

LONG LIVE THE KING

Resource for Good Friday, Silent Saturday and Resurrection Sunday

Introduction

Walking Through the Three Days

Easter is not just a Sunday service. Each part of the season of Easter is meaningful.

- Good Friday – the crucifixion of the King
- Silent Saturday – the silence of the King
- Resurrection Sunday – the victory of the King

Too often the church moves quickly from the cross to the empty tomb without pausing to experience the tension and waiting in between. Yet the disciples themselves lived through that space of uncertainty, grief, and silence. Saturday reminds us that even when God seems quiet, He is still at work.

This resource is designed to help churches walk intentionally through the entire Easter weekend.

How to Use This Resource

This guide is flexible and can be used in several ways depending on the needs of your church.

1. Use It “As Is”

Churches may choose to follow the structure exactly as provided.

The resource includes:

- A Good Friday sermon outline centered on The King Who Died
- A Silent Saturday reflection designed for congregations to use at home
- A Resurrection Sunday sermon outline centered on The Risen King

Used together, these movements create a narrative arc across the weekend.

2. Adapt It to Your Context

Every church has its own rhythms and traditions. You may wish to:

- shorten or expand the sermon outlines
- integrate the themes into an existing sermon series
- incorporate the Saturday reflection into small groups or family devotions
- use the framework as part of a Good Friday service or Easter vigil
- pick and choose what you want to use

The goal is not rigid adherence but helping your congregation experience the story of Easter more deeply.

3. Use the Sermon Outlines as Preparation Guides

The Friday and Sunday sections are intentionally written as exegetical outlines rather than full manuscripts.

They are designed to help pastors and ministry leaders:

- structure their sermon preparation
- identify key theological themes

- develop their own illustrations and applications
- preach faithfully from the biblical text

You may preach directly from the outlines or adapt them into your own style and voice.

4. Invite the Church Into Silent Saturday

The Saturday section is intentionally different.

Rather than being a sermon, it is designed as a simple at-home reflection for your congregation. Churches can distribute it in advance and invite members to use it on Holy Saturday.

This resource helps believers:

- reflect on the silence between the cross and resurrection
- sit with the tension of waiting
- pray and meditate on the hope of the coming resurrection

Families, individuals, and small groups can use it as a devotional during the “IN-BETWEEN” day.

A Journey Through the Story

By walking through Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the church experiences the full movement of the gospel story:

- Friday – The King dies
- Saturday – The King seems silent
- Sunday – The King rises and reigns

This rhythm helps the congregation not only hear the Easter story but enter into it.

GOOD FRIDAY RESOURCE

Title/Theme: The King Who Dies

Primary Text: John 19:16–30

Big Idea: The cross reveals that the true King conquers not through power, but through sacrifice.

INTRODUCTION

- Good Friday forces us to wrestle with a paradox.
- The one Christians call King of Kings hangs on a Roman cross.
 - ♦ No crown of gold
 - ♦ No throne of power
 - ♦ No army to defend Him
- Instead, there is a crown of thorns, nails in His hands, and a sign nailed above His head that reads:

“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”
- What looks like defeat is the moment when redemption is accomplished.

CONTEXT

- John’s Gospel presents the crucifixion differently than the other Gospels.
- Instead of focusing primarily on suffering, John emphasizes the kingship and authority of Jesus even on the cross.
- Throughout the crucifixion narrative:
 - ♦ Jesus is in control
 - ♦ Scripture is fulfilled
 - ♦ The mission of redemption is completed
- The cross is not merely the death of Jesus. It is the enthronement of the King.
- In Canada, most people do not have a strong lived experience of monarchy (maybe your context is different).
 - ♦ While we recognize King Charles as our head of state, the role is largely ceremonial and distant from everyday life.
- Because of this, the biblical language of Jesus as King may feel abstract or unfamiliar to many listeners.
- In Scripture, however, kingship represented real authority, allegiance, and rule over a people.
- The gospel presents Jesus as a very different kind of king. He rules not through domination but through sacrifice.
- The cross therefore becomes the moment where the true nature of Christ’s kingship is revealed: a King who reigns through love, service, and redemption.

1. John 19:16–18 – The REJECTED King

a. “Handed him over... took charge of Jesus...carrying his own cross, he went out.”

b. Key Observations:

- i. The King is handed over to be crucified
- ii. The King is rejected by his own people

- iii. The King carries His own cross
- iv. The King is crucified between two criminals
- v. The King is treated like the worst of sinners
- c. Fulfillment:
 - i. Isaiah 53:12
 - 1. The King stands in the place of the guilty.
- d. Application:
 - i. Humanity rejects the King sent to save them
 - ii. The King willingly dies for the very people who reject him

2. John 19:19-24 – The MOCKED King

- a. Pilate orders a sign to be placed above Jesus.
 - i. “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”
- b. Key Observations:
 - i. Religious leaders protest the sign
 - ii. Pilate refuses to change it
 - iii. Soldiers gamble for His clothing
- c. Fulfillment:
 - i. Psalm 22:18
 - 1. They divide my clothes...
- d. Application:
 - i. Humanity mocks what heaven proclaims.
 - 1. The kingdoms of this world often fail to recognize the true King.
 - ii. Without realizing it, Pilate has written the truth.
 - 1. Power, politics, and religion all misjudge Him.
 - iii. The man on the cross really is the King.
 - 1. Yet the truth of Christ’s kingship cannot be erased.

3. John 19:25-27 - The COMPASSIONATE King

- a. Even while suffering, Jesus cares for others.
- b. He speaks to His mother and to the disciple John.
 - i. “Woman, here is your son... here is your mother.”
- c. In the middle of unimaginable suffering, the King shows compassion.
- d. Application
 - i. In dying moments, we focus on what’s most important
 - 1. The cross reveals the heart of Christ.
 - ii. Even while bearing the weight of the world’s sin, Jesus shows love and care.
 - iii. The King who rules the universe is also the King who sees our pain.

4. John 19:28–30 - The VICTORIOUS King

- a. Jesus declares: “It is finished.”
- b. The Greek word is *tetelestai*.
 - i. Meaning
 - 1. Paid in full

2. Completed

3. Accomplished

ii. This is not a cry of defeat. It is a declaration of victory.

c. At the cross:

i. Sin is defeated

ii. The debt of humanity is paid

iii. Redemption is accomplished

d. The King has finished the mission.

e. Application:

i. Salvation is not something we finish

1. Christ already finished it.

The Paradox of the Cross

- On Good Friday the world sees a dying man.
- But heaven sees something else.
 - ♦ The Lamb of God is taking away the sin of the world.
 - ♦ The King is conquering through sacrifice.

Application

- The cross invites every person to respond.
 - ♦ Will we reject the King?
 - ♦ Will we mock the King?
 - ♦ Will we bow before the King who gave His life for us?

Closing Reflection

- On Good Friday:
 - ♦ The King wears a crown of thorns
 - ♦ The King hangs on a cross
 - ♦ The King breathes His final breath
- The tomb will soon be sealed.
- Hope will seem buried behind a stone.
- But the story is not finished.

Because the King who died on Friday is the King who will rise on Sunday.

SILENT SATURDAY – AT-HOME RESOURCE

The Silence of the King

Between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday there is a quiet day that the church often overlooks.

- On Friday, Jesus died.
- On Sunday, the tomb was empty.
- But on Saturday, the disciples waited.

They did not yet see the victory of resurrection. They only knew the silence of the tomb and the uncertainty of what would come next. Silent Saturday reminds us that faith often lives in that same space; the IN-BETWEEN; when God's promises are true, but we have not yet seen how they will unfold.

This simple at-home reflection is designed to help you pause in that moment of waiting and prepare your heart for the celebration of Easter morning.

How to Use This Resource

This reflection can be used by families, individuals, or small groups anytime during Holy Saturday.

It includes:

- A short Scripture reading
- A few guided reflection questions
- A brief prayer
- A simple optional symbol to help remember the day

You may choose to:

- read and discuss the questions together as a family
- reflect quietly on your own
- use the questions for conversation in a small group

The goal is not to rush through the material but to take a moment to sit in the quiet of the story and remember that God is still at work even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

How Long It Takes

The reflection is designed to be simple and accessible.

Most people will complete it in 15-30 minutes, depending on how much time you spend discussing the questions or sitting in quiet reflection.

Families or groups may choose to take a little longer as they talk together.

Preparing for Easter Morning

Silent Saturday invites us to remember an important truth of the Christian life.

Sometimes God's greatest work is happening behind the stone, even when all we see is silence.

As you take a few moments today to reflect and pray, allow this time to prepare your heart for the good news we celebrate tomorrow:

Special Note:

- Have your Bible/Bible app.
- Find a smooth stone or rock.

THE KING^{IS} ALIVE

SILENT SATURDAY – THE SILENCE OF THE KING

A Reflection for Families, Individuals, and Small Groups

Good Friday has passed.

The cross stands empty.

Jesus has been laid in the tomb.

But Easter morning has not yet come.

Silent Saturday is the **IN-BETWEEN** day of the Easter story. It is the day when the disciples lived with grief, confusion, and uncertainty. The King they had followed was now buried behind a stone.

For the disciples, it must have felt like hope had ended.

Yet even in the silence of that day, God was still at work.

This reflection invites you to pause in the quiet of Holy Saturday and consider what it means to wait for the King.

Step 1 – Read the Story

Read Matthew 27:57–66 together.

These verses describe the burial of Jesus and the sealing of the tomb.

Discussion or Reflection Questions

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What emotions might the disciples have been feeling on this day?
- Why do you think the religious leaders were still worried about Jesus even after his death?
- Why do you think the disciples struggled to believe Jesus would rise again even though He had told them?
- What do you think the disciples expected the future to look like after Jesus died?

For families with younger children

- If you had been one of Jesus' friends, how do you think you would have felt on this day?
- What do you think the disciples talked about while they were waiting?

Step 2 – Sit in the Silence

Holy Saturday reminds us that sometimes we live in seasons where God feels silent.

The disciples had heard Jesus promise that he would rise again, but they did not yet understand how or when.

Take a few minutes to reflect quietly.

Discussion or Reflection Questions

- Have you ever experienced a season when God felt silent or distant?
- What situations in your life right now feel like “Silent Saturday”, a time of waiting?
- Why is waiting often one of the hardest parts of following God?
- What helps you remain hopeful during seasons when you do not yet see God's answer?

For families with younger children

- When you have to wait for something important, what helps you stay patient and trust that something good is coming?

Silent Activity for Adults

Holding the Stone

- Find a small stone or object you can hold in your hand.
- Sit quietly for a few moments and hold the stone as you reflect on the sealed tomb where Jesus' body was laid.
- As you sit in silence, consider:
 - ♦ What burdens, worries, or unanswered prayers feel like a "stone" in your life right now?
 - ♦ What situations feel closed, uncertain, or unresolved?
- Spend a few moments silently offering those things to God in prayer.
- As you set the stone down, remind yourself:
 - ♦ Even when the stone has not yet moved, God is still at work.

Silent Activity for Families with Younger Children

- The Stone and the Waiting
- Place a small stone on a table or in a visible place in your home.
- Explain to the children that the stone reminds us of the big stone that covered Jesus' tomb.
- Invite everyone to sit quietly for 30–60 seconds and look at the stone.
- Ask the children:
 - ♦ How do you think Jesus' friends felt while they were waiting?
 - ♦ What do you think will happen next in the story?
- Tell them:
 - ♦ "We are waiting today just like Jesus' friends were waiting. Tomorrow we will remember the amazing thing God did."
- Leave the stone where everyone can see it until Easter morning.

Step 3 – Remember the Promises of the King

Even though the disciples did not fully understand, Jesus had already promised that he would rise again.

Read

Matthew – 16:21; 17:9, 22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32

Mark – 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34

Luke – 9:22; 18:31-33

John – 2:19-22; 10:17-18; 11:25

Jesus said:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Discussion or Reflection Questions

- Why do you think the disciples struggled to remember Jesus' promises?
- How can remembering God's promises give us hope when we are waiting?
- What does it mean to trust Jesus as King even when circumstances seem uncertain?
- How might the disciples have remembered Jesus' words during this time?
- What promises from Scripture help you hold on to hope during difficult seasons?

For families with younger children

- Do you think Jesus' friends remembered what He had said about coming back to life? Why might that have been hard for them to remember?
- When you are scared or worried, what helps you remember that God loves you and is taking care of you?
- What does it mean to trust Jesus even when we don't understand what is happening?
- Can you think of a promise from the Bible that reminds us God is always with us?

Step 4 – A Simple Prayer

You may want to pray together using this simple prayer.

*Lord Jesus,
Today we remember the quiet of the tomb.
Sometimes our lives feel like this day: uncertain, silent, and full of waiting.
Help us trust that even when we cannot see what you are doing, you are still at work.
Give us patience to wait and faith to believe that resurrection is coming.
Amen.*

Prayer for Families with Young Children

*Lord Jesus,
Today we remember the quiet day when you were in the tomb.
Your friends were sad and confused, and they didn't know what would happen next.
Sometimes we feel that way too when we must wait or when things don't make sense.
Help us remember that you are always with us, even when we cannot see what you are doing.
Help us trust you and be patient while we wait.
Thank you that your story did not end in the tomb.
Thank you that Easter morning was coming.
Amen.*

Step 5 – A Simple Symbol (Optional)

If possible, place a small stone somewhere visible in your home today.

The stone reminds us of the tomb where Jesus was laid.

Each time you see the stone today, remember:

The story is not finished.

Sunday is coming.

Closing Thought

On Friday the King died.

On Saturday the world waited.

But the silence of Saturday was not the end of the story.

Behind the stone, God was preparing the greatest victory in history.

Tomorrow we celebrate the truth that changes everything:

THE KING^{IS} ALIVE

RESURRECTION SUNDAY RESOURCE

Title/Theme: The King Rises and Reigns – Long Live the King

Primary Text: Matthew 28:1-10

Big Idea: The resurrection reveals that the crucified King is alive and reigns forever.

Introduction

- Every kingdom has defining moments.
- Moments when the future of the kingdom hangs in the balance.
- On Friday, it looked as though the kingdom of Jesus had ended.
 - ♦ The King was crucified
 - ♦ The disciples scattered
 - ♦ The tomb was sealed with a stone
- But early on the first day of the week, everything changed.
- The resurrection is not simply the happy ending of the story.
- It is the moment when God declares to the world:
 - ♦ The King still reigns.

Context

- The resurrection occurs “after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week.”
- This detail matters.
 - ♦ In Scripture, the first day represents new creation.
 - ♦ Just as God began creation in Genesis, the resurrection marks the beginning of God’s new creation through Christ.

1. Matthew 28:1-4 - The Power of the King

- “There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven.”
- Observations:
 - Earthquake signals divine action
 - Angel descends from heaven
 - The stone is rolled away
 - Roman guards collapse in fear
- Important insight
 - The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out.
 - The stone was rolled away to let witnesses in.
 - The resurrection reveals that death cannot hold the King.
- Application
 - The greatest enemy humanity faces, death itself, has been defeated.

2. Matthew 28:5-6 - The Announcement of the King

- “Do not be afraid... He is not here; He has risen.”
- Key emphasis
 - The angel says:
 - “Jesus who was crucified.”

- ii. The risen King is the same King who died on the cross.
 - iii. The cross and resurrection belong together.
 - iv. The resurrection confirms that the sacrifice of the cross has been accepted.
- c. Application
- i. Christianity is not simply moral teaching.
 - ii. It is the announcement of a historical event:
 1. Jesus Christ is alive.

3. Matthew 28:7 - The Promise of the King

- a. "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee."
- b. Jesus had already told the disciples this would happen.
 - i. The resurrection confirms that every promise of Jesus is trustworthy.
- c. Application
 - i. Because Jesus defeated death:
 1. His promises can be trusted
 2. His kingdom will not fail
 3. His mission continues

4. Matthew 28:8-10 - The Presence of the King

- a. As the women run to tell the disciples, Jesus suddenly appears to them.
- b. "Greetings," He says.
- c. Their response
 - i. They fall at His feet
 - ii. They worship Him
- d. The King who died is now standing before them alive.
- e. Application
 - i. The resurrection transforms fear into worship.
 - ii. The risen King is not distant.
 - iii. He meets His followers personally.

5. The Meaning of the Resurrection

- a. The resurrection means:
 - i. Death does not have the final word
 - ii. Sin has been defeated
 - iii. The kingdom of God has begun
- b. The resurrection is God's declaration that Jesus truly is King of Kings.
- c. Application
 - i. The resurrection calls for a response.
 - ii. The women did three things:
 1. They believed
 2. They worshiped
 3. They went and told others
 - iii. The risen King still calls people today to respond in the same way.

Closing

- On Friday the King wore a crown of thorns.
- On Saturday the King lay behind a stone.
- But on Sunday morning the stone was rolled away and the King walked out alive.
 - ♦ The cross did not defeat Him.
 - ♦ The tomb could not hold Him.
 - ♦ And because Jesus lives, the King still reigns.

The Narrative Arc of the Weekend

- Good Friday The King Paid the Price - dies
- Silent Saturday The King Appeared Silent
- Resurrection Sunday The King Proved Victorious – rules and reigns