

**APRIL 15**  
**GOOD FRIDAY\***

*Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.* LUKE 23:46

You died for me, dear Jesus. You died for my family. You died for us. My dear Lord, you died for us.

**APRIL 16**  
**HOLY SATURDAY\***

*Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.*

MARK 15:46

Dear Mother Mary, how did you do it? How your heart must have shattered! How you must have cried! You had to watch your beloved son—your only child—endure a hideously cruel death. When the cruelty was over, did you get to hold him in your arms one last time? Did you try to wipe the blood from his wounded body? How did you do it, Blessed Mother Mary? How did you do it?

**APRIL 17**  
**EASTER SUNDAY\***

*They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear. ACTS 10:39-40*

How can I ever thank you, Lord for enduring Good Friday for me? How can I ever thank you for the gift of Easter Sunday—your resurrection and all the hope, promise and love that came with it? Let me start today. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

**APRIL 18**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 PETER 1:3*

How kind and merciful you are, dear God! You have given us the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. You have given us the gift of everlasting life. We will never be able to out-give you, God. We will never be able to pay back this debt. Please, though, allow us to live our lives trying to pay you back. Allow us all to die trying.

## **APRIL 19**

*Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation. 1 PETER 2:1-2*

Why do we hunger, Lord, for that which is wrong for us? Why is the forbidden fruit so often the most tempting fruit of all? Today, dear Lord, help me to turn away from malice, insincerity and envy. Instead, instill in me a thirst for your pure, spiritual milk. Please quench my thirst with your salvation.

## **APRIL 20**

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 PETER 2:24*

How much pain your wounds must have caused you, Lord Jesus! And every time we turn away from you in sin, we must cause your wounds to be ripped open again. How much pain we cause you when we sin! Please forgive us, dear Lord. Help us to live for righteousness. Help us to live deserving such incredible forgiveness.

## **APRIL 21**

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.* LUKE 24:30-31

If you walked into my house, Lord, would I recognize you? Would my eyes be opened to see that it was indeed you? How many times, Lord, do I not see you dwelling in my house? How many times have I not recognized you in my very own home? Today, open my eyes to you, Lord. Please open my eyes.

## **APRIL 22**

*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.* JOHN 15:16

Thank you for choosing me, dear Lord.  
Thank you for choosing me! Please help this appointment you have given me to bear fruit. Please guide my life today so that the fruit that yields from it will be sweet and productive and not bitter and useless.

## **APRIL 23**

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.* PSALM 145:5

Thank you, dear God. Thank you! Your works are indeed wonderful. Help me to meditate on this wonder. Help me to think of your glorious splendor the next time I get worried or anxious or fearful. My problems may not immediately disappear. But I'm sure to be in a better mood while I'm waiting.

## **APRIL 24**

*Desire without knowledge is not good, and one who moves too hurriedly misses the way.* PROVERBS 19:2

Dear God, you know that the world is made up of so many desires. We think we know what we desire. We think we know what would make us happy. But you know the truth, God. You are the truth. Help me today to pass up on my worldly desires. Enable me, please, to embrace what you desire for me.

## **APRIL 25**

*Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.* PROVERBS 23:23

We think we can buy everything today, don't we, Lord? We think everything is for sale. Everything has a price tag. Help me to understand today that the most precious gift of your truth that you bring to the world is free. Help me not to sell this truth, but to give it away freely to everyone I meet.

## **APRIL 26**

*I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!* JOHN 16:33

Why do we think that we have to conquer the world, Lord? Why do we think we have to raise our children to conquer the world? It is such a scary idea. The world is such a scary place. Help me today to see that this worry—this anxiety—this fear is all so pointless. You have already conquered the world for us all. You have offered us peace. Help us today to accept your gift of peace.

## **APRIL 27**

*And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.* 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12

Today dear Lord, help the people in my home to increase and abound in love for each other. Even if tempers begin to flare, feelings get stepped on and we all show how imperfect we really are, please help the love never to dwindle. Enable our love for each other to grow and grow in spite of our weaknesses.

## APRIL 28

*He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

JOHN 21:17

Lord, when one of my children asks me for food, is that you asking me if I love you? When someone in my home needs clean clothes, help with homework, someone to listen to him or her, is that you asking me if I love you? Help me to hear those words of your gentle voice reminding me that I am loving you when I am loving them. Remind me of that incredible fact even when the voices making the requests are not so gentle.

**APRIL 29**

**SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA**

*Treat your possessions as if they were on loan from God.* SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

How wise this saint was, Lord! No wonder popes and kings all listened to her advice. For all of our possessions are, indeed, on loan to us from you. And yet we forget this. We pretend everything we have is ours: our homes, our careers, even our children. We think they will last forever. Forgive us for this ignorance. Gently remind us that all belongs to you. Thank you for the incredible gifts you have loaned to me today!

**APRIL 30**

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.* HEBREWS 10:24

Lord, you know there is a lot of provoking going on at my house, but I am afraid to say it is not provoking one another to love and good deeds. Why does it seem to be so much easier, and more fun, to bring out each other's faults instead of each other's good qualities? Help us today to lovingly encourage each other along our way. Help us today to egg each other on to goodness.