



# FBC FIRST Word

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## FROM THE PASTOR, TERRY JOHNSTON

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<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34a

All four of the gospels describe Jesus' death on the cross, but Luke's crucifixion account contains a scene that the other gospels omit. Immediately after Jesus is nailed to the cross between two criminals, Jesus prays the words above. In the gallery of people watching this horrific execution, people jeer and sneer at his so-called status as "king of the Jews" or as "Messiah" who cannot even save himself. Soldiers cast lots to divide up his only remaining possession—his clothes. Luke includes a narrative between the two criminals and Jesus:

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The first criminal simply echoes the crowd—mocking Jesus for who he claims to be. I've often found his request ironic. Sarcastically, he tells Jesus to "save yourself and us!"

He doesn't know the power Jesus has to truly save him—not physically in the moment from his fate, but eternally of his sin. The other criminal recognizes that Jesus is being executed unjustly for any earthly crime, but acknowledges his true power and identity as king to save him eternally in his kingdom.

I'm afraid that many people treat Jesus today the same as the first criminal—with mocking disdain. Too many people will end up on the wrong side of eternity because they don't take Jesus seriously for who he is and what he has done for them. Instead, like the second criminal, we must recognize the depth of sacrifice Jesus has made for all of our sins, in order to be forgiven and welcomed into his eternal kingdom.

Like the criminals crucified on either side of Jesus, we are all guilty of sin and deserve eternal separation. But through true faith in Jesus as Savior and King, we too can be with him forever. Which path will you choose?

Bro Terry



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Join us online

**April 2022**



| Sunday                                     | Monday                  | Tuesday                           | Wednesday                | Thursday                   | Friday                   | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|  |                         |                                   |                          |                            | 1                        | 2        |
| 3  | 4                       | 5                                 | 6<br>Midweek activities  | 7<br><b>Latham Springs</b> | 8                        | 9        |
| 10<br><b>Palm Sunday</b>                   | 11                      | 12<br><b>Fellowship Breakfast</b> | 13<br>Midweek Activities | 14                         | 15<br><b>Good Friday</b> | 16       |
| 17<br><b>Easter</b><br><b>Noisy Sunday</b> | 18<br><b>LIFE Group</b> | 19                                | 20<br>Midweek Activities | 21                         | 22                       | 23       |
| 24   | 25                      | 26                                | 27<br>Midweek Activities | 28                         | 29                       | 30       |

*Connecting...Building...Transforming*



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

**Westview Manor**

**Heartis House**

Verna Arp

Please continue to pray for all those on our church's prayer list.



This year Easter is a bit later than normal, Sunday, April 17. Why does Easter fall on a different day each year? The simple answer is that Easter moves around each year because it is determined by the Jewish calendar, which is based on lunar cycles, and it has to fall the Sunday after the Passover full moon, depending on some complicated charts developed many centuries ago. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated the next Sunday. Grab a friend, a neighbor, and/or a family member and head to church to worship our risen Lord! Happy Easter!



**April 12  
8:30 am  
Coffee Shop Cafe**



**April 18  
Noon  
Fellowship Hall**



- Matthew Voges-----4/1
- Stuart Gray-----4/9
- Sheryl Huffman-----4/9
- Brooklynn McAdams-----4/17
- Andrew Craig-----4/18
- Mary Hancock-----4/18
- Frances White-----4/20
- Keith Pierce-----4/23
- Tracy Ramsey-----4/23
- Vicki Owens-----4/25
- Brooke Marshall-----4/26
- Monica Dunnam-----4/27
- Sherilyn Segrest-----4/27
- Brad Nelson-----4/28



Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness ... Freedom ... and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



## Shrimp Gumbo

Eula McKown

- 1 jar (33 oz.) Bayou Bros. Gumbo Starter\*
- 8 oz. frozen, sliced okra
- 1 lb. frozen shrimp, cooked
- 1 bunch green onions, sliced and without tails
- 1/2 cup to 1 cup chopped celery
- 16 oz. chicken broth
- Cooked rice

In a large pot, put 2-3 tablespoons oil or butter; heat. Rinse shrimp in warm water, drain, and sauté in oil or butter for 2-3 minutes. Add gumbo starter; rinse jar with about 1/4 cup water and add to gumbo. Add chicken broth, chopped onions, and chopped celery. Add more water if gumbo is too thick. Bring to a boil; lower heat and cook for 10 minutes. Add okra and cook for 5 minutes more. Serve over rice, if desired.

\*Bayou Bros. Gumbo Starter is available at HEB. If you want the gumbo to be more spicy, use the Bayou Bros. Creole Sauce instead of the Gumbo Starter. You can use chicken or sausage instead of shrimp.

## Mexican Salad

allrecipes.com

- 1 head lettuce, chopped
- 1 (10 ounce) can corn, drained
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup crushed tortilla chips
- Dressing:
  - 1/2 cup salsa
  - 1/4 cup ranch-style salad dressing

Layer lettuce, corn, black beans, tomato, green onions, cilantro, green bell pepper, avocado, Cheddar cheese, and tortilla chips, in this order, in a serving bowl.

Stir ranch-style dressing and salsa together in a bowl; pour over salad.

## Hearty Breakfast Muffins

allrecipes.com

- 2 carrots, shredded
- 2 bananas, mashed
- 1 zucchini, shredded
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup yogurt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup dried cherries
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper liners.

Mix carrots, banana, zucchini, vegetable oil, yogurt, and eggs together until fully incorporated.

Whisk flour and baking soda in a separate bowl. Mix brown sugar, oats, coconut, pecans, cherries, cinnamon, salt, and ginger into flour mixture until all ingredients are coated in flour. Stir wet ingredients into flour mixture until just combined. Scoop batter into the prepared muffin cups.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean and edges are slightly brown, 17 to 22 minutes. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack.

