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forty days *of prayer*

*A scriptural guide through
the Lenten Season
leading to the Resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Savior*

40 Days of Prayer:

It's time to pray! Of course, it is always time to pray (*Pray without ceasing*, 1 Thessalonians 5:17), but throughout scripture and church history, God's people have set aside time for focused prayers, times when His people covenant together to join hearts and hands in united prayer.

Since the third century AD, Christians have set aside the time for fasting, prayer, and reflection in preparation to celebrate Jesus's resurrection. This guide will, day by day, walk us through the biblical record of the last week of Jesus' life, His crucifixion and burial, His resurrection and appearances, culminating with His ascension.

As you read each portion of scripture, take time to pray and reflect on the passage. Think about God's grace, Jesus' obedience, and the unveiling of God's means of addressing our sin. See more clearly His power in raising Jesus from the dead and what that means for us.

Commit to understanding and obeying His instructions to us. Each day take time to P.R.A.Y. - **P**raise him, **R**epent of sins, **A**sk Him to work in your life, and **Y**ield to His truth and leading.

May these 40 days unite us in a time of repentance and cleansing as we take this opportunity to contemplate and reflect on what our Lord really did for us on the Cross. I am grateful to Tina Whitworth, Prayer Team Leader, for preparing this guide.

I am excited to see what God has in store for us as we, obediently and intentionally, unite our hearts before His throne in prayer.

Pastor Marty

Entry into Jerusalem

2/22 Mark 11:1-11 When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, ² saying to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.’” ⁴ They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some people standing around said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. ⁹ Those in front of him and those following were shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”* ¹⁰ Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

Jesus Explains Why He Must Die

2/23 John 12:28-33 . ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)

2/24 Luke 22:1-6 The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was approaching. ² The chief priests and the legal experts were looking for a way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴ He went out and discussed with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard how he could hand Jesus over to them. ⁵ They were delighted and arranged payment for him. ⁶ He agreed and began looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them—a time when the crowds would be absent.

The Last Passover

2/25 Luke 22:7-13 ⁷ The Day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John with this task: “Go and prepare for us to eat the Passover meal.” ⁹ They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?” ¹⁰ Jesus replied, “When you go into the city, a man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. ¹¹ Say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher says to you, “Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?”’ ¹² He will show you a large upstairs room, already furnished. Make preparations there.” ¹³ They went and found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

2/27 John 13:1-30 Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. ² Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing.

The Last Passover

2/28 ⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus replied, “You don’t understand what I’m doing now, but you will understand later.” ⁸ “No!” Peter said. “You will never wash my feet!” Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus responded, “Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ He knew who would betray him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you is clean.” ¹² After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, “Do you know what I’ve done for you? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you speak correctly, because I am. ¹⁴ If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. ¹⁶ I assure you, servants aren’t greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them. ¹⁸ I’m not speaking about all of you. I know those whom I’ve chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture, *The one who eats my bread has turned against me.* ¹⁹ “I’m telling you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I Am. ²⁰ I assure you that whoever receives someone I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

The Last Passover (continued)

3/1 ²¹ After he said these things, Jesus was deeply disturbed and testified, “I assure you, one of you will betray me.” ²² His disciples looked at each other, confused about which of them he was talking about. ²³ One of the disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was at Jesus’ side. ²⁴ Simon Peter nodded at him to get him to ask Jesus who he was talking about. ²⁵ Leaning back toward Jesus, this disciple asked, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “It’s the one to whom I will give this piece of bread once I have dipped into the bowl.” Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son. ²⁷ After Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” ²⁸ No one sitting at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus told him, “Go, buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So when Judas took the bread, he left immediately. And it was night.

3/2 Luke 22:31-34 ³¹ “Simon, Simon, look! Satan has asserted the right to sift you all like wheat. ³² However, I have prayed for you that your faith won’t fail. When you have returned, strengthen your brothers and sisters.” ³³ Peter responded, “Lord, I’m ready to go with you, both to prison and to death!” ³⁴ Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster won’t crow today before you have denied three times that you know me.”

Gethsemane

3/3 Mark 14:32-42 ³² Jesus and his disciples came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James, and John along with him. He began to feel despair and was anxious. ³⁴ He said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here and keep alert.” ³⁵ Then he went a short distance farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, he might be spared the time of suffering. ³⁶ He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible. Take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.” ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you stay alert for one hour? ³⁸ Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ Again, he left them and prayed, repeating the same words. ⁴⁰ And, again, when he came back, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open, and they didn’t know how to respond to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? That’s enough! The time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up! Let’s go! Look, here comes my betrayer.”

Arrest and Phony Trials

3/4 John 18:1-14 After he said these things, Jesus went out with his disciples and crossed over to the other side of the Kidron Valley. He and his disciples entered a garden there. ² Judas, his betrayer, also knew the place because Jesus often gathered there with his disciples. ³ Judas brought a company of soldiers and some guards from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came there carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Jesus knew everything that was to happen to him, so he went out and asked, “Who are you looking for?” ⁵ They answered, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I Am.” (Judas, his betrayer, was standing with them.) ⁶ When he said, “I Am,” they shrank back and fell to the ground.

Arrest and Phony Trials (continued)

3/6 ⁷ He asked them again, “Who are you looking for?” They said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you, ‘I Am.’ If you are looking for me, then let these people go.” ⁹ This was so that the word he had spoken might be fulfilled: “I didn’t lose anyone of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹ Jesus told Peter, “Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?” ¹² Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the guards from the Jewish leaders took Jesus into custody. They bound him ¹³ and led him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. (¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it was better for one person to die for the people.)

3/7 John 18:19-24 ¹⁹ Meanwhile, the chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, “I’ve spoken openly to the world. I’ve always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews gather. I’ve said nothing in private. ²¹ Why ask me? Ask those who heard what I told them. They know what I said.” ²² After Jesus spoke, one of the guards standing there slapped Jesus in the face. “Is that how you would answer the high priest?” he asked. ²³ Jesus replied, “If I speak wrongly, testify about what was wrong. But if I speak correctly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him, bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

3/8 Matt 26:57-68 ⁵⁷ Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. ⁵⁸ Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest’s courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out. ⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ They didn’t find anything they could use from the many false witnesses who were willing to come forward. But finally they found two ⁶¹ who said, “This man said, ‘I can destroy God’s temple and rebuild it in three days.’”

Arrest and Phony Trials (continued)

3/9 ⁶² Then the high priest stood and said to Jesus, “Aren’t you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?” ⁶³ But Jesus was silent. The high priest said, “By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the Christ, God’s Son.” ⁶⁴ “You said it,” Jesus replied. “But I say to you that from now on you’ll see *the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds.*” ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He’s insulting God! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you’ve heard his insult against God. ⁶⁶ What do you think?” And they answered, “He deserves to die!” ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and beat him. They hit him ⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy for us, Christ! Who hit you?”

3/10 Luke 22:54-62 ⁵⁴ After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest’s house. Peter followed from a distance. ⁵⁵ When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, “This man was with him too.” ⁵⁷ But Peter denied it, saying, “Woman, I don’t know him!” ⁵⁸ A little while later, someone else saw him and said, “You are one of them too.” But Peter said, “Man, I’m not!” ⁵⁹ An hour or so later, someone else insisted, “This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too.” ⁶⁰ Peter responded, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord’s words: “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Questioning Continues

3/11 John 18:28-38 ²⁸ The Jewish leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early in the morning. So that they could eat the Passover, the Jewish leaders wouldn't enter the palace; entering the palace would have made them ritually impure. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law." The Jewish leaders replied, "The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone." (³² This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.)

3/13 ³³ Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here." ³⁷ "So you are a king?" Pilate said. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

3/14 Luke 23:1-17 The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and ² began to accuse him. They said, "We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king." ³ Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no legal basis for action against this man." ⁵ But they objected strenuously, saying, "He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here." ⁶ Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.

Questioning Continues

3/15 ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was from Herod's district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign. ⁹ Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn't respond to him. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus. ¹¹ Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. ¹² Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies. ¹³ Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. ¹⁴ He said to them, "You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man's conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I'll have him whipped, then let him go."

Convenient Sentence and Torture

3/16 Matt 27:11-27 ¹¹ Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." ¹² But he didn't answer when the chief priests and elders accused him. ¹³ Then Pilate said, "Don't you hear the testimony they bring against you?" ¹⁴ But he didn't answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ It was customary during the festival for the governor to release to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they might choose. ¹⁶ At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ When the crowd had come together, Pilate asked them, "Whom would you like me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ He knew that the leaders of the people had handed him over because of jealousy.

Convenient Sentence and Torture (continued)

3/17 ¹⁹ While he was serving as judge, his wife sent this message to him, "Leave that righteous man alone. I've suffered much today in a dream because of him." ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. ²¹ The governor said, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" "Barabbas," they replied. ²² Pilate said, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify him!" ²³ But he said, "Why? What wrong has he done?" They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" ²⁴ Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was starting. So he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I'm innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It's your problem." ²⁵ All the people replied, "Let his blood be on us and on our children." ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

3/18 John 19:1-7 ¹ 9 Then Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. ³ Over and over they went up to him and said, "Greetings, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. ⁴ Pilate came out of the palace again and said to the Jewish leaders, "Look! I'm bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no grounds for a charge against him." ⁵ When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here's the man." ⁶ When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate told them, "You take him and crucify him. I don't find any grounds for a charge against him." ⁷ The Jewish leaders replied, "We have a Law, and according to this Law he ought to die because he made himself out to be God's Son."

Consequences

3/20 Matt 27:3-10 ³ When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that Jesus was condemned to die, he felt deep regret. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, and ⁴ said, “I did wrong because I betrayed an innocent man.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.” ⁵ Judas threw the silver pieces into the temple and left. Then he went and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, “According to the Law it’s not right to put this money in the treasury. Since it was used to pay for someone’s life, it’s unclean.” ⁷ So they decided to use it to buy the potter’s field where strangers could be buried. ⁸ That’s why that field is called “Field of Blood” to this very day. ⁹ This fulfilled the words of Jeremiah the prophet: *And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price for the one whose price had been set by some of the Israelites,* ¹⁰ *and I gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.*

To Golgotha

3/21 Mark 15:21-41 ²¹ Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus’ father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place. ²³ They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn’t take it. ²⁴ They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The notice of the formal charge against him was written, “The king of the Jews.” ²⁷ They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, “Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? ³⁰ Save yourself and come down from that cross!” ³¹ In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal experts. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we’ll see and believe.” Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him.

To Golgotha (continued)

3/22 Luke 23:32-34 ³² They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. ³³ When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

3/23 Mark 15:33-41 ³³ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. ³⁴ At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani*," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?" ³⁵ After hearing him, some standing there said, "Look! He's calling Elijah!" ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ But Jesus let out a loud cry and died. ³⁸ The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly God's Son." ⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When Jesus was in Galilee, these women had followed and supported him, along with many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him.

Burial

3/24 John 19:31-37 ³¹ It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. ³² Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe. ³⁶ These things happened to fulfill the scripture, *They won't break any of his bones.* ³⁷ And another scripture says, *They will look at him whom they have pierced.*

3/25 Luke 23:50-56 ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council. He was a good and righteous man. ⁵¹ He hadn't agreed with the plan and actions of the council. He was from the Jewish city of Arimathea and eagerly anticipated God's kingdom. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Taking it down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb carved out of the rock, in which no one had ever been buried. ⁵⁴ It was the Preparation Day for the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was quickly approaching. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid in it, ⁵⁶ then they went away and prepared fragrant spices and perfumed oils. They rested on the Sabbath, in keeping with the commandment.

Burial (continued)

3/27 Matt 27:62-66 ⁶² The next day, which was the day after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate. ⁶³ They said, “Sir, we remember that while that deceiver was still alive he said, ‘After three days I will arise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore, order the grave to be sealed until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people, ‘He’s been raised from the dead.’ This last deception will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate replied, “You have soldiers for guard duty. Go and make it as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ Then they went and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and posting the guard.

Empty Tomb

3/28 Matt 28:1-10 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. ² Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. ³ Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men.

3/29 ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. ⁷ Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.” ⁸ With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

Empty Tomb (continued)

3/30 Matt 28:11-15 ¹¹ Now as the women were on their way, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² They met with the elders and decided to give a large sum of money to the soldiers. ¹³ They told them, "Say that Jesus' disciples came at night and stole his body while you were sleeping. ¹⁴ And if the governor hears about this, we will take care of it with him so you will have nothing to worry about." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were told. And this report has spread throughout all Judea to this very day.

Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection

3/31 Luke 24:13-39 ¹³ On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?" ¹⁹ He said to them, "What things?" They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him." ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection (continued)

4/1 ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets. ²⁸ When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?" ³³ They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread. ³⁶ While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ³⁷ They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have."

Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection (continued)

4/3 John 20:24-31 ²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe." ²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" ²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." ³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

4/4 John 21:1-25 Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two other disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing." They said, "We'll go with you." They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net.

Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection (continued)

4/5 ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you've just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn't torn, even with so many fish. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ He asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He replied, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection (continued)

4/6 ¹⁸ I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me." ²⁰ Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. This was the one who had leaned against Jesus at the meal and asked him, "Lord, who is going to betray you?" ²¹ When Peter saw this disciple, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" ²² Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain until I come, what difference does that make to you? You must follow me." ²³ Therefore, the word spread among the brothers and sisters that this disciple wouldn't die. However, Jesus didn't say he wouldn't die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what difference does that make to you?" ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies concerning these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If all of them were recorded, I imagine the world itself wouldn't have enough room for the scrolls that would be written.

His Ascension

4/7 Matt 28:16-20 ¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and spoke to them, “I’ve received all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

4/8 Luke 24:50-53 ⁵⁰ He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. ⁵³ And they were continuously in the temple praising God.