

Consider attending an Easter service this year. We celebrate our Savior's death and resurrection because He raises us up alongside Him. Come engage the Life that brings you life!



FWCOMMUNITY.ORG

7 ways
to prepare for Holy Week

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER

Easter can be a rich celebration when your heart has been engaged. Please take a moment this week to read and ponder these 7 last words of Jesus from the cross to help prepare your heart for the truest experience of the Easter Celebration.

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY

APRIL, 14 2017 @ 6PM

1228 BELFAST AVE.
COSTA MESA 92626

EASTER

SUNDAY

APRIL, 16 2017

THE WEDGE
NEWPORT BEACH

Day 1 The Word of Forgiveness

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:32-34)

Offense is inevitable. While not easy, Jesus prayed for those who knew what they were doing to him but asked his Father in Heaven to hold back what they deserved. If you struggle with forgiveness, begin the process with a willingness to try. You may not be ready to forgive, or be forgiven, but you can say, "I'm considering it."

Do you have any offenses to bring to Jesus? Will you let Jesus forgive you?

Day 2 The Word of Salvation

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:39-43)

The final verdict. Jesus said this to a convicted criminal who was being punished next to Him. We celebrate Good Friday, just prior to Easter Sunday, because it's a reminder that what looks like the end often is God's way of setting up for a new beginning. Never give up on God's ability to turn your life around and bring you into paradise.

Can you accept Jesus' offer of paradise even if it seems too late?

What do you want the final verdict to be for your eternal destiny?

Day 3 The Word of Relationship

"Woman, behold your son!...to the disciple, Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26-27)

Jesus was concerned for the well being of others, even while under great distress on the cross. His words highlight His desire to see us brought through the pain of life by looking beyond the present experience. In this case, His own mother must witness the death of a son, but not without the reminder that:

It was God who cared for you when no one else could.

It was God who made a way for you when there was no way to be made.

Is it possible Jesus is now present in your relationships?

Do you believe a relationship with Jesus is available?

Day 4 The Word of Abandonment

"Around the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, saying "Eli Eli lama sabachthani" which is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46)

The utmost pain is the moment at which you feel that even God has abandoned you. Jesus felt this too. But Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted, bears a deeper truth: "For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help." (Ps. 22:24).

Are you willing, even if you feel like He has abandoned you, to cry out to God? Will you tell Him your pain? Do you trust that He will not forsake you, just as God did not forsake His Son?

Day 5 The Word of Distress

Jesus said, 'I thirst' (John 19:28)

Can you relate to being "thirsty" during difficulties? A desire for relief is normal. Maybe you endured much

prior to your request for relief. Jesus knew that God is willing to quench His thirst in ways that can be satisfied in no other way.

Are you thirsty? Would you give Jesus a chance to quench your thirst this Easter Season?

Day 6 The Word of Triumph

Jesus said, 'It is finished' (John 19:30)

No matter what you reach for in life you may never be truly fulfilled until you achieve "it."

What is this "it" for you? Jesus came to save, to give hope and bring life in abundance. You no longer have to chase these things on your own. Jesus did that for you...He finished it.

You simply have to receive "it." Would you consider accepting His free gift?

Day 7 The Word of Reunion

"And speaking in a loud voice, Jesus said " Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

Have you ever felt this way: "It's all I got left...I have nothing more to give"? Jesus did, and after feeling abandoned, carrying the weight of the world, entrusted his life into His Father's arms. His death brought reconciliation—reunion—between God and us.

How loud is your voice calling out for your spirit to be reunited with God?