

# The Easter Story

10 April 2022

## Call to Worship – Psalm 31

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

**my eye wastes away from grief,  
my soul and body also.**

For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;

**my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.**

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;

**I have become like a broken vessel.**

But I trust in you, O LORD;

**I say, "You are my God."**

My times are in your hand;

**deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

Let your face shine upon your servant;

**save me in your steadfast love.**

## Ride on, ride on in majesty

*Henry Hart Milman*

Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.

thy humble beast pursues his road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!

In lowly pomp ride on to die,

O Christ thy triumph now begin

O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!

The winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy power and reign.

## 1 – Luke 22:14-23

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

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. <sup>21</sup> But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. <sup>22</sup> For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" <sup>23</sup> Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

## 2 – Luke 22:24-30

### *The Dispute about Greatness*

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup> But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

<sup>28</sup> "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; <sup>29</sup> and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

### 3 – Luke 22:31-34

#### *Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial*

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat,  
<sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when  
once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> And he said to him,  
“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell  
you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times  
that you know me.”

#### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

To the one who taught us how to pray

Who took the Passover meal

And reframed it to show us

The true meaning of sacrifice

To the one who became less

To glorify his Father

Emptied of everything

To become one of us

Not like, not appearing

But wholly one of us

To the one denied by his own friends

Abandoned in his greatest need

Alone before his tormentors

Loving with all his might

We give you our praise and our worship

You truly are fully human and fully God

As people sometimes lost in our personal desires

We can lose sight of all you have done for us

Our gaze trembles from one passion to another

The true Passion tumbling into obscurity

In the midst of our self-centred dreaming

Forgive us for our sin, things done and undone

Strengthen us to fix our eyes on Jesus

Through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, we pray.

Amen

## Notices

### The Peace

#### 4 – Luke 22:35-38

##### *Purse, Bag, and Sword*

<sup>35</sup> He said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “No, not a thing.” <sup>36</sup> He said to them, “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup> For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was counted among the lawless’; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.” <sup>38</sup> They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” He replied, “It is enough.”

#### 5 – Luke 22:39-46

##### *Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives*

<sup>39</sup> He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” <sup>41</sup> Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup> “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” [[<sup>43</sup> Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup> In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] <sup>45</sup> When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

## 6 – Luke 22:47-53

### *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; <sup>48</sup> but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” <sup>49</sup> When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” <sup>50</sup> Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? <sup>53</sup> When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

### *Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)* John Newton, Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

## 7 – Luke 22:54-62

### *Peter Denies Jesus*

<sup>54</sup> Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup> When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup> Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." <sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." <sup>58</sup> A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" <sup>59</sup> Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

## 8 – Luke 22:63-65

### *The Mocking and Beating of Jesus*

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; <sup>64</sup> they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" <sup>65</sup> They kept heaping many other insults on him.

## 9 – Luke 22:66-71

### *Jesus before the Council*

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. <sup>67</sup> They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup> and if I question you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." <sup>70</sup> All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." <sup>71</sup> Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

## 10 – Luke 23:1-5

### *Jesus before Pilate*

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.” <sup>3</sup> Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered, “You say so.” <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.” <sup>5</sup> But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

### Take me into the Holy of holies

Take me past the outer courts,  
Into the holy place,  
Past the brazen altar.  
Lord, I want to see Your face.  
Pass me by the crowds of people  
And the priests who sing Your praise.  
I hunger and thirst for Your righteousness,  
But it's only found one place.

Take me in to the holy of holies.  
Take me in by the blood of the lamb.  
Take me in to the holy of holies.  
Take the coal, touch my lips, here I am.

## 11 – Luke 23:6-12

### *Jesus before Herod*

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. <sup>9</sup> He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

## 12 – Luke 23:13-25

### *Jesus Sentenced to Death*

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

<sup>18</sup> Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” <sup>19</sup> (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

### Offering

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

Triumphant God, we echo the shouts of “Hosanna!” as we relive the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and all that waits in the week to come. Like that first parade so long ago, we may have different ideas of what kind of a messiah we long to welcome. Many of us seek one who thinks like we think, who will wield power to meet our longings. As we give our gifts this morning, may we be of the heart and mind of submission. You know better than us the messiah that is needed for your kingdom to come on earth, as it is in heaven. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

### Prayer for Ourselves and Others

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C25palms.htm>

Please give us the grace, loving God, to pray with our hearts as well as our lips, and to serve with our deeds as well as our prayers.

In places where the church celebrates with joy today, where it laughs with little children and praises with elderly saints, till hosannas overflow from every loving heart; may your kingdom come,

**And your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



In places where the church gathers in sorrow or fear today, weeping with Christ Jesus for the cross that must be carried in the face of misunderstanding and abuse; may your kingdom come.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

In places where ordinary people are disillusioned with that greed and injustice that wants the poor and the weak blamed for the deprivations that afflict them; your kingdom come.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

In places where people are at their wits end, angry or frightened, ready to hit out violently at those around them, or falling into despair and planning to take their own lives; Your kingdom come.

**Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

In places where there are small hopes begging to be kept alive, programmes of compassion needing to be supported, and the beginnings of faith requiring recognition and encouragement; your kingdom come.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

God of Christ Jesus and our God, enable each of us to enter into fellowship with the Spirit of Christ, that our personal happiness and suffering may not be wasted, but dedicated to your infinite purposes which are often baffling but always loving. In Your name we pray.

**Amen!**

### 13 – Luke 23:26-43

#### *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

<sup>26</sup> As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup> For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup> Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[<sup>34</sup> Then

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

## Communion

### Great prayer of thanksgiving

The LORD is our shepherd  
In a world that grasps after everything  
We lack nothing  
Our strength, our hope, our lives  
Come from You, O God

### **You alone are worthy of our praise**

You set our feet in good places  
The richness of Your presence  
Makes every hillside green  
The rushing streams and still pools  
Gift us rest amidst the rush of life

### **You alone are worthy of our thanks**

You travel with us in our darkest fears  
When life becomes too hard  
When our burdens become too heavy  
Your presence in our darkness  
Brings comfort and peace

### **You alone are worthy of our praise**

You are behind us and before us  
In sin and hopelessness, fear and guilt  
You abide with us, we with you  
The cross of death a symbol of the life you give  
The empty tomb a silent beacon of hope

**You alone are worthy of our worship**

And so we praise you together with all your people  
And in the company of the heavenly host

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the highest**

And now we live and proclaim the life, the death and resurrection  
The ascension and glorified greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Christ has died**

**Christ has risen**

**Christ will come again**

Ever loving God, pour out your Spirit upon us  
That as we share in these gifts of the bread and the cup  
We might meet Christ anew  
Becoming his hands and his feet in this broken world in which we live

By your Holy Spirit draw us together, one in love and unity  
That as we live out Jesus in us  
Your Holy Name might be praised and glorified forever.

**Together**

Amen

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven holy be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

God of love, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that as we receive this bread and wine we shall by faith receive the body and blood of Christ.

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **John 6:35**

This is the Lord's Table. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast he has prepared. Know that you are loved beyond measure and we are one in the bond of love.

## 14 – Luke 23:44-49

### *The Death of Jesus*

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

## 15 – Luke 23:50-56

### *The Burial of Jesus*

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, <sup>51</sup> had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

### Glory be to God the Father

*Horatius Bonar*

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
God Almighty, Three in One!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Glory be to him alone.

Glory be to him who loved us,  
Washed us from all sin and stain!  
Glory be to him who bought us,  
Made us kings with him to reign!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,  
Glory to the church's King,  
Glory to the King of nations;  
Heav'n and earth your praises bring!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
To the King of glory sing!

"Glory, blessing, praise eternal!"  
Thus the choir of angels sings.  
"Honour, glory, power, dominion!"  
Thus its praise creation brings.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise the mighty King of kings!

### The Grace

As we go from here may we know the presence of God in our lives urging us on to glory.

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

- 1 – Luke 22:14-23  
*The Institution of the Lord's Supper*
- 2 – Luke 22:24-30  
*The Dispute about Greatness*
- 3 – Luke 22:31-34  
*Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial*
- 4 – Luke 22:35-38  
*Purse, Bag, and Sword*
- 5 – Luke 22:39-46  
*Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives*
- 6 – Luke 22:47-53  
*The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*
- 7 – Luke 22:54-62  
*Peter Denies Jesus*
- 8 – Luke 22:63-65  
*The Mocking and Beating of Jesus*
- 9 – Luke 22:66-71  
*Jesus before the Council*
- 10 – Luke 23:1-5  
*Jesus before Pilate*
- 11 – Luke 23:6-12  
*Jesus before Herod*
- 12 – Luke 23:13-25  
*Jesus Sentenced to Death*
- 13 – Luke 23:26-43  
*The Crucifixion of Jesus*
- 14 – Luke 23:44-49  
*The Death of Jesus*
- 15 – Luke 23:50-56  
*The Burial of Jesus*