

HOLY WEEK: 7

Easter Sunday 12th April also called **Pascha** Comes from the word Passover

Introduction:

Our journey through **LENT** and **HOLY WEEK** has engaged us in a roller coaster ride of emotions. We have looked deeply into ourselves, examining the condition of our hearts, minds, and souls. We have celebrated the life and teaching of Jesus Christ our Lord, acknowledged His Kingship and given Him glory in praise and worship. We have felt the pain of betrayal, the agony of torture. We have stood at the foot of His cross and witnessed His barbaric death. We have followed Him to the tomb and grieved at His passing falling into the depths of darkness and silence. Now, today comes the most glorious surprise ever known to have blessed all Creation. The physical resurrection of our divine Lord Jesus Christ, the culmination of His victory and the realisation of God with us forever, **Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer: *All say together*

CD 2: Keith Green-*The ministry years Volume 1: Track 3:* Easter Song

Hear the bells ringing their singing that you can be born again
Hear the bells ringing their singing Christ is risen from the dead
The angel upon the tombstone said 'He has risen just as He said'
'Quickly now go tell His disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead'

Chorus:...

*Joy to the world He is risen, hallelujah! He's risen hallelujah!
He's risen hallelujah! hallelujah!*

Hear the bells ringing their singing that you can be healed right now
Hear the bells ringing their singing Christ He will reveal it now
The angels, they all surround us and they are ministering Jesus' power
Quickly now reach out and receive it for this could be your glorious hour

Chorus:...

The angel upon the tombstone said 'He has risen just as He said'
'Quickly now go tell His disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead'

Chorus:...

*Joy to the world He has risen, hallelujah! He's risen hallelujah!
He's risen hallelujah! hallelujah! hallelujah! hallelujah!*

Matthew 28:1-10 *The Resurrection of Jesus*

¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightening and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him'. This is my message for you.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me."

CD: 2: The Talbot Brothers Collections **Track 9:** He is Risen!

Upon the first day of the week
The three women came with the spices to treat
They found the stone rolled back; the tomb empty
Still at a loss, still out of fright
Two angels appeared; guardians dazzling in white
Why do you search in a tomb for the Living One
He's risen! He is our King!
Today is the day salvation's favoured you
He's risen! He is our King!
Go forth into the world and do not fear
 Remember what Jesus did say unto thee
 I will be delivered unto evil men and crucified but I will rise again
 He's risen! He is our King!
 Today is the day salvation's favoured you
 He's risen! He is our King!
 Go forth into the world and do not fear
Go now and proclaim to the nations
Make disciples of all the world
Go now and proclaim the Kingdom
Every knee will bow
Baptise in the name of the Father
Baptise in the name of the Son
Baptise in the name of the Spirit
Every knee will bow every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

The Women and the Angel

Mary and Mary Magdalene were up at the crack of dawn; they were desperate to see Jesus to make sure that He had been tended to and laid out respectfully according to the law. They would then say their final farewells, but the closer they got to the tomb the heavier their hearts became with grief. Everything had happened so fast that they hardly had time to take it all in and they were both full of sadness. Mary Magdalene turned to the other Mary, "I don't know what we will find, I'm not sure Joseph had time to bathe Jesus properly or get the right spices and oils to anoint Him with?" "I was wondering about that myself" said the other Mary, "It will be difficult enough to see to the body after three days delay, let alone if Jesus was not tended to correctly." Their feet felt like led and they could not bring themselves to hurry, for dread of what they might find. Mary Magdalene broke the silence between them and suddenly said, "But there will be a heavy stone sealing the tomb, how will we move it?" The other Mary shook her head in desperation, "I've been so consumed with preparing all the ointments that I hadn't even thought of that! Perhaps the soldiers on guard will help us move it away and allow us to enter and do what we need to?" Mary Magdalene was sceptical, "They are under orders not to let anyone in; the Pharisees think His followers will come and steal His body" she stamped her foot on the ground, "they make me so angry!" "But surely they won't suspect two women of doing something like that, will they? Besides, we wouldn't have the strength between us to carry Him very far, even if we wanted to!" Mary said. The two women fell silent once more as they continued their heavy walk toward the tomb. Suddenly there was a loud noise and the earth shook. "What was that?" Mary Magdalene cried, as she clung to the other Mary to steady herself. "It feels and sounds like

an earthquake” said Mary, “We must keep still together and watch for things falling and the ground opening up.” As they clung to one another the sound became more like the grating of rock on rock and the earth stopped shaking. They looked around cautiously, still clinging to one another and found they had reached the tomb and were standing outside the entrance. To their amazement they saw the tomb opened and the stone rolled away with an angel sitting on top of it! The angel was shining so brightly, it was hard to make anything out clearly, but they noticed that the guards had fallen flat on the ground; face down, as if knocked out. They became frightened and clung to each other all the more tightly. But the angel spoke softly to them, like gentle music, and as he spoke so their fears subsided and were gradually replaced with a growing sense of peace. The angel gave them a message, which they were to take directly to the disciples and tell them. The message filled them both with great happiness and abundant joy but they were still a bit mystified. “Did that just happen?” asked Mary as they quickly made their way back to the disciples. “Yes it did!” said Mary Magdalene, “and what’s more that angel *did* say that Jesus is alive!” “I didn’t dream it then” said Mary, “But I can’t quite believe it, it all feels so surreal, that tomb was empty; where *is* Jesus? I saw Joseph lay Him in there with my own eyes, how can this be?” “I don’t understand it either” said Mary Magdalene, “All I know is that my feet felt like led a moment ago and now I feel like I’m flying on angel’s wings!” “Perhaps we’re both dreaming”, said Mary. “Well if we are”, replied Mary Magdalene, “it’s a dream that I don’t want to wake up from, Jesus is alive!” Just then Jesus suddenly appeared in front of them, smiling at them knowingly and saying, “Greetings!” They instantly fell as one person at His feet, full of awe and wonder, hardly able to take in what He was saying to them. Then, just as suddenly as He appeared, He was gone! The two women could not get to their feet quickly enough! Now they ran as fast as they could, they felt fit to burst with excitement and could not wait to tell the disciples all that had happened.

CD: Beauty for Ashes *by* Crystal Lewis **Track 1:** The Beauty of the Cross

King of my life I crown you now
You’re the ruler of my heart I will wear it loud
I will tell the whole world about You
You died in my place You suffered all for me
Just so I could live You were broken and bruised
I will tell the whole world about You

Chorus:...

*The cross stained by blood
The beauty of the cross
Healing for the lost
The cross stained by blood
The beauty of the cross
Healing for the lost, the cross*

King of my life I crown You now
You’re the healer I’ve longed for
Now of heaven I’m sure
And I will tell the whole world about You

Chorus:...

Thorns on Your brow
Stripes on Your back
So innocent, You did it all for me

Nails in Your hands

Nails in Your feet

Sword in Your side, You did it all for me.

You paid the cost that's the beauty of the cross.

Chorus:...

Matthew 28:11-15 *The Report of the Guard*

¹¹While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³telling them, 'You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this comes to the governors ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' ¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

Four Guards and the Presence of an Angel

Romulus, Dominicus, Perseus, and Brutus, sat up and gazed around in a dazed state. They looked at each other not sure what to think about what had just happened. "Was that an earthquake, and did I really see an angel?" said Perseus. "Whew! I'm glad you saw it too!" said Romulus, "I thought I was having one of those near death experiences." Brutus was indignant, "I have never been overpowered by anyone or anything like that before, I was flung to the floor like a rag doll and couldn't move" he said. As the others stood up and brushed themselves off, Dominicus, remained silent and sitting on the soft earth. Brutus gave him a kick, "Come on Dominicus, get up! Shake it off! We're all right, no harm done, get up now!" and he gave Dominicus another kick. Romulus, stepped in between them and said, "Stop it Brutus, can't you see that he's greatly disturbed by what just happened? Are you all right Dominicus, speak to me, what's going on in that head of yours?" Dominicus slowly looked up at Romulus and then at the others with glazed, unseeing eyes. He was still processing what he thought he had seen and heard but it was all like a dream. Perseus stared at him hard, "If you're thinking you've gone mad, don't, we all saw that angel roll the stone away, even though we couldn't look straight at him, being so bright and all." "That's right" encouraged Romulus, "Look, the stone *is* rolled away, the tomb *is* open, that can't have happened on its own". "Hey, wait a minute!" said Brutus, "has anyone looked inside yet? If that body is gone we're in for it!" Perseus ducked nimbly inside and popped straight out again. "There's no body in sight, its gone! What's more the grave linens that Jesus was wrapped in are all folded up nice and neat like, where His head was laid." Brutus exploded, "What!" he looked frightened, something rare for Brutus. "We had better get back and tell the chief priests what's happened here and be quick about it. I don't know what they will do to us over this" he said. "Hold on a minute!" said Dominicus, "Let's not be hasty; what *did* just happen here? That angel *said* Jesus was not here; he *said* Jesus had been raised from death and what's more he told the women to go and tell His disciples to make their way to some place they had arranged and meet Him." They looked from one to the other trying to make sense of what they had all seen and heard. Romulus broke the silence, "Dominicus is right, although I couldn't move, I could see and hear everything, and I felt funny, like I had been overwhelmed with tremendous peace and love." "Don't talk soft!" said Brutus, "You're sounding like a *little girly*, man up for goodness sake!" "Steady on Brutus" said Perseus, "We've all had a bit of a shake-up; this is not easily explained. Perhaps Dominicus is right and to be honest, Romulus is not the only one that felt a bit funny, I went a bit weak at the knees too, if you must know!" Brutus let out an exasperated breath, "Well, we can't just sit

here all day getting all *weak* and *wobbly* now can we”, he said sarcastically, “we need to let the chief priests know what’s happened, right now!” and he marched them off briskly back to town. When they told their story, the chief priests listened intently, looking from one to the other with raised eyebrows. Then they offered all four guards a great sum of money to lie about what they had witnessed. Romulus, Dominicus, Perseus, and Brutus, were instructed to tell a different version of events; one that denied Jesus had been raised from the dead. They were ordered to make up reports invalidating any thought that Jesus was alive once more. Brutus didn’t think twice, he took the money and instantly went straight out gossiping and spreading false rumours. The others were more reluctant, especially Dominicus, who took the money, only for fear of reprisals, but chose to tell the Truth. He did not want to keep money given in return for treachery and decided instead to donate it as alms for the poor where it might do some good. Romulus followed his example but Perseus chose to remain silent, say nothing and kept the money for himself.

CD: Glorious Ruins *by* Hillsong United **Track 9:** Man of Sorrows

Man of sorrows Lamb of God

By His own betrayed

The sin of man and wrath of God

Has been on Jesus laid

Silent as He stood accused

Beaten mocked and scorned

Bowing to the Father’s will

He took a crown of thorns

On that rugged cross my salvation

Where your love poured out for me

Now my soul cries out hallelujah!

Praise and honour unto Thee

Sent of heaven God’s own Son

To purchase and redeem

And reconcile the very ones

Who nailed Him to that tree

Now my debt is paid

It is paid in full

By the precious blood

That my Jesus spilled

Now the curse of sin

Has no hold on me

Whom the Son sets free

Oh is free indeed

Matthew 28: 16-20 *The Commissioning of the Disciples*

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I Am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Worship, Doubt, and a Commission

The disciples have mixed feelings about going to Galilee; the women had told them of the empty tomb, the angel and the appearance of Jesus, but some were still sceptical. They made an impressive group as they walked and talked along the road together, accompanied by some of the women. There was Peter, James, John, Andrew, Bartholomew, James the younger, Jude, Matthew, Philip, Simon and Thomas. Only eleven men on this journey and they were all still feeling the shock and grief at what Judas Iscariot had done. “Well”, said Peter full of enthusiasm, “This is exciting! Jesus said He would see us in Galilee and I for one can’t wait!” “You’re always the one to run headlong into things”, said Andrew, “I am still reeling from watching Him die on that cross!” “Yes!” said Thomas, “I can’t believe that He has risen in the flesh, I mean physically that is.” James and John looked at each other; they were both thinking the same thing. “Remember when He told us that He would die but on the third day rise again”, said James. “I do indeed!” said John, “I also remember what He said about destroying the temple and re-building it in three days. That didn’t make any sense to me at all at the time, but it does now.” “I know what you mean”, James replied, “There are a lot of things Jesus said that are beginning to makes sense to me now.” Bartholomew overheard them and joined in, “But how can this be so, I know Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave but surely He cannot raise Himself, can He?” Jude and Simon were bringing up the rear of the party and lost in thought. Jude broke the silence between them, “What do *you* think Simon?” he asked. Simon hesitated before answering, “I think that the women would not spin a yarn like this if it were not true. I know some of them don’t want to believe their story, being women and all, but I do believe them!” James the younger skipped back to join them, “What was that about the women”, he asked. “We were just thinking about what they told us and wondering about meeting Jesus”, said Jude, “what do *you* think James?” James, in his youthful way, was walking backwards and looking at them as they talked. “Like Peter said, it’s exciting isn’t it? I mean seeing Jesus, alive and kicking, that’s got to be the greatest miracle yet hasn’t it?” Matthew and Philip had taken the lead and were striding out in front. “I just don’t know what to think or what to believe”, said Matthew. “Me neither”, said Philip, “But I know one thing, I have lived with Him long enough to know whether it is really Him when I see Him or just some imposter!” When they reached the place Jesus had instructed them to meet Him, the men all sat down on the grass and fell into silence, each thinking their own thoughts, while the women unpacked the picnic and shared it round. No one dared speak; the anticipation became so intense, even the women worked in silence. All at once Jesus appeared over the hill walking toward them. There was a sort of gasp among them, Jesus looked the same but somehow radiant and glowing, nothing like the limp broken body they last saw hanging on the cross and crumpled in His mother’s arms. Immediately, everyone fell down on their faces and worshipped Him. Then Peter jumped to his feet and exclaimed, “Yes! Yeeessss!” and punched the air, “You’re alive! I knew it had to be true, I just knew it!” Then James the younger shouted, “Yahoo!” and sprang to his feet jumping up in the air several times! Mathew and Philip got to their feet a little slower and stood open mouthed in awe and wonder. The women began to scream with whoops and laughter, being filled with inexpressible joy. The rest just sat in wondering silence watching as if in a daze. Jesus knew the hearts of each and every one and that some still could not believe, so He sat down among them. Jesus proclaimed His authority to them and instructed them as to their ministry. When He had finished speaking, He assured them that He would always be with them, now and forever. At this they all felt a sense of peace and strength and joy within, such as they had never felt before, and they began once more

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to worship and praise Him shouting as one voice, “Jesus is alive! Praise Him hallelujah!
Praise God in heaven for Jesus is alive and with us! Hallelujah! **Amen!**

CD 2: The best of Stuart Townend Live volume 2 **Track 13:** In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Poem: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS ©Janice Morgan-1996

Based on Matthew 28:20

God is forever with you **ALWAYS**,
No matter what is said or done,
God still loves you this He says,
A battle fought, a victory won,
That you and He might be as one.

Within your heart His spirit dwells,
Convicting you of every wrong,
But God's heart with forgiveness swells,

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When you cry out repentance song,
Then angels sing in heavenly throng.

God is always with you **FOREVER**,
No matter what you're going through,
God loves and gives and will never,
Give up the smallest part of you,
His love, the cunning serpent slew!

No trial or trauma will succeed,
In keeping you from God's pure love,
A broken heart, an aching need,
Will not be missed by eyes above,
God mends and feeds with gentle love.

Forever and always God is with **YOU**,
No matter who or what you are,
God's Spirit tells you what to do,
The evil one will maim and mar,
But God's love is stronger by far.

No open wound or heart laid bare,
Lies beyond the reach of God's skill,
He will with expert touch and care,
Your frame with strength and healing fill,
With trust, rest in His perfect Will.

Always and forever with you is **GOD**,
No soul is made He does not know,
For each is formed from His rich sod,
He, through all from the start does flow,
And in His likeness helps all grow.

If life is stopped before it starts,
Or if you live beyond your years,
Love in full measure God imparts,
To soothe all sorrows, calm all fears,
Heaven knows no pain and dries all tears.

Silent pause:...

CD 1: Keith Green-*The ministry years Volume 1: Track 13:* There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

Chorus:...
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit—
Till the work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

Chorus:...

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When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.

Chorus:...

Resources: Copies of: x7 of all the following...

CD 2: Keith Green-*The ministry years Volume 1: Track 3:* Easter Song

CD: 2: The Talbot Brothers Collections **Track 9:** He is Risen!

CD: Beauty for Ashes *by* Crystal Lewis **Track 1:** The Beauty of the Cross

CD: Glorious Ruins *by* Hillsong United **Track 9:** Man of Sorrows

CD 2: The best of Stuart Townend Live volume 2 **Track 13:** In Christ Alone

CD 1: Keith Green-*The ministry years Volume 1: Track 13:* There is a Redeemer