



CROSS to CROWN (1)

Shalom Ministries International
March 29, 2026

New Ambassadors for Christ



Joseph Safari Bahizire
(Kigali, Rwanda)



Dieudonne Milenge
(Kigali, Rwanda)



Mukisa David Light
(Entebe, Uganda)



Wabonga Alfani Edward
(Nairobi, Kenya)



Freddy Ghislain Bounda
(Point Noir, Congo Brazzaville)



Mnmberre Kiniamboko
Samual (Goma, DRC)



Ben Andy Safari
(Goma, DRC)



Lilambo Bafula Bienvenu
(Goma, DRC)



Bayongwa Mulikuza
(Goma, DRC)

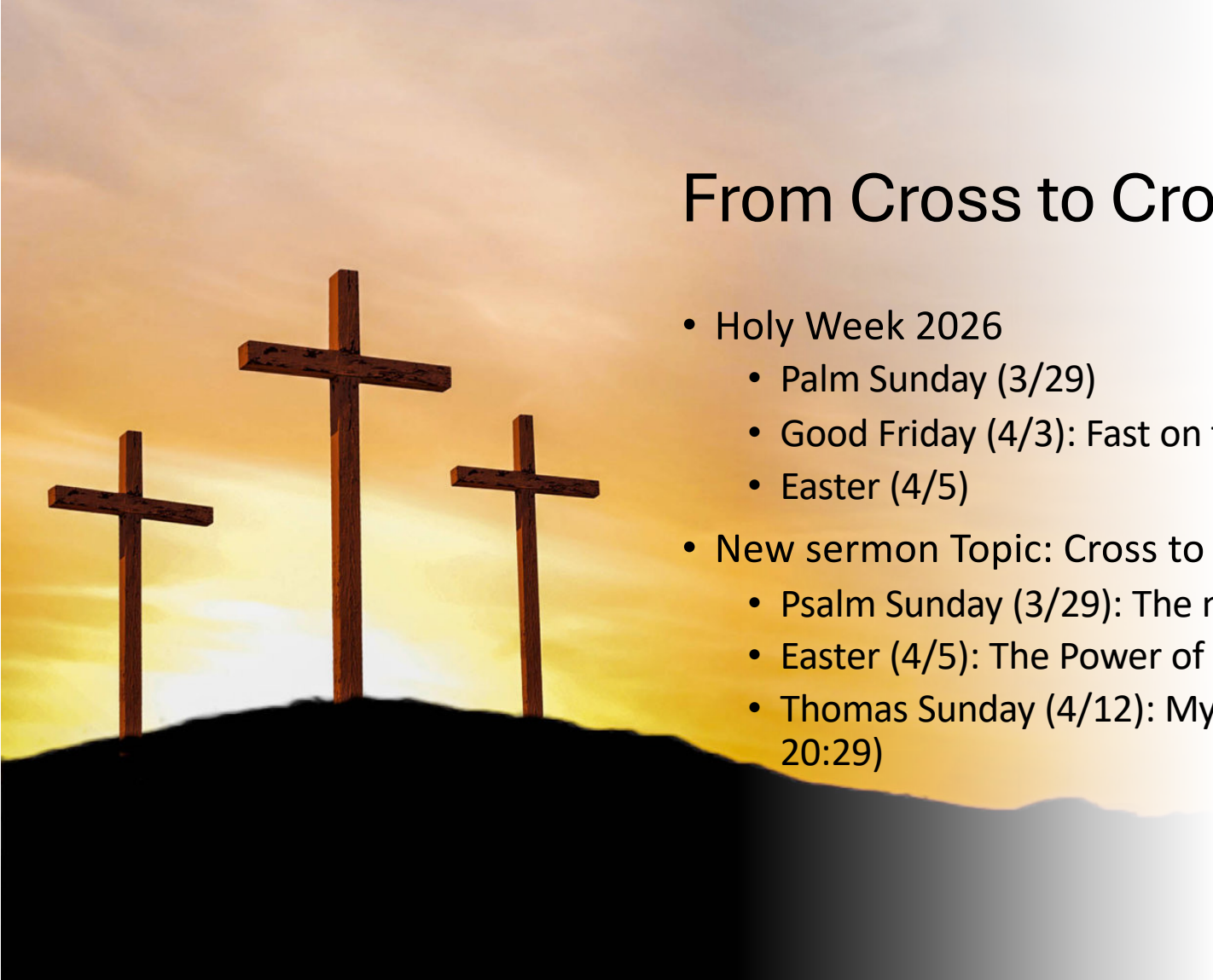


Kanyere Mutumoja
(Goma, DRC)



Martin Baboka Nsimba
(Point Noir, Congo Brazzaville)

- 50 Ambassadors
- 16 Countries
 - 10 in Africa
 - 6 in Asia
 - 4 in USA
 - 40 men
 - 10 women

The image shows three wooden crosses of varying heights on a dark silhouette of a hill. The background is a soft, warm sunset sky with orange and yellow tones. The crosses are positioned from left to right: a medium-sized cross, a tall central cross, and a medium-sized cross.

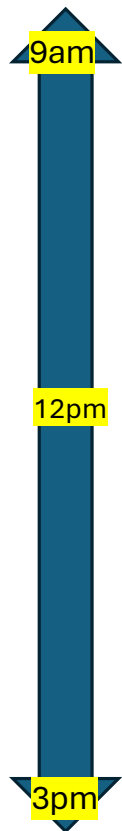
From Cross to Crown

- Holy Week 2026
 - Palm Sunday (3/29)
 - Good Friday (4/3): Fast on this day recommended
 - Easter (4/5)
- New sermon Topic: Cross to Crown
 - Psalm Sunday (3/29): The meaning of Cross
 - Easter (4/5): The Power of His Resurrection
 - Thomas Sunday (4/12): My Lord and My God (John 20:29)

The Death of Jesus (Matthew 27:45-50)

- From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus **cried out in a loud voice**, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had **cried out again in a loud voice**, he gave up his spirit.

Good Friday: 7 Words of Jesus on the Cross



1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Lue 23:34)
2. "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)
3. "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother" (John 19:26-27)

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land (Matthew 27:45)

4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)
5. "I am thirsty" (John 19:28)
6. "It is finished" (John 19:30)
7. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

Three Words of Jesus between 9 am to 12 pm

1. Forgiveness

- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Lue 23:34).
- Forgiveness to the soldiers who crucified Jesus.

2. Salvation

- “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).
- Salvation to a repentant robber.
- Jesus reaches out to give mercy to someone in need who would be bitter, retaliatory, avenging.

3. Relationship

- “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother (John 19:26-27).
- Asking two loving people to care for each other.

Darkness on the Land (12-3pm)

- Supernatural darkness
 - From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land (earth) (Matthew 27:45).
 - For the sun stopped shining... (Luke 23:45).
- Jesus brought the light
 - An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (Luke 2:9).
 - “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).
- Darkness: a symbol of judgement
 - (God to Moses) “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt... So Moses stretched out his hand...total darkness covered all Egypt for three days (Exodus 10:21-22).
 - I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red (Revelation 6:12).

Cross: (1) A Divine Judgment of Sin

- God's judgement on sin on the cross
 - The cross demonstrates that God does not overlook sin. In His holiness, He punished it, fulfilling the requirement of justice.
 - The cross is the intersection where God's love and holiness were shown. While He poured out judgment for sin, He did it through providing His own Son to bear it.
- Christ is judged for our sin
 - Jesus, being sinless, bore the sins of the world in His own body on the cross, taking upon Himself the suffering that humanity deserved (substitutionary penalty).
 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by **becoming a curse for us**, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole" (Galatians 3:13).
 - God's wrath was poured out on Him as Jesus bore in His body all the sins of all men. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin.

Cross: (2) Separation between Father and Son

- The spiritual pain of Jesus
 - From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**”) (Matthews 27:45-46).
 - It was a real forsakenness for our sake. Jesus was expressing desolation, not asking for an answer.
- His dual positions
 - He is without sin; He is a lamb without blemish/spot.
 - He is fully sin; Jesus indeed became sin and was our substitute -> God separated Himself from Christ.
- Jesus thirsts for communion with God
 - “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthews 27:45-46).
 - Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” (John 19:28).
 - This separation was an act of love where the Father gave up the Son, and the Son gave up his life, to save humanity.

Cross: (3) Demonstration of Divine Love

- Two words with a loud voice before he died
 - And when Jesus had **cried out again in a loud voice**, he gave up his spirit (Matthew 27:50).
 - It is finished (John 19:30).
 - Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46).
 - Jesus voluntarily sacrificed his life to pay the penalty for human sin and reconcile humanity with God.
- Self-giving sacrifice
 - He gave up His Spirit (Matthew 27:50).
 - He dismissed His own spirit voluntarily: No one killed Jesus. Jesus was not a helpless victim but willingly chose to offer his life, pouring out his blood as a sacrificial offering.
 - The cross is seen as the ultimate proof of God's love, with Christ dying for sinners.

The Meaning of Cross



A Divine Judgement of Sin

Separation between Father and Son

Demonstration of Divine Love

The Cross: Grace displayed

The innocent was punished; the sinner is pardoned and justified