

Palm Sunday



The Bible says that Jesus travelled to Jerusalem with his followers. As he entered the city, the crowd was excited and joyful. Many had heard about Jesus' teaching and miracles. They longed for a leader who would help them drive out the Romans who ruled their land.

As Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey, the people cheered and praised God. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." The people threw their cloaks and palm leaves onto the ground to pave the way for Jesus.

Some of the religious leaders grumbled about Jesus and the support he had from the crowds.

(Taken from Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12.)



Jesus clears the temple

Jesus went into the temple where the Jews worshipped God. There were people there selling birds and animals and changing money. These people were trading sacrifices and changing money for gifts to the temple.

Jesus overturned the tables they were using for trading and changing the money. He said, 'It is written, "My house will be called a house of prayer." You are making it into a den of robbers.' He would not allow people carrying things to sell through the temple outer areas.

The religious leaders heard this and began to look for a way to kill Jesus because they were afraid of him. The whole crowd was amazed at Jesus' teaching. All the people hung on Jesus' words.

(Taken from Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19.)

Jesus washes his followers' feet



Jesus knew the time had come for him to leave this world and go to his Father. He knew he had come from God and was returning to God.

So Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothes and wrapped a towel round his waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of his followers, the disciples, and then dry them with the towel. When he had finished washing their feet, he put his clothes back on and went back to his place. He said, 'I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. You should wash one another's feet. I tell you the truth.'

Jesus had set an example of serving others, even though he had come from God.

(Taken from John 13)

The Last Supper



It says in the Bible, that after washing their feet, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took some bread, and, thanking God for it, he broke the bread.

Then Jesus gave the bread to each of his disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this is remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup of wine. He gave thanks and gave it to all of them and they all drank. He said, 'This is my blood poured out for many.'

(Taken from Mark 14 and Luke 22)

The Garden of Gethsemene

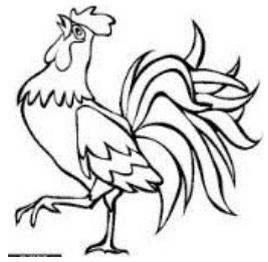


It says in the Bible, that after they had finished their supper, Jesus went out and his followers, the disciples, followed him.

Jesus knew that soon the soldiers would come to arrest him and he would be sentenced to death. He went to a garden, called Gethsemene, with his friends and asked them to keep watch for him while he prayed to God to help him. But his friends were tired and fell asleep. In the darkness of the night, Jesus felt very alone. Even so, he prayed and trusted himself to God's care.

(Taken from Mark 14, Matthew 26, and Luke 22)

Peter denies knowing Jesus



The courtyard was full of people. There were soldiers, servants and strangers. Simon Peter, the disciple, the follower of Jesus was there too. In the firelight, one of the serving women stared at Peter. 'Hey, you.' She shouted to Peter, 'You know Jesus, don't you?'

'No' said Peter.

The woman turned to a man standing nearby. She pointed at Peter. 'He knows Jesus, I'm sure he does.'

'No, I don't,' said Peter, loudly.

The man looked at him curiously. 'I reckon you do know him,' he said. 'No, No, NO!' shouted Peter. 'I have never seen him in my life.' At that moment the cock crowed and Peter remembered Jesus' saying Peter would betray him. Peter wept.

(Taken from Matthew 26)

Jesus is crucified



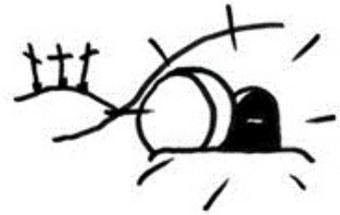
After the trial, the soldiers led Jesus off. The crowd were shouting, 'Crucify him, crucify him.'

They put a robe around him and crown of thorns on his head. Jesus was made to carry a heavy cross to a place outside the city walls, called the Place of the Skull. There he was crucified.

Two criminals were crucified with Jesus. One of them shouted insults to Jesus. The other criminal said, 'You should fear God. We are being punished fairly, but this man has done no wrong.' Turning to Jesus, he said, 'Remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus looked at him with love and said, ' I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.'

(Taken from Luke 23)

The empty tomb



In the Bible it says that, on the third day after Jesus had died, Mary Magdalene and two other women set out at dawn to visit the tomb where Jesus had been laid after he died.

As they reached the entrance, they were startled by the dazzling figure of an angel who said, 'Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here.

He has risen, just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay and then go and tell his disciples what has happened.'

(Taken from Matthew 28)

God with us today



Jesus stayed on earth a few weeks after coming back to life, appearing a number of times to his followers. Having denied he knew Jesus a few days before, Peter was able to say he loved him three times and Jesus told him to be like a shepherd to the believers.

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to inspire his followers. Many people still follow Jesus today and know God's love in their lives.

Psalm 23, written many centuries before Jesus lived, describes God's love and care

- like that of a shepherd leading his flock to water and good pasture,
- being close and helping us through hard times and
- many good things when we trust in him.

(Taken from John 21, Acts 2, Psalm 23)