

# ***The Easter Story – Combining the various accounts of the four Gospels into a single narrative***

Text taken from the Revised Standard Version Bible (RSV)  
Denny Williams – Updated April 2017

**Note from Denny Williams** ... This is a project that I have wanted to do for some years, to combine all four Gospel narratives of the Easter story into one. In order to make the final combined narrative flow smoothly, I did some editing here and there, but what I did does not change or impact the Scripture story. I also did not include John chapters 14-17, which is Jesus's detailed conversation with his disciples during the last supper. These are great chapters and I'd encourage you to read them separately.

As you read through this weaving together of the Easter story from the last supper to the appearances of the Lord Jesus after His resurrection, may your heart rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ. Happy Easter!

## ***Part 1 – The Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane***

[Matthew 26:17-75](#) [Mark 14:12-72](#) [Luke 22:7-65](#) [John 13:1-38](#)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the passover lamb, his disciples said to Jesus, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?" He sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and say to the householder, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.' And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

[Matthew 26:17-19](#) [Mark 14:12-16](#) [Luke 22:7-13](#)

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And when it was evening and the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

[Matthew 26:20](#) [Mark 14:17](#) [Luke 22:14-16](#) [John 13:1](#)

And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean."

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

"Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of you all; I know whom I have chosen; it is that the scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives any one whom I send receives me; and he who receives me receives him who sent me."

[John 13:2-20](#)

A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

[Luke 22:24-30](#)

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise after supper, he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Take it, and divide it among yourselves. Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

[Matthew 26:26-30](#) [Mark 14:22-26](#) [Luke 22:17-20](#)

As they were eating, Jesus was troubled in spirit and said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me. The hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And the disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke, and they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this. And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying close to the breast of Jesus; so Simon Peter beckoned to him and said, "Tell us who it is of whom he speaks." So lying thus, close to the breast of Jesus, he said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so." Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel, he immediately went out; and it was night.

[Matthew 26:21-25](#) [Mark 14:18-21](#) [Luke 22:21-23](#) [John 13:21-30](#)

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now; but you shall follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why cannot I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter declared to him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus replied, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." And Jesus said to him, "I tell you, Peter, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

[Matthew 26:31-35](#) [Mark 14:27-31](#) [Luke 22:31-34](#) [John 13:31-28](#)

And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." He said to them, "But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one. For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was reckoned with transgressors'; for what is written about me has its fulfilment." And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

[Luke 22:35-38](#)

When Jesus had spoken these words and they had sung a hymn, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley to the Mount of Olives to a place called Gethsemane, as was his custom. He said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go yonder and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John) he began to be sorrowful, greatly distressed and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther, about stone's throw away, he fell on his face on the ground and prayed, "Abba Father, all things are possible to you; remove this cup, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."

And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

[Luke 22:43-44](#)

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, why do you sleep? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

[Matthew 26:30](#) [Matthew 26:36-46](#) [Mark 14:32-42](#) [Luke 22:39-46](#) [John 18:2](#)

## **Part 2 – Jesus’ Arrest**

[Matthew 26:47-75](#) [Mark 14:43-72](#) [Luke 22:47-62](#) [John 18:2-27](#)

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, for he knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. He had procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, who came with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom you gave me I lost not one."

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away under guard." And he came up to Jesus and said, "Hail, Master!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Judas, friend, why are you here? Would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?"

Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its place. Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me? For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. All this has taken place, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook him and fled. So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

[Matthew 26:47-57](#) [Mark 14:43-52](#) [Luke 22:47-54](#) [John 18:2-12](#)

First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

[John 18:19-24](#)

Simon Peter followed Jesus at a distance, and so did another disciple, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter inside, and he sat with the guards to see the end, warming himself at the fire with them in the middle of the courtyard, which they had made because it was cold.

[Matthew 26:58](#) [Mark 14:53-54](#) [Luke 22:54-55](#) [John 18:13-18](#)

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. Then one of the maids of the high priest, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said to him, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it before them all, saying, "Woman, I do not know him. I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the porch, a little later, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth. He is one of them." And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."

After an interval of about an hour, another one of the bystanders, one of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, came up to Peter and asked him, "Did I not see you in the garden with him? Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you. You are Galilean." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak. I do not know what you are saying." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice today, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and went out and wept bitterly.

[Matthew 26:69-75](#) [Mark 14:66-72](#) [Luke 22:56-62](#) [John 18:15-19](#) [John 18:25-27](#)

As soon as day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none. Many bore false witness, coming forward against him, but their witness did not agree. At last two came forward and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet not even so did their testimony agree.

The high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus was silent and made no answer. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of the Blessed, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "I am, as you have said. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. What is your judgment?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and said to him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. Then they spat in his face, and struck him; and some slapped him, the guards receiving him with blows.

[Matthew 26:59-68](#) [Mark 14:55-65](#) [Luke 22:63-71](#)



### **Part 3 – Jesus’ trial before Pilate**

Matthew 27:1-26 Mark 15:1-20 Luke 23:1-25 John 18:28-40 John 19:1-16

All the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and they bound him and led him away to the praetorium and delivered him to Pilate the governor. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover.

Matthew 21:1-2

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Matthew 27:3-10

Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" And they began to accuse him, answering Pilate, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over. We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "You have said so. Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

But when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

Pilate said to the Jews, "I find no crime in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Matthew 27:11-14 Luke 23:4-12 Mark 15:1-5

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?" And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was suppose to do for them. And he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas". Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified." And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified." Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify him!"

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He then took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him up to their will to be crucified. And the soldiers of the governor led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they stripped him and clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him.

Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was still early in the day.

He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to be crucified.

[Matthew 27:15-31](#)   [Mark 15:6-20](#)   [Luke 23:13-25](#)   [John 18:39-40](#)

#### **Part 4 – Jesus' Crucifixion**

[Matthew 27:32-66](#)   [Mark 15:21-47](#)   [Luke 23:26-56](#)   [John 19:17-42](#)

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross. They compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they laid on him the cross, and he carried it behind Jesus.

And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

[Luke 23:27-31](#)

They brought him to the place which is called in Hebrew *Golgotha* (which means *the place of a skull*). There they crucified him. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." They offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this and sat down to keep watch over him.

It was past the third hour when they crucified him. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

[Luke 23:39-43](#)



But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

[John 19:25-27](#)

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, when the sun's light failed. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Elo-i, Elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah."

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so one ran and put a sponge full of vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished". Then crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." And uttering a loud cry, he breathed his last, bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

[Matthew 27:51-53](#)

When the centurion, who stood facing him, saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee, and Salome, who when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; and also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth--that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

[John 19:31-37](#)

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, a respected member of the council and a disciple of Jesus, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph was a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in a clean linen shroud with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid him in the tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and they rolled a great stone against the door of the tomb and departed. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were there, sitting opposite the sepulcher. The women who had come with him from Galilee also followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the sepulcher secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

[Matthew 27:62-66](#)

But those who had followed Jesus rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

[Luke 23:56](#)

### ***Part 5 – Jesus' Resurrection***

[Matthew 28:1-15](#) [Mark 16:1-14](#) [Luke 24:1-49](#) [John 20:1-31](#)

Now when the Lord Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

[John 20:1-10](#)

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-boni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, as they mourned and wept, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

[John 20:11-18](#)

That same morning, when the Sabbath was past, other women also came with Mary Magdalene ... Mary the mother of James, and Salome, who bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. They came very early on that first day of the week and went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

When the women arrived, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

As they stood there in amazement, one of the angels who was a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in white, said to them, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples and Peter that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as I have told you.

As they remembered his words, they departed quickly from the tomb for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. And with fear and great joy, they ran to tell the eleven and all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Jo-anna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

And behold, as they were leaving the tomb, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

[Matthew 28:1-15](#)

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?"

And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him."

"But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them. The doors were shut for fear of the Jews. The two said to them, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. But they did not believe them. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them as they sat at table. He upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

They were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Peace be with you. Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

[Luke 24:1-49](#)

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

[John 20:21-25](#)

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

[John 20:26-31](#)

### ***Part 6 – The Days after Jesus' Resurrection through His Ascension***

[Matthew 28:16-20](#) [Mark 16:15-20](#) [Luke 24:50-53](#) [John 21:1-25](#)

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberi-as; and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathana-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved 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. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go." (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, "Follow me."

Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

[John 21:1-25](#)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

[Mark 16:15-18](#)

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, after he had spoken to them, he departed from them, and was carried up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

[Mark 16:19-20](#) [Luke 24:50-53](#)



## ***The Week Before Easter***

Reflecting on the life of the Lord Jesus  
during the week leading up to Easter Sunday

### **On the way to Jerusalem**

John 11:55 – 12:11  
Luke 17:11 – 19:27  
Mark 10:1 – 10:52  
Matthew 19:1 – 20:34

### **Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter)**

John 12:12 – 12:50  
Luke 19:28 – 19:44  
Mark 11:1 – 11:11  
Matthew 21:1 – 21:11

### **Monday before Easter**

Luke 19:45 – 19:48  
Mark 11:12 – 11:19  
Matthew 21:12 – 21:17

### **Tuesday before Easter**

Luke 20:1 – 21:38  
Mark 11:20 – 13:37  
Matthew 21:18 – 25:46

### **Wednesday before Easter**

Luke 22:1 – 22:6  
Mark 14:1 – 14:11  
Matthew 26:1 – 26:16

### **Maundy\* Thursday before Easter**

John 13:1 – 18:27  
Luke 22:7 – 22:65  
Mark 14:12 – 14:72  
Matthew 26:17 – 26:75

### **Good Friday before Easter**

John 18:28 – 19:42  
Luke 22:66 – 23:56a  
Mark 15:1 – 15:47  
Matthew 27:1 – 27:61

### **Saturday before Easter**

Luke 23:56b  
Matthew 27:62-66

### **Easter Sunday – The Resurrection**

John 20:1 – 20:23  
Luke 24:1 – 24:43  
Mark 16:1 – 16:13  
Matthew 28:1 – 28:15

### **After Easter**

John 20:24 – John 21:25  
Luke 24:44 – Luke 24:53  
Mark 16:14 – 16:20  
Matthew 28:16 – 28:20

\*The word *Maundy* is derived through Middle English, and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you"), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John (13:34) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of His action of washing their feet at the start of the last supper.