional and Prayer Guide is a gift to you from the Pastor, Staff, and Prayer Ministry of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. For more information on the Prayer Ministry, or to request prayer, please visit:

**[gabc.org/prayer](https://gabc.org/prayer)**

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TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH  
THE TRUTH OF JESUS



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**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
FRIDAY  
6:00PM

**EASTER WORSHIP**  
SUNDAY  
8AM, 9:30AM, 11AM