

ICB 2026 LENT DEVOTIONAL

FROM DUSK
— TILL —
DAWN

A 40-Day Journey from Surrender to Resurrection



PASTORAL FOREWORD

Why “From Dusk Till Dawn?”

Lent is a journey. It begins in ashes and ends in resurrection. It starts in quiet repentance and rises into radiant hope. The Christian story itself moves from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy, from the shadow of the cross to the brilliance of the empty tomb.

“From Dusk Till Dawn” captures that sacred movement. Dusk represents humility — the honest recognition of our need for God. It is the fading of self-reliance and the invitation to return. Lent teaches us to slow down, examine our hearts, and surrender what has grown cold.

Midnight represents endurance — trusting God when answers delay and faith feels stretched. In the quiet hours of waiting, character is formed, and dependence deepens.

Dawn represents resurrection — not only Christ’s victory over death, but the renewal of our own hearts. The same power that rolled away the stone still rolls away fear, shame, and despair.

As a church family at ICB, we journey together toward the light. May this devotional guide you personally, strengthen your family, and unite our congregation as we walk from dusk to dawn.

Grace and peace,
In Christ to serve
Pastor Sean & Tami Rajapakse

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

From Dusk Till Dawn — Lent 2026 Edition

Lent is a journey — a sacred movement from repentance to resurrection, from ashes to alleluias, from dusk to dawn. This devotional is designed to guide you intentionally through the 40 days of Lent 2026, beginning on **Ash Wednesday** and culminating in the joy of **Resurrection Sunday**.

Here are simple ways to make the most of this journey:

1. Set Aside a Daily Moment

Choose a consistent time each day — morning before the rush, midday in a quiet pause, or evening in reflection. Even 10–15 unrushed minutes can become a holy rhythm that shapes your heart during Lent.

Consistency matters more than length. Let this be your daily returning.

2. Begin with Stillness

Before reading, take a deep breath and quiet your mind. Whisper a simple prayer such as: **“Lord, search my heart and prepare me for Your light.”**

Lent begins in humility. Stillness allows God to gently surface what needs surrender and strengthen what needs renewal.

3. Read the Day’s Devotional Slowly

Each day includes:

- The Day
- Title
- Scripture (NKJV)

- A Reflection
- A Closing Prayer

Read slowly and prayerfully. If a word or phrase stands out, pause. Sit with it. Let the Holy Spirit impress truth upon your heart.

Lent is not about speed — it is about depth.

4. Reflect and Respond

After reading, ask yourself:

- What is God revealing to me today?
- Is there something I need to confess, release, or trust?
- How is God inviting me to move from dusk toward dawn?

You may journal briefly or carry one sentence with you throughout the day.

5. Pray with Intention

Use the written prayer as a starting point. Personalize it. Expand it. Speak honestly.

Lent is not about impressive prayers — it is about surrendered hearts. Let prayer become your daily returning to Christ.

6. Practice One Intentional Act Each Day

Carry one truth from the devotion into action. For example:

- Fast from distraction and feast on Scripture.
- Offer forgiveness where resentment lingers.
- Choose humility over pride.

- Extend kindness intentionally.
- Sit quietly with God for five extra minutes.

Small acts of obedience prepare the heart for resurrection joy.

7. Observe the Movement of the Season

Lent has a rhythm:

- **Ash Wednesday** — Repentance
- **The Early Weeks** — Reflection and Dependence
- **Mid-Lent** — Endurance and Deepening Faith
- **Holy Week** — Surrender and Sacrifice
- **Easter Sunday** — Resurrection and Renewal

Notice how your heart moves through these stages. Allow the journey itself to shape you.

8. Journey with Expectation

Lent is not merely solemn — it is hopeful. Every dusk anticipates dawn.

Approach each day believing that God is forming something deeper within you. Expect clarity. Expect conviction. Expect comfort. Expect renewal.

9. Use It Individually or as a Family

This devotional can be used:

- In personal quiet time
- As a couple's daily reflection
- As a family evening gathering

Families may choose to light a candle each Sunday of Lent as a reminder that Christ is the Light who overcomes darkness.

Read the weekly theme aloud and pray together.

10. Don't Rush — Don't Retreat

If you miss a day, do not feel discouraged. Simply continue. Lent is not about perfection — it is about presence.

Grace accompanies the journey.

11. Let Lent 2026 Shape You

The ultimate purpose of *From Dusk Till Dawn* is transformation, not information. As you walk through repentance, surrender, silence, and celebration, may Christ meet you personally.

- May He speak in your dusk.
- May He strengthen you at midnight.
- May He surprise you at dawn.

And when Resurrection Sunday arrives, may you not only celebrate an empty tomb — but experience a renewed heart.

From dusk till dawn — He is faithful.

THE SETTING SUN

(Repentance)



*Reflect on your life + Turn from your sins
Seek God's forgiveness + Seek God's forgiveness*



THE SETTING SUN

Lent begins at dusk — where light fades and honesty rises. The Setting Sun represents repentance: the courage to examine our hearts, confess our sins, and return fully to God. Repentance is not about shame; it is about restoration. It is the doorway from shadow to light.

Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. - **Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV)**

DAY 1 — February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday: Return to the Lord

Scripture: *“So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful.” — Joel 2:13 (NKJV)*

Lent begins in the quiet hush of dusk — where pride fades and honesty rises. Ash Wednesday reminds us that repentance is not about outward ritual but inward surrender. God does not desire performance; He desires hearts that are tender and responsive to Him.

To “rend your heart” is to allow God access to the places we hide — the habits we excuse, the bitterness we protect, the distractions we prefer over devotion. Yet the call to return is not harsh; it is hopeful. We return because He is gracious. We come back because He is merciful.

From dusk till dawn, Lent is a journey of returning — again and again — to the One who never stops welcoming us home.

Prayer: Lord, I return to You with my whole heart. Remove what hardens me and restore what sin has weakened. Lead me from dusk into Your dawning light. Amen.

DAY 2 — February 19, 2026

Walking in Humility

Scripture: *“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6 (NKJV)*

Dusk strips away illusions. In the fading light, we see more clearly our need for God. Pride thrives in brightness and self-sufficiency, but humility is born when we recognize that apart from Him we can do nothing.

Lent teaches us to kneel before we stand. Grace flows downhill — toward those who admit they cannot save themselves. The cross itself is proof that salvation is not earned but received.

As we journey toward dawn, humility becomes the pathway. The lower we bow, the brighter His mercy shines.

Prayer: Father, teach me humility. Remove pride from my spirit and clothe me with grace. May I walk softly and depend fully on You. Amen.

DAY 3 — February 20, 2026

Bread or the Word?

Scripture: *“Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” — Matthew 4:3–4 (NKJV)*

The first temptation targeted physical need. Jesus was hungry. The suggestion seemed practical, even reasonable. Yet beneath the surface was a deeper challenge — would He satisfy hunger apart from the Father’s will?

Repentance asks us to examine how we respond to need. Not every legitimate desire should be met in illegitimate ways.

Hunger is real. Needs are real. But dependence on God is greater.

Jesus chose trust over instant gratification. In doing so, He revealed that life is sustained not by what we grasp, but by what God provides. The Setting Sun exposes misplaced appetites and reorders our priorities.

True nourishment flows from obedience.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to hunger for Your Word above all else. Help me trust You with every need and resist shortcuts that bypass obedience. Amen.

DAY 4 — February 21, 2026

Identity in the Wilderness

Scripture: *“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread... ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ —*

Matthew 4:3–4 (NKJV)

The tempter began with a question of identity: *“If You are the Son of God...”* The wilderness challenge was not merely about bread — it was about belonging and trust. Would Jesus prove Himself, or would He rest in what the Father had already declared?

Repentance restores identity. We often strive to prove our worth through achievement or approval. Yet Jesus stood secure in the Father’s affirmation.

As dusk settles, performance fades. What remains is who we truly are before God. Secure identity silences desperate striving.

Confidence replaces craving when identity is anchored in truth.

Prayer: Father, remind me who I am in You. Silence every lie that questions my identity, and help me live confidently in Your love. Amen.

DAY 5 — February 22, 2026

Choosing the Better Nourishment

Scripture: *But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."* — **Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)**

Jesus responded to temptation with Scripture. In the wilderness, He chose eternal nourishment over immediate satisfaction. He answered pressure with truth.

Repentance redirects our cravings. Stones can look like bread in moments of weakness — substitutes promise relief but leave us empty. Only the Word sustains.

The Setting Sun reminds us that truth must guide our choices before light fully rises. When Scripture shapes our responses, temptation loses its power.

Dusk prepares the heart for deeper devotion.

Prayer: Lord, anchor me in Your Word. When temptation comes, remind me of truth and help me choose what leads to lasting life. Amen.

DAY 6 — February 23, 2026

Cleansed and Restored

Scripture: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” — 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)*

Confession is not condemnation — it is cleansing. In the deepening dusk of self-examination, God invites us to step into His light. Sin loses its power when it is brought into the open before Him.

Faithful and just — those words anchor our hope. God does not forgive reluctantly. He forgives completely. He does not merely pardon; He purifies.

From dusk till dawn, Lent reminds us that darkness never has the final word. Forgiveness opens the door to morning.

Prayer: Merciful Lord, I confess my sins to You. Wash me clean and restore my joy. Let Your forgiveness renew my soul. Amen.

DAY 7 — February 24, 2026

Strength in Weakness

Scripture: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” — 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)*

Midnight moments reveal our limitations. Weakness often feels like failure, yet God sees it as opportunity — space where His strength can shine.

Lent slows us down enough to admit what we cannot carry. When we stop pretending to be strong, we discover a deeper strength that is not our own. Grace is sufficient — not barely enough, but abundantly enough.

The journey from dusk to dawn is not powered by our effort, but by His sustaining grace.

Prayer: Lord, in my weakness be strong. Teach me to rely on Your grace rather than my own strength. Amen.

DAY 8 — February 25, 2026

Trusting Through the Valley

Scripture: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me.” — Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)*

Valleys are part of the journey. Shadows lengthen before dawn breaks. Yet the psalmist reminds us that we do not walk alone. The Shepherd walks with us.

Notice the promise: we walk *through* the valley. Lent acknowledges pain, but it never leaves us stranded there.

God’s presence transforms fearful paths into faithful progress. Even in shadow, He guides. Even in darkness, He guards.

Prayer: Shepherd of my soul, walk with me through every shadow. Replace fear with trust and lead me toward Your light. Amen.

DAY 9 — February 26, 2026

The Cross Before the Crown

Scripture: *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”* — **Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)**

Before resurrection dawn comes cruciform surrender. The cross is not comfortable — it is costly. Lent reminds us that discipleship involves laying down self-will to walk in God’s will.

Dusk deepens when we release control. Yet every act of surrender positions us closer to dawn. The cross we carry shapes us into Christ’s likeness.

The path may feel heavy, but it leads to life.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to deny myself and follow You faithfully. Give me courage to carry my cross with hope. Amen.

DAY 10 — February 27, 2026

Dawn of Hope

Scripture: *“The Lord’s mercies are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”* — Lamentations 3:23 (NKJV)

After the longest night, dawn quietly appears. Lent does not end in ashes — it moves toward resurrection. God's mercies are not recycled; they are renewed daily.

From dusk till dawn, we learn that darkness is temporary, but faithfulness is eternal. The same God who calls us to repentance walks us into restoration.

Morning is coming. The light is faithful.

Prayer: Faithful God, thank You for new mercies. Lead me from every dusk into the fullness of Your dawning grace. Amen.

WALKING THROUGH SHADOWS

(Dependence)

Acknowledge your weakness + Trust in God's guidance + Lean on His strength

WALKING THROUGH THE SHADOWS

Faith is not formed only in sunlight, but in shadow. As we walk through uncertainty, temptation, weakness, and valleys, we learn dependence. Shadows are not signs of abandonment — they are invitations to trust more deeply.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. *Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)*

DAY 11 — February 28, 2026

A Heart That Seeks

Scripture: *“You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” — Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)*

The journey from dusk to dawn requires intention. God is not hiding from us, but He does invite pursuit. Lent awakens holy desire — a longing not for religious activity, but for deeper intimacy.

Half-hearted seeking produces shallow faith. Wholehearted pursuit leads to encounter. When we prioritize time with God, clarity slowly replaces confusion, and light begins to break through spiritual fog.

Seek Him sincerely today. Dawn begins in desire.

Prayer: Lord, stir fresh hunger within me. Help me seek You wholeheartedly and find joy in Your presence. Amen.

DAY 12 — March 01, 2026

Daily Surrender

Scripture: *“I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.” — 1 Corinthians 15:31 (NKJV)*

The Christian life is not a single moment of surrender but a daily yielding. Just as the sun sets each evening, self must be surrendered again and again.

Lent reminds us that spiritual growth happens in consistent obedience. Each small “yes” to God weakens the grip of self and strengthens the life of Christ within us.

From dusk till dawn, surrender is the rhythm that keeps our hearts aligned with Him.

Prayer: Father, teach me daily surrender. Help me say yes to You in every decision and attitude. Amen.

DAY 13 — March 02, 2026

Anchored in the Word

Scripture: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)*

In darkness, even a small light makes a difference. God’s Word does not always reveal the entire journey, but it gives enough light for the next faithful step.

Lent is a time to slow down and let Scripture shape our thinking. When culture grows louder, truth must grow stronger within us.

Step by step, His Word leads us toward dawn.

Prayer: Lord, illuminate my path through Your Word. Keep my steps steady in Your truth. Amen.

DAY 14 — March 03, 2026

Grace for the Journey

Scripture: *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.” — Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*

Boldness before God is not arrogance — it is confidence in His mercy. When night feels heavy, grace becomes our refuge.

We do not approach God as strangers but as beloved children. In prayer, heaven's resources meet earthly weakness.

Grace carries us when strength runs low.

Prayer: Thank You for grace that sustains me. Help me approach You with confidence and trust. Amen.

DAY 15 — March 04, 2026

Refined by Fire

Scripture: *“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts.” — Proverbs 17:3 (NKJV)*

Dusk often feels like pressure. Trials expose impurities, but they also strengthen faith. God's refining is never destructive — it is purposeful.

Lent invites us to trust God in the fire. What feels uncomfortable today may be shaping eternal character.

Refining prepares us for resurrection light.

Prayer: Lord, refine my heart. Remove what is impure and strengthen what honors You. Amen.

DAY 16 — March 05, 2026

Walking by Faith

Scripture: *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” — 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)*

Night challenges sight, but faith sees beyond visible circumstances. The Christian life is guided not by emotion but by trust in God’s promises.

Lent trains our spiritual vision. Even when answers are delayed, we hold to the certainty of His faithfulness.

Faith keeps walking until dawn appears.

Prayer: Strengthen my faith, Lord. Help me trust Your promises even when I cannot see the outcome. Amen.

DAY 17 — March 06, 2026

The Gift of Stillness

Scripture: *“Be still, and know that I am God.” — Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)*

Stillness feels unnatural in a hurried world. Yet dusk invites quiet reflection. God often speaks in whispers, not noise. Lent slows us down so we may recognize His presence. In silence, we remember who He is — sovereign, steady, and near.

Stillness prepares the heart for sunrise.

Prayer: Quiet my heart, Lord. Help me rest in Your sovereignty and listen for Your voice. Amen.

DAY 18 — March 07, 2026

Trust Beyond Sight

Scripture: *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” — 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)*

Shadows limit visibility. We cannot see the full path ahead. Yet faith does not require full sight — it requires full trust.

Dependence begins when control loosens. When we release the need to understand everything, we make room to trust God deeply.

Walking through shadows teaches us to lean on promises instead of perception.

Prayer: Lord, help me walk by faith when I cannot see clearly. Strengthen my trust in Your unseen work. Amen.

DAY 19 — March 08, 2026

Lean Not

Scripture: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” — Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV)*

Our understanding is limited. God’s wisdom is limitless. Shadows expose how often we rely on ourselves.

Dependence grows when we acknowledge that His perspective is greater than ours. True peace comes not from having answers, but from trusting the One who does.

Leaning on Him steadies uncertain steps.

Prayer: Father, teach me to lean on You, not on my own reasoning. Direct my thoughts and my path. Amen.

DAY 20 — March 09, 2026

Guided Steps

Scripture: *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”*
— **Psalm 37:23 (NKJV)**

Even in shadows, God orders steps. He guides quietly and steadily.

Dependence frees us from panic. We do not need to map the entire journey — only to trust the Guide.

Each faithful step leads closer to dawn.

Prayer: Father, order my steps. Lead me faithfully through every shadowed path. Amen.

MIDNIGHT FAITH

(Endurance)

Hold onto God's promises + Persevere through trials + Trust in His timing

MIDNIGHT FAITH

Midnight represents the deep hours of testing — when prayers feel delayed, strength feels thin, and faith must stand without visible answers. This week invites us to endure with confidence, trusting that even in the darkest hour, God is working.

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV)

DAY 21 — March 10, 2026

Watch and Pray

Scripture: *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” — Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)*

Midnight in Gethsemane was heavy. Jesus invited His disciples to stay awake — not merely physically, but spiritually. In seasons of endurance, alertness matters.

Temptation often grows stronger when vigilance weakens. Lent calls us to spiritual attentiveness. When fatigue sets in, prayer sustains. When distraction whispers, watchfulness strengthens resolve. Endurance is not passive; it is active dependence on God.

Midnight faith stays awake.

Prayer: Lord, keep my spirit alert. Strengthen me to pray when I feel weary and guard me from temptation. Amen.

DAY 22 — March 11, 2026

Forgiveness That Frees

Scripture: *“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” — Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)*

Holding onto offense drains endurance. Bitterness darkens the soul. Yet forgiveness releases what burdens us and restores spiritual clarity.

Christ forgave us fully and freely. In midnight seasons, forgiveness becomes an act of faith — trusting God with justice and choosing mercy instead of resentment.

Endurance requires a clean heart.

Prayer: Father, help me forgive as You have forgiven me. Remove bitterness and restore tenderness within me. Amen.

DAY 23 — March 12, 2026

Hidden Faithfulness

Scripture: *“But you, when you pray, go into your room... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” —*

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

Midnight faith is often unseen. It grows in private prayer, quiet obedience, and unnoticed faithfulness. God shapes character in hidden places.

Lent invites us to deepen our inner life. Public strength flows from private devotion. When no one else sees your faithfulness, God does.

The dawn is prepared in secret.

Prayer: Lord, deepen my private devotion. Strengthen me in the unseen places of faith. Amen.

DAY 24 — March 13, 2026

Obedience in the Dark

Scripture: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” — John 14:15 (NKJV)*

Obedience is tested most when clarity is limited. It is easier to obey when outcomes are visible. Yet true endurance obeys because of love, not results.

Lent teaches us to follow Christ faithfully, even when the path feels dim. Obedience anchors us when emotions fluctuate.

Midnight faith trusts that loving obedience always leads toward dawn.

Prayer: Jesus, help me obey You consistently, even when I do not see the full picture. Amen.

DAY 25 — March 14, 2026

Refined Through Trials

Scripture: *“That the genuineness of your faith... may be found to praise, honor, and glory.” — 1 Peter 1:7 (NKJV)*

Trials are not evidence of God’s absence but instruments of refinement. Fire purifies gold; testing strengthens faith.

Midnight seasons stretch us, but they also deepen us. What feels like pressure is often preparation.

Endurance is not about surviving hardship — it is about emerging stronger in Christ.

Prayer: Lord, refine my faith through every trial. Let endurance produce maturity in me. Amen.

DAY 26 — March 15, 2026

The Servant's Heart

Scripture: *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” — Mark 10:45 (NKJV)*

At midnight before the cross, Jesus knelt to wash feet. In the shadow of suffering, He chose service.

Endurance is sustained when we shift focus from self to others. Serving in difficult seasons keeps our hearts aligned with Christ.

Even in the night, love acts.

Prayer: Give me a servant's heart, Lord. Help me serve faithfully, even when I am weary. Amen.

DAY 27 — March 16, 2026

Peace That Endures

Scripture: *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” — John 14:27 (NKJV)*

Midnight can feel unsettling, but Christ offers a peace untouched by circumstances. His peace is not fragile; it is anchored in victory. Lent reminds us that endurance is sustained by inner calm rooted in trust. While storms may rage externally, peace guards the heart internally.

Midnight faith rests in unshakable peace.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, steady my heart. Guard me with Your peace as I endure. Amen.

DAY 28— March 17, 2026

Strength for the Weary

Scripture: *“He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.” — Isaiah 40:29 (NKJV)*

Midnight often exposes exhaustion. Physical, emotional, and spiritual fatigue can make even simple obedience feel heavy. Yet God does not shame weakness — He strengthens it.

Endurance is not pretending to be strong. It is admitting need and receiving grace. When we reach the end of ourselves, we discover the sufficiency of God.

Faith leans, not strives.

Prayer: Lord, renew my strength. Where I am weary, fill me with Your sustaining power. Amen.

DAY 29 — March 18, 2026

Pressing On

Scripture: *“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” — Philippians 3:14 (NKJV)*

Endurance requires forward focus. Midnight can tempt us to quit, retreat, or grow indifferent. But faith presses on — not because the road is easy, but because the destination is worthy.

Lent reminds us that perseverance shapes character. The goal is not comfort, but Christlikeness.

Keep moving. Dawn is closer than you think.

Prayer: Father, help me press on when I feel discouraged. Fix my eyes on the calling You have placed before me. Amen.

DAY 30 — March 19, 2026

Joy in the Trial

Scripture: *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” — James 1:2 (NKJV)*

Joy in difficulty feels unnatural. Yet Scripture teaches that trials produce endurance. Midnight seasons stretch us, but they also strengthen us.

Joy does not deny hardship; it trusts God within it. When faith chooses perspective over panic, maturity grows.

Faith trusts the process.

Prayer: Lord, give me joy even in testing. Use every trial to deepen and mature my faith. Amen.

THE FIRST LIGHT

(Expectation)



Rejoice in new hope + Look forward to His promises + Prepare for His coming

THE FIRST LIGHT

As the journey moves closer to the cross, the horizon begins to change. The darkness has not fully lifted, but light is forming. This invites us to live with holy expectation — trusting that God is preparing something greater than we can yet see.

For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9 (NKJV)

DAY 31 — March 20, 2026

Abide

Scripture: *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” — John 15:4 (NKJV)*

First light does not rush; it gradually fills the sky. In the same way, spiritual fruit grows through steady connection, not hurried effort. Jesus calls us to abide — to remain, to stay, to dwell deeply in Him.

Lent reminds us that transformation is not manufactured; it is cultivated. When we remain connected to Christ, His life flows through us naturally. Expectation grows not from striving, but from staying.

Dawn strengthens those who remain rooted.

Prayer: Lord, help me abide in You. Keep me connected to Your life and produce lasting fruit in me. Amen.

DAY 32 — March 21, 2026

Renewed Mind

Scripture: *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” — Romans 12:2 (NKJV)*

Light changes what it touches. As dawn approaches, clarity increases. God renews us from the inside out, reshaping how we think, respond, and live.

Lent invites us to examine patterns of thought that no longer align with truth. Expectation begins in the mind — believing that God is at work even before we see results.

Renewed thinking prepares us for resurrection living.

Prayer: Father, renew my mind. Replace false patterns with Your truth and align my thoughts with Your will. Amen.

DAY 33— March 22, 2026

Living Water

Scripture: *“He who believes in Me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” — John 7:38 (NKJV)*

First light carries freshness. The Spirit refreshes weary hearts like cool water in dry places. Lent can expose our spiritual thirst, but it also directs us to the Source.

Expectation grows when we realize that God does not merely sustain us — He fills us. What flows from within us reflects what we are filled with.

Dawn brings refreshing.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me afresh. Let Your life flow through me and refresh every dry place in my soul. Amen.

DAY 34 — March 23, 2026

Clothed in Compassion

Scripture: *“Therefore, as the elect of God... put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.” —*

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

As light increases, so should love. Compassion is the evidence of Christ’s work within us. Expectation is not only about what God will do for us, but what He will do through us.

Lent softens hardened edges. It reshapes our posture toward others. When we “put on” compassion intentionally, we reflect the light we anticipate.

Dawn reveals transformed character.

Prayer: Lord, clothe me in compassion. Let my actions reflect Your heart. Amen.

DAY 35 — March 24, 2026

Strength in Waiting

Scripture: *“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.” — Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)*

Waiting is not wasted time; it is strengthening time. Just before dawn, the sky often appears darkest. Yet that darkness signals that light is near.

Expectation requires patience. God renews those who trust His timing. In waiting, endurance deepens and hope steadies.

First light belongs to those who wait faithfully.

Prayer: Teach me to wait well, Lord. Renew my strength as I trust Your perfect timing. Amen.

DAY 36 — March 25, 2026

Faithful Love

Scripture: *“Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.” — Psalm 36:5 (NKJV)*

The sky at dawn stretches wide and radiant — a reminder of God’s vast and unchanging love. His faithfulness is not seasonal; it is constant.

As we near Holy Week, expectation grows because we know the character of God. He who promised is faithful. He who began a work will complete it.

Light rises on the foundation of faithful love.

Prayer: Thank You for Your steadfast love, Lord. Anchor me in Your unchanging faithfulness. Amen.

DAY 37 — March 26, 2026

Faith Before Sunrise

Scripture: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

Faith often precedes visibility. Before the sun crests the horizon, the sky shifts subtly. In the same way, God begins working before we recognize it.

Expectation is active trust. It declares that what God has promised will come to pass, even if the evidence is not yet fully visible.

From dusk till dawn, faith carries us forward.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my faith. Help me believe confidently in what You are preparing, even before I see it. Amen.

HOLY WEEK – DAWN BREAKING



DAWN BREAKING

Holy Week is the sacred threshold between shadow and sunrise. The cross stands before us. The tomb waits in silence. And heaven prepares to break forth in resurrection power. Each day moves us closer to the dawn that changes everything.

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. **Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)**

DAY 38 — March 28, 2026

The Virtuous & Victorious King

Scripture: *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey.” — Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV)*

The week begins with expectation. Jesus enters Jerusalem not with force, but with humility. The crowd shouts “Hosanna,” yet few understand the kind of King He truly is.

He does not conquer through violence but through surrender. He does not overthrow Rome; He overthrows sin. The King who comes lowly will soon hang on a cross.

Dawn often arrives disguised in humility. The victory of God rarely looks like the triumph of man.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, reign in my heart as humble King. Help me welcome You not only with praise, but with obedience. Amen.

DAY 39 — March 29, 2026

The King Who Comes

Scripture: *“The next day a great multitude... took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!’ Then Jesus... sat on a young donkey.” — John 12:12-14 (NKJV)*

Palm Sunday is filled with movement and praise. Crowds lined the road, waving branches and shouting for salvation. They

welcomed Jesus as King — but many expected a conquering ruler, not a suffering Savior.

Yet Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey — humble, peaceful, and purposeful. He did not come to seize a throne, but to surrender to a cross.

Dependence means welcoming Christ as He truly is, not as we prefer Him to be. It means trusting His way of humility over our desire for immediate victory.

The King still comes — gently, faithfully, and with salvation in His hands.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I welcome You as my King. Teach me to trust Your ways, even when they differ from my expectations. Reign in my heart today. Amen.

DAY 40 — March 30, 2026

The Servant's Towel

Scripture: *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” — John 13:14 (NKJV)*

Before the cross, there was a basin. Before the nails, there was a towel. Jesus knelt in quiet service, redefining greatness.

Holy Week reminds us that love stoops low. The One with all authority chose to serve. In the shadow of suffering, He demonstrated humility.

Dawn is prepared in acts of selfless love.

Prayer: Lord, give me a servant's heart. Teach me to love humbly and serve faithfully. Amen.

DAY 41 — March 31, 2026

Not My Will

Scripture: *“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” — Luke 22:42 (NKJV)*

In Gethsemane, the weight of redemption pressed heavily. Jesus prayed honestly, yet surrendered completely. His obedience was not painless, but it was perfect.

Holy Week invites us into that same surrender. Trust deepens when we release our will into the Father's hands.

The path to dawn passes through submission.

Prayer: Father, align my will with Yours. Give me courage to surrender fully to Your purpose. Amen.

DAY 42 — April 01, 2026

Faithfulness Under Pressure

Scripture: *“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth.” — Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)*

Accusations were hurled. Injustice prevailed. Yet Jesus remained steady. Silence was not weakness — it was strength under control.

When misunderstood or mistreated, our instinct is often to defend ourselves. Christ shows another way — unwavering trust in the Father’s justice.

Midnight faith holds steady under pressure, knowing dawn is near.

Prayer: Lord, help me remain faithful under pressure. Strengthen me to trust You when I am misunderstood. Amen.

DAY 43 — April 02, 2026

The Cross

Scripture: *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” — Luke 23:46 (NKJV)*

Darkness covered the land as Jesus breathed His last. It seemed like defeat. Hope appeared buried. Yet the cross was not the end — it was the turning point.

At Calvary, sin was judged, mercy was poured out, and redemption was secured. The deepest darkness carried the greatest light.

From dusk till dawn, the cross stands at the center — the place where love overcame death.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for the cross. May I never forget the price You paid for my salvation. Amen.

DAY 44 — April 03, 2026

It Is Finished

Scripture: *“It is finished!” — John 19:30 (NKJV)*

These were not words of despair but declaration. The work of redemption was complete. The debt was paid in full.

Holy Week reminds us that salvation is not achieved by our effort but received through Christ's sacrifice. Nothing needs to be added. Nothing can be taken away.

Dawn begins with a finished work.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that the work is complete. Help me rest in the sufficiency of Your sacrifice. Amen.

DAY 45 — April 04, 2026

Holy Silence

Scripture: *"It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."* — **Lamentations 3:26 (NKJV)**

The tomb was sealed. The disciples waited in grief and confusion. Heaven seemed silent.

Yet silence does not mean absence. God was still working behind the stone. In the quiet, resurrection was preparing to break forth.

Waiting refines trust. Silence strengthens hope.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to trust You in silence. Help me wait with expectation, knowing You are at work. Amen.

DAY 46 — April 05, 2026

He Is Risen

Scripture: *“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.” —
Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)*

At dawn, everything changed. The stone was rolled away.
Death was defeated. Hope stood alive.

Resurrection is not symbolic — it is victorious reality. Christ
conquered the grave, and in Him we share that victory.

**The journey from dusk to dawn culminates in triumph.
Light has the final word.**

Prayer: Risen Lord, fill me with resurrection joy. Help me live
boldly in the power of Your victory. Amen.

A Closing Message from Pastor Sean

As we come to the end of this Lenten journey, our prayer is that each reflection has gently drawn your heart closer to Jesus — the One who walked the road to the cross with steadfast love and rose in victorious power.

Lent reminds us that faith is not seasonal — it is transformational. From dusk to dawn, we have journeyed through repentance, dependence, endurance, and expectation. We have stood in the shadows of surrender and now rejoice in the light of resurrection.

This season teaches us that hope is not merely an outcome — it is a living Savior. Christ, our Risen King, meets us in every valley, strengthens us at midnight, and leads us into dawn. The cross declares His love. The empty tomb declares His victory.

Our prayer is that these days have deepened your devotion, strengthened your trust, and renewed your joy in Him. As we step beyond Lent and into the days ahead, may the power of the resurrection shape your daily walk. May His Spirit guide your decisions, anchor your peace, and ignite fresh passion to live for His glory.

May Christ be your light in every shadow, your strength in every trial, and your song in every season.

With prayer and blessing,

Pastor Sean & Tami Rajapakse
International Church of Bangkok