

# Daily Devotion

## The Passion Week

Monday, 14 – Sunday, 20 April 2025



Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
14		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				



# EASTER DATES

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

WORSHIP EVENING THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 7PM  
BURLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH (IP1 2EZ)

## GOOD FRIDAY

REFLECTION & COMMUNION SERVICE  
FRIDAY 18TH APRIL, 6PM  
IIC MAIN BUILDING

## EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL, 11AM  
IIC MAIN BUILDING

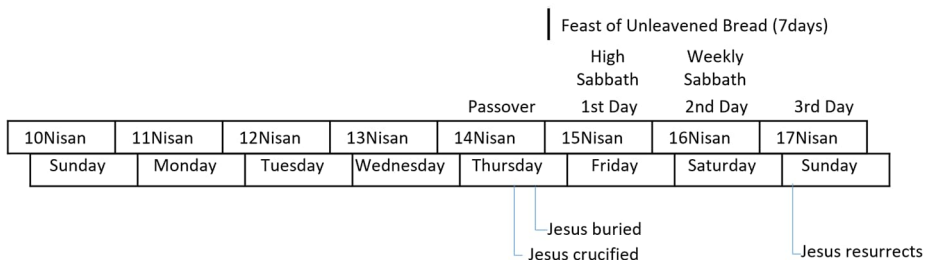
● LIVE EASTER PLAY PERFORMANCE



IIC

# Passion Week: Introduction

## The Passion Week Timeline



**The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the bedrock of our faith.** It is awe-inspiring to see how He fulfilled Scriptures written centuries in advance.

According to Moses, the Passover Lamb was to be selected and brought into the house four days before Passover (on or before the 10th of Nisan) so it could be examined for any spot or blemish before sacrifice.<sup>1</sup> In perfect fulfilment of this prophetic requirement, Jesus—the Lamb of God—entered Jerusalem prior to 10 Nisan.

As we approach Easter, we will reflect on key events of Passion Week and their fulfilment of prophecy. This sacred week begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and unfolds with profound moments leading to His crucifixion and resurrection.

We extend our gratitude to St Tracey Mauge for proposing the structure of this week's Devotional Guide and for contributing insights for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Shalom

Adewale Adefuye  
10 April 2025

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 12:2-6



# Elim Colchester

Website: <http://elimcolchester.co.uk>

Clematis Way, Greenstead, Colchester CO4 3PY England

Phone: 07759 414 630

Sunday, 10:30hrs:

Worship Service

You are welcome!

Every Tuesday 10:00am

Parents & Toddlers

Every other Tuesday 7:30pm

Connection at Church building

Every other Wednesday 7:30pm

Connection @ Martin & Diane's (phone for details)

Thursday, 10:00am

The Space

A warm place for people of all ages to meet.

Breakfast. Free drinks and biscuits with a place for children to play and adults to enjoy doing/sharing crafts or just chatting and socialising.

## Jesus in Jerusalem



John 12:1-13, BSB

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was going to betray Him, asked, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to take from what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "She has kept this perfume in preparation for the day of My burial." <sup>8</sup> The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have Me." <sup>9</sup> Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews learned that Jesus was there. And they came not only because of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, <sup>11</sup> for on account of him many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus. <sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting: "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

The Passion week began with Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem, five days before the Passover. The timing of Jesus into Jerusalem was not random. According to Moses, the Passover Lamb was to be selected and brought into the house on or before the 10th of Nisan, four days before the Passover.<sup>2</sup>



This calls to mind Jesus' word in Matthew 5:18, "Not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."



**1. Thank God for His Perfect Timing:** Lord, thank You for sending Jesus at the exact right time to fulfil prophecy and accomplish Your redemptive plan. Help me to trust in Your perfect timing in my life."

**2. Pray for a Deeper Appreciation of Scripture's Fulfilment:** Father, open my eyes to see how Jesus fulfilled every detail of the Law and the Prophets. Let me marvel at Your faithfulness in keeping every promise. (Matt. 5:18) **3. Commit to Obedience and Faithfulness:** Lord, just as Jesus fulfilled every stroke of the Law, help me to live in obedience to Your Word, honouring even the smallest details of Your will.

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<sup>2</sup> Exodus 12:3-6

## Cleansing of the Temple



Matthew 21:12-17, BSB

<sup>12</sup> Then 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 seats of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> And He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer.’ But you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’” <sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to Him at the temple, and He healed them. <sup>15</sup> But the chief priests and scribes were indignant when they saw the wonders He performed and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” <sup>16</sup> “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked. “Yes,” Jesus answered. “Have you never read: ‘From the mouths of children and infants You have ordained praise?’” <sup>17</sup> Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.

You may want to read Mark 11:15-19.



When Jesus drove out the merchants from the temple, He was fulfilling a prophetic picture tied to the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, during which all leaven was to be removed from the house. In this context, the leaven symbolised corruption and impurity, and the temple—God’s house—was to be cleansed. Jesus’ actions were not against buying and selling in general, but against the misuse of sacred space. His righteous anger revealed a deep zeal for the purity of worship and a rejection of exploiting what is meant to be holy.

After Jesus cleansed the temple, He welcomed the blind and the lame and healed them there. Once the house was restored to its proper purpose, healing and restoration followed. But what about your temple?

a. Is your life being used for what God intended—worship, service, and communion with Him? b. Are there areas in your heart or habits that need cleansing—anything that dishonours His presence? c. Are you even aware that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, sacred and set apart for God’s dwelling (1 Corinthians 6:19)?



**1. Pray for Proper Use of God’s Temple:** Father, show me if I have misused my time, body, or resources—Your temple—for selfish gain or worldly pursuits. Teach me to live wholly for Your worship and service.

**2. Pray for Healing and Restoration:** Just as You healed the blind and lame after cleansing the temple, Lord, heal my spiritual blindness and strengthen my weaknesses. Make me whole so I can glorify You fully. **3. Pray for Active Awareness of God’s Indwelling Presence:** Father, we choose to live with the awareness that our bodies are Your temple. Help us to actively steward our thoughts, actions, and habits in a way that honours You. May we be continually mindful of Your presence within us, and seek to reflect Your holiness in every part of our lives.

## The Prayer Paradigm Shift

Several Christmases ago, I began a radical prayer experiment - I stopped asking God to do anything. This holy interruption came when two verses exploded in my spirit:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).

The implications were seismic. If every blessing was already secured, if all things were already granted, then my prayer posture needed complete recalibration.

### Two transformative shifts occurred

1. From Transaction to Communion: My prayers had unconsciously become spiritual request forms - tossing petitions into heaven's court and waiting for divine action. Now I'm learning the art of receiving what's already been provided. Prayer has become less about convincing God to move, and more about aligning myself with what He's already done. **The difference is like switching from begging for sunlight to simply opening the blinds.**

2. The Birth of Divine Inquiry: I've developed a new hunger for asking the right questions - not the shallow "why?" of doubt, but the probing "how?" of discovery. Good questions:

- Unlock hidden dimensions of truth
- Activate spiritual problem-solving
- Often contain their own answers within them
- Become portals to greater revelation

This shift has turned prayer from monologue into dialogue - where my questions meet Heaven's wisdom, and the real adventure begins.

### The Aftermath

I've discovered that most breakthroughs weren't things God needed to do, but realities He needed me to see. The difference between "God, please give me patience" and "Father, show me where Your patience already lives within me" changes everything.

Now when I pray, I'm not just speaking to God - I'm learning to think with Him.

**Adewale Adefuye**

## Authority Challenged



Matthew 21:23-27, BSB

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus returned to the temple courts and began to teach, the chief priests and elders of the people came up to Him. “By what authority are You doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave You this authority?” <sup>24</sup> “I will also ask you one question,” Jesus replied, “and if you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup> What was the source of John’s baptism? Was it from heaven or from men?” They deliberated among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the people, for they all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered, “We do not know.” And Jesus replied, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Suggested readings: Luke 20:1-8



It appears that the chief priests and the elders were unknowingly fulfilling the prophetic requirement to examine the Passover Lamb for any blemishes.<sup>3</sup> Although they did not comprehend that they were fulfilling prophecies, Jesus understood this and willingly subjected Himself to the examination process.

Jesus answered them with great wisdom and power. Here we see Jesus stumps the chief priests and teachers by answering a question with a question, positioning them where any response was, from their perspective, a bad response.

When we meet Jesus, we meet a person with unquestionable authority. Mere men cannot challenge the Lord’s right and ability to teach and to rule.

- a. How can Jesus' unflappable authority in the face of confrontation empower us in our personal and spiritual encounters?
- b. How can I balance innocence and wisdom in my interactions with others?



**1. Thank God for the Willing Sacrifice of Christ** - Lord, thank You that Jesus, our spotless Passover Lamb, willingly submitted to scrutiny and judgment to fulfil the Scriptures and secure our salvation. I love to keep remembering the depth of His love and obedience. **2. Wisdom and Innocence in My Conduct** - Holy Spirit, teach me to be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove. Let my words reflect grace and truth, and my actions be both gentle and shrewd, that I may represent Christ well in all my interactions.

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<sup>3</sup> Exodus 12:5-6



## Plot to Kill Jesus



Mark 14:1-11, BSB

<sup>1</sup> Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were two days away, and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a covert way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. <sup>2</sup> “But not during the feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.” <sup>3</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke open the jar and poured it on Jesus’ head. <sup>4</sup> Some of those present, however, expressed their indignation to one another: “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup> It could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, “Leave her alone; why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful deed to Me. <sup>7</sup> The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have Me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could to anoint My body in advance of My burial. <sup>9</sup> And truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached in all the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.” <sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup> They were delighted to hear this, and they promised to give him money. So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Suggested readings: John 11:49-53



Caiaphas, the high priest unknowingly prophesied “that Jesus would die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also for the scattered children of God, to gather them together into one.”

The crucifixion was a divine plan and design and not an accident.



**1. Thanksgiving for God’s Sovereign Plan of Salvation:** Lord, I thank You that the crucifixion of Jesus was not an accident but the fulfilment of Your divine plan. Thank You for orchestrating redemption with such love and precision, even using the words of those who opposed You. **2. Praise God for His Ability to Use Anyone for His Purposes:** Father, You used even Caiaphas, who did not believe, to proclaim truth. Help me to trust that You are always working—through people, circumstances, and even opposition—to accomplish Your will. **3. Pray for Deeper Revelation of Christ’s Sacrifice** - Holy Spirit, open my heart to deeper understanding of the cross. Help me never to treat it lightly, but to continually grow in awe of the love, wisdom, and justice displayed in Jesus’ death.

## The Last Supper Plus...



Luke 22:14-22, BSB

<sup>14</sup> When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with His apostles. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before My suffering. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you that I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” <sup>20</sup> In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup> Look! The hand of My betrayer is with Mine on the table. <sup>22</sup> Indeed, the Son of Man will go as it has been determined, but woe to that man who betrays Him.”

You may want to read John 13.



At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, gave a New Commandment, instituted the Communion, and foretold Peter’s denial.

### a. What is new about the New Commandment?



**1. Gratitude for Christ’s Humble Servanthood:** Lord Jesus, thank You for stooping low to wash the feet of Your disciples. We pray to embrace humility and to serve others with love, even in the most menial ways. **2. Thanksgiving for the Gift of Communion: Father, thank You for the institution of Communion**—this sacred reminder of Jesus’ broken body and shed blood. We pray not to approach it with casual hearts, but with reverence, deep gratitude, and a clear awareness of its sacred significance. **3. Pray for a Heart That Reflects the New Commandment:** Lord Jesus, You said, “Love one another as I have loved you.” We ask to love with a deeper, sacrificial, Christ-like love—not just in word, but in action. We ask for our love to reflect Your love.

Jesus had already taught love as a central command (e.g., “Love your neighbour as yourself”). But the newness of His commandment in John 13:34 is this: “Love one another as I have loved you.” It’s not just as you love yourself, but a higher standard—modelled after Christ’s self-giving, sacrificial, forgiving, and servant-hearted love. It also ties love to identity: “By this all men will know that you are My disciples.”

## Sealed & Guarded Tomb



Matthew 27:62-66, BSB

<sup>62</sup> The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees assembled before Pilate. <sup>63</sup> “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while He was alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ <sup>64</sup> So give the order that the tomb be secured until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal Him away and tell the people He has risen from the dead. And this last deception would be worse than the first.” <sup>65</sup> “You have a guard,” Pilate said. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” <sup>66</sup> So they went and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and posting the guard.

John 19:38–42, BSB

<sup>38</sup> Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed His body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had previously come to Jesus at night, also brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. <sup>41</sup> Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> And because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they placed Jesus there.



The religious leaders’ actions confirm that even His enemies were aware of this prophecy—validating it further. The attempt to “secure” the tomb ironically serves to prove the resurrection even more clearly, as no one could claim the body was stolen.

This passage illustrates the truth that “There is no counsel, nor wisdom, nor understanding against the Lord.”



**1. Praise for God's Unstoppable Plan:** Lord, I praise You because no human effort, scheme, or power can stand against Your will. What You have spoken will come to pass, and Your purposes will always prevail. **2. Thanksgiving for the Proof of the Resurrection:** Jesus, thank You that even the sealing of the tomb became part of the evidence that You truly rose again. Strengthen my faith with the knowledge that Your resurrection was undeniable and witnessed—even by Your enemies. **3. Awareness That God Uses All Things for Good:** Thank You, Lord, that You can turn the schemes of the enemy into stepping stones for Your glory. Help me to see challenges not as setbacks, but as setups for Your divine purpose.

## The Tomb is Empty



Luke 24:1-12, BSB

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were puzzling over this, suddenly two men in radiant apparel stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> As the women bowed their faces to the ground in terror, the two men asked them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup> He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered His words. <sup>9</sup> And when they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But their words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women. <sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. And after bending down and seeing only the linen cloths, he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Suggested readings: John 20:1-10; Matthew 28:1-10



The custom among ancient Christians during the celebration of the resurrection was to greet one another with "Christ is risen!" and the response was "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!")

This replaced the usual "hello" or its equivalent. It should be more than a mere tradition. The phrase "He is risen!" serves as a reminder of the joyful message we commemorate at Easter, signifying that Jesus' sacrifice was not futile, and that He has conquered death.



**1. Thanksgiving for the Resurrection:** Lord, I thank You that the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive! Because He lives, I have hope, freedom, and eternal life. **2. Pray for Living Faith:** Jesus, help me not to seek life among dead things. Teach me to look for You in every area of my life, and to live in the reality of Your resurrection power. **3. A Renewed Wonder and Hunger for God:** Father, stir in me a holy curiosity and passion like Peter's. May I never lose the wonder of the empty tomb or the desire to seek You more deeply.