



*Holy Week readings*

*March 29, 2026 – April 5, 2026*

Gospel readings are taken from Matthew chapters 21 – 28.

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## ***Palm Sunday***

### **Psalm 72**

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!
- <sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!
- <sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!
- <sup>5</sup>May they fear you<sup>[a]</sup> while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- <sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!
- <sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- <sup>8</sup>May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River<sup>[b]</sup> to the ends of the earth!
- <sup>9</sup>May desert tribes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust!
- <sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands  
render him tribute;  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts!
- <sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!
- <sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when he calls,  
the poor and him who has no helper.
- <sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their life,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

15 Long may he live;  
may gold of Sheba be given to him!  
May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all the day!  
16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;  
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;  
may its fruit be like Lebanon;  
and may people blossom in the cities  
like the grass of the field!  
17 May his name endure forever,  
his fame continue as long as the sun!  
May people be blessed in him,  
all nations call him blessed!

18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!  
Amen and Amen!

20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

### **Zechariah:**

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations;  
his rule shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River<sup>[a]</sup> to the ends of the earth.

### **The Gospel:**

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the

village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Say to the daughter of Zion,  
'Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt,<sup>[a]</sup> the foal of a beast of burden.'"

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" <sup>10</sup> And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."



## **Monday**

### **Psalm 115**

<sup>1</sup>Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

<sup>2</sup>Why should the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”

<sup>3</sup>Our God is in the heavens;  
he does all that he pleases.

<sup>4</sup>Their idols are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.

<sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but do not speak;  
eyes, but do not see.

<sup>6</sup>They have ears, but do not hear;  
noses, but do not smell.

<sup>7</sup>They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk;

and they do not make a sound in their throat.

<sup>8</sup>Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.

<sup>9</sup>O Israel, [\[a\]](#) trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.

<sup>10</sup>O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.

<sup>11</sup>You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.

<sup>12</sup>The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us;  
he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of Aaron;

<sup>13</sup>he will bless those who fear the Lord,  
both the small and the great.

<sup>14</sup>May the Lord give you increase,  
you and your children!

<sup>15</sup>May you be blessed by the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth!

<sup>16</sup> The heavens are the Lord's heavens,  
but the earth he has given to the children of man.

<sup>17</sup> The dead do not praise the Lord,  
nor do any who go down into silence.

<sup>18</sup> But we will bless the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
Praise the Lord!

### **The Gospel: Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple<sup>[b]</sup> and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, <sup>16</sup> and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies  
you have prepared praise'?"

<sup>17</sup> And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

### **Psalm 114**

<sup>1</sup> When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

<sup>2</sup> Judah became his sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.

<sup>3</sup> The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.

<sup>5</sup> What ails you, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?  
<sup>6</sup> O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?

<sup>7</sup> Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
<sup>8</sup> who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
the flint into a spring of water.

**The Gospel:  
Jesus Curses the Fig Tree**

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

<sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" <sup>21</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. <sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

**Psalm 117**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!  
<sup>2</sup> For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord!



## *Tuesday*

### **The Gospel: The Authority of Jesus Challenged**

<sup>23</sup> And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

### **The Parable of the Two Sons**

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I will, sir,' but did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

### **The Parable of the Tenants**

<sup>33</sup> "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants<sup>[c]</sup> to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my

son.’<sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’<sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.<sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’<sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;<sup>[d]</sup>  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup> And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

### **The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**22** And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent his servants<sup>[f]</sup> to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”” <sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, “The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ <sup>10</sup> And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

### **Paying Taxes to Caesar**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup> They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

### **Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection**

<sup>23</sup> The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, <sup>24</sup> saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’ <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> So too the second and third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> After them all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

## **The Great Commandment**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

## **Whose Son Is the Christ?**

<sup>41</sup> Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup> saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup> He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup> “The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## **Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees**

**23** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, <sup>3</sup> so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,<sup>[i]</sup> and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues <sup>7</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi<sup>[i]</sup> by others. <sup>8</sup> But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.<sup>[k]</sup> <sup>9</sup> And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you shall be your

servant. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

<sup>13</sup> “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. <sup>14</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell <sup>15</sup> as yourselves.

<sup>16</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ <sup>17</sup> You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ <sup>19</sup> You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? <sup>20</sup> So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. <sup>21</sup> And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. <sup>22</sup> And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ <sup>31</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves

that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. <sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? <sup>34</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, <sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah,<sup>[a]</sup> whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

### **Lament over Jerusalem**

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

### **Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple**

**24** Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

### **Signs of the End of the Age**

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away<sup>[a]</sup> and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false

prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

### **The Abomination of Desolation**

<sup>15</sup> “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

### **The Coming of the Son of Man**

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

### **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

<sup>32</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>34</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### **No One Knows That Day and Hour**

<sup>36</sup> “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant,<sup>[a]</sup> whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants<sup>[b]</sup> and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

**25** “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps<sup>[c]</sup> and went to meet the bridegroom.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all

those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup> "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants<sup>[u]</sup> and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents,<sup>[v]</sup> to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.<sup>[w]</sup> You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken

away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## **The Final Judgment**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,<sup>[x]</sup> you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## The Plot to Kill Jesus

26 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

### Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 21:5](#) Or *donkey, and on a colt*
- b. [Matthew 21:12](#) Some manuscripts add *of God*
- c. [Matthew 21:34](#) Or *bondservants*; also verses 35, 36
- d. [Matthew 21:42](#) Greek *the head of the corner*
- e. [Matthew 21:44](#) Some manuscripts omit verse 44
- f. [Matthew 22:3](#) Or *bondservants*; also verses 4, 6, 8, 10
- g. [Matthew 22:16](#) Greek *for you do not look at people's faces*
- h. [Matthew 22:19](#) A *denarius* was a day's wage for a laborer
- i. [Matthew 23:4](#) Some manuscripts omit *hard to bear*
- j. [Matthew 23:7](#) *Rabbi* means *my teacher, or my master*; also verse 8
- k. [Matthew 23:8](#) Or *brothers and sisters*
- l. [Matthew 23:13](#) Some manuscripts add here (or after verse 12) verse 14: *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive the greater condemnation*
- m. [Matthew 23:15](#) Greek *Gehenna*; also verse 33
- n. [Matthew 23:35](#) Some manuscripts omit *the son of Barachiah*
- o. [Matthew 24:10](#) Or *stumble*
- p. [Matthew 24:36](#) Some manuscripts omit *nor the Son*
- q. [Matthew 24:45](#) Or *bondservant*; also verses 46, 48, 50
- r. [Matthew 24:49](#) Or *bondservants*
- s. [Matthew 25:1](#) Or *torches*
- t. [Matthew 25:1](#) Some manuscripts add *and the bride*
- u. [Matthew 25:14](#) Or *bondservants*; also verse 19
- v. [Matthew 25:15](#) A *talent* was a monetary unit worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer
- w. [Matthew 25:21](#) Or *bondservant*; also verses 23, 26, 30
- x. [Matthew 25:40](#) Or *brothers and sisters*
- y. [Matthew 26:6](#) *Leprosy* was a term for several skin diseases; see Leviticus 13
- z. [Matthew 26:20](#) Some manuscripts add *disciples*



## ***Wednesday***

### **Psalm 113**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!

<sup>2</sup>Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore!

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

<sup>4</sup>The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high,

<sup>6</sup>who looks far down

on the heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

<sup>8</sup>to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

<sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

### **The Gospel:**

#### **Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

<sup>6</sup>Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup>a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. <sup>8</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

## Psalm 116

- <sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
- <sup>2</sup>Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- <sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.
- <sup>4</sup>Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”
- <sup>5</sup>Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.
- <sup>6</sup>The Lord preserves the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- <sup>7</sup>Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
- <sup>8</sup>For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling;
- <sup>9</sup>I will walk before the Lord  
in the land of the living.
- <sup>10</sup>I believed, even when<sup>[a]</sup> I spoke:  
“I am greatly afflicted”;
- <sup>11</sup>I said in my alarm,  
“All mankind are liars.”
- <sup>12</sup>What shall I render to the Lord  
for all his benefits to me?
- <sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,
- <sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.
- <sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his saints.
- <sup>16</sup>O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
<sup>17</sup> I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
<sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

**The Gospel:**  
**Judas to Betray Jesus**

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.



## ***Maundy Thursday***

### **The Gospel: The Passover with the Disciples**

<sup>17</sup> Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup> He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup> And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>21</sup> And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

### **Institution of the Lord's Supper**

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the<sup>[c]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

## Psalm 118

<sup>1</sup>Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

<sup>3</sup>Let the house of Aaron say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

<sup>4</sup>Let those who fear the Lord say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

<sup>5</sup>Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord answered me and set me free.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.  
What can man do to me?

<sup>7</sup>The Lord is on my side as my helper;  
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

<sup>8</sup>It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in man.

<sup>9</sup>It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.

<sup>10</sup>All nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

<sup>11</sup>They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

<sup>12</sup>They surrounded me like bees;  
they went out like a fire among thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

<sup>13</sup>I was pushed hard,<sup>[a]</sup> so that I was falling,  
but the Lord helped me.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Glad songs of salvation  
are in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord exalts,  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
<sup>18</sup> The Lord has disciplined me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, O Lord!  
O Lord, we pray, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,  
and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

## **The Gospel: Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial**

<sup>30</sup> And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup> 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.' <sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup> Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

## **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch<sup>[d]</sup> with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on.<sup>[e]</sup> See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

## **Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." <sup>49</sup> And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what

you came to do.”<sup>[1]</sup> Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. <sup>51</sup> And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant<sup>[g]</sup> of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” <sup>55</sup> 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. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

### **Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council**

<sup>57</sup> Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council<sup>[h]</sup> were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup> And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”<sup>[i]</sup> <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

### **Peter Denies Jesus**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” <sup>71</sup> And when he went

out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup> And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup> Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

## ***Good Friday***

### **Psalm 22**

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises<sup>[a]</sup> of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

<sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

<sup>10</sup>On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup>they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup> my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet<sup>[b]</sup>—

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup> they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup> But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued<sup>[c]</sup> me from the horns of the wild oxen!

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The afflicted<sup>[d]</sup> shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.

<sup>28</sup> For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

<sup>31</sup> they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

### **The Gospel:**

#### **Jesus Delivered to Pilate**

<sup>27</sup> When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. <sup>2</sup> And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

#### **Judas Hangs Himself**

<sup>3</sup> Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus<sup>[J]</sup> was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." <sup>5</sup> And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." <sup>7</sup> So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. <sup>8</sup> Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

#### **Jesus Before Pilate**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he

gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### **The Crowd Chooses Barabbas**

<sup>15</sup> Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> 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?" <sup>18</sup> For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup> 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 because of him today in a dream." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

### **Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified**

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; <sup>[k]</sup> see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged <sup>[l]</sup> Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

### **Jesus Is Mocked**

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, <sup>[m]</sup> and they gathered the whole battalion <sup>[n]</sup> before him. <sup>28</sup> And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion**

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

## **The Death of Jesus**

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour<sup>[a]</sup> there was darkness over all the land<sup>[b]</sup> until the ninth hour.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup> And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup> And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup> and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and 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<sup>[c]</sup> of God!"

<sup>55</sup> There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, <sup>56</sup> among whom were Mary

Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

### **Jesus Is Buried**

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

## ***Holy Saturday***

### **The Gospel:**

#### **The Guard at the Tomb**

<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup> Therefore order the tomb 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.” <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard<sup>[s]</sup> of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.



## ***Easter Sunday***

### **The Gospel: The Resurrection**

**28** Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> 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 on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he<sup>[u]</sup> lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

### **The Report of the Guard**

<sup>11</sup> While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. <sup>12</sup> And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers <sup>13</sup> and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ <sup>14</sup> And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup> So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

### **The Great Commission**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[u]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 26:6](#) *Leprosy* was a term for several skin diseases; see Leviticus 13
- b. [Matthew 26:20](#) Some manuscripts add *disciples*
- c. [Matthew 26:28](#) Some manuscripts insert *new*
- d. [Matthew 26:38](#) Or *keep awake*; also verses 40, 41
- e. [Matthew 26:45](#) Or *Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?*
- f. [Matthew 26:50](#) Or *Friend, why are you here?*
- g. [Matthew 26:51](#) Or *bondservant*
- h. [Matthew 26:59](#) Greek *Sanhedrin*
- i. [Matthew 26:62](#) Or *Have you no answer to what these men testify against you?*
- j. [Matthew 27:3](#) Greek *he*
- k. [Matthew 27:24](#) Some manuscripts *this righteous blood*, or *this righteous man's blood*
- l. [Matthew 27:26](#) A Roman judicial penalty, consisting of a severe beating with a multi-lashed whip containing embedded pieces of bone and metal
- m. [Matthew 27:27](#) Greek *the praetorium*
- n. [Matthew 27:27](#) Greek *cohort*; a tenth of a Roman legion, usually about 600 men
- o. [Matthew 27:45](#) That is, noon
- p. [Matthew 27:45](#) Or *earth*
- q. [Matthew 27:45](#) That is, 3 P.M.
- r. [Matthew 27:54](#) Or *a son*
- s. [Matthew 27:65](#) Or *Take a guard*
- t. [Matthew 28:6](#) Some manuscripts *the Lord*
- u. [Matthew 28:19](#) Or *into*