

**Scriptures for: Good Friday April 18, 2025 AND Easter Sunday April 20, 2025**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Matthew 26:1-25**

**Shadow of Betrayal**

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, 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 handed over to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup>But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

<sup>6</sup>Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup>a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup>But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>17</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations 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 near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup>So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. <sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; <sup>21</sup>and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup>He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

<sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” <sup>25</sup>Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

## **Matthew 26:31-56**

### **Shadow of Aloneness**

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters 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 ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup>Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” <sup>35</sup>Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

<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>He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup>Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?” <sup>41</sup>Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup>Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>45</sup>Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large 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; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup>At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.”

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup>Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting 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 would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” <sup>55</sup>At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

## **Matthew 26:57-75**

### **Shadow of Denial**

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so 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 fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup>The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” <sup>63</sup>But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, 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 clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup>What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup>Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup>saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” <sup>71</sup>When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup>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 are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **Shadow of Accusation**

#### **Matt 27:1-2, 11-26**

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup>They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <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 should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>23</sup>Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup>Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”

<sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **Shadow of Crucifixion**

#### **Isaiah 53:1-6**

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### **Shadow of Crucifixion** (after the Song)

#### **Matthew 27: 27-44**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup>They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup>As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; 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 clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup>then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup>Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” <sup>38</sup>Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

<sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup>“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” <sup>44</sup>The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### **Shadow of Death**

#### **Psalm 22:1-2, 6-8, 14-18**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping 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 find no rest.

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

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

<sup>8</sup>“Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

<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 mouth 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 are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; <sup>18</sup>they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

### **Shadow of Death** (after Song)

#### **Matthew 27:45-54**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, 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>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **(CYMBOL CRASH)** 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>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

### **Shadow of Burial**

#### **Matthew 27:57-66**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also 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>So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite 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 what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’

<sup>64</sup>Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup>So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

### After the Shadows

#### **Revelation 5:5-14**

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>They sing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; <sup>10</sup>you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.” <sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.



## **Scriptures for April 20, 2025 EASTER SUNDAY**

### **First Scripture**

#### **Psalm 22:25-31 NRSV**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!**

## **Scriptures for April 20, 2025   Easter Sunday**

### **Second Scripture**

#### **Luke 24:1-12 NRSV**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

**This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!**