
The Passion of the Christ



SUZY SCHULTZ, "Lamb", 2000

IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



CHRIST COMMUNITY
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The Passion of the Christ IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 2

The Passion of the Christ

IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Easter **2016**

Introduction

I have been asked why we only focus on the crucifixion and resurrection once a year. This is a great question that serves as a helpful corrective if true, but it is not entirely accurate. Every week we hear an assurance of pardon from Scripture that declares the blessings that come from the death and resurrection of Christ. The song that we sing after the assurance focuses on the person and work of Christ for our edification and His glory. The application of every sermon owes its possibility to the work of Jesus on the cross and the reality of the empty tomb. The Lord's Supper declares the death and resurrection of Christ to us each month until He comes again in the ordinary elements of the bread and cup. Baptism also serves as a witness to the power of the burial of Jesus in death and the rising again to newness of life in the resurrection. All this to say, we focus year round on the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ in a variety of ways!

"Fine", you may say, "but why do we focus so narrowly on it this time of year?" This is yet another great question. There are few times in our culture when people are genuinely open to engaging in a church worship service with Christmas and Easter being the two biggest opportunities (the baptism of a friend or family member is the only other I can think of).¹ Given this rare opportunity to engage the un-churched, the de-churched, and the drifting-from-church in the context of a worship service, we focus on the crucifixion and resurrection from one of the Gospels each year leading up to, on, and through the Sunday following Easter. This practice not only provides an opportunity to share the redeeming work of Christ in these unique aspects of His life with those who doubt or don't believe, but it also benefits the church to consider this part of the story afresh on a yearly basis.

The Gospel of John contains a number of unique scenes in the passion of the Christ as compared to the other Gospels which will be of great benefit to us as we consider afresh His death and resurrection this Easter season. For example, Jesus' high priestly prayer is only found in John 17. What a blessing that we have this prayer to reveal to us what was most important to Christ before His arrest and subsequent crucifixion! The arrest scene in John 18 provides us with some additional details not found in the other Gospel narratives. Jesus' "I am" declaration as well as the arresting party's response reflects John's specific desire to display the divinity of Christ even in this moment of great tension. John 19 provides an exclusive theological insight granted in Christ's declaration from the cross, "It is finished." John alone records Thomas and Jesus' interaction after His resurrection.

¹ We will leave the discussion of the syncretism that has come along with these holidays in our culture for another time though I think syncretism makes an argument for the importance of these opportunities. Why would Satan seek to hijack them if they had no value?

Our time in these unique scenes in the passion of the Christ in the Gospel of John will serve to fill out the larger picture of the person and work of Jesus painted by all of the Gospels.

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from the Psalms in which we will discover the power of resurrection coursing through the Old Testament long before the first advent of Christ. We will join the voices of the saints over the centuries as we confess the Nicene Creed together each week. John will provide our assurances of pardon from his first letter granting us insights into how the death and resurrection of Christ applies to the lives of God's children. Our benedictions will come from 1 Corinthians 15 in which Paul so beautifully describes the blessings and hope of the resurrection of Jesus. There is also an associated hymn for us to reflect on as we prepare for worship each week. All of these elements together should help us to grow in our understanding of and living in light of the death and resurrection of Christ.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the missionaries, church plants, and others going into ministry that we support through Faith Promise. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday to prepare ourselves for worship on Sunday as well as praying for those who will attend with us. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship during this Easter season!

Sola Deo Gloria!

Sermon Schedule

DATE	CALL TO WORSHIP	ASSURANCE OF PARDON	BENEDICTION	COMMUNION
SUNDAY, 3/6: <i>John 17:1-26</i>	<i>Psalm 16:1-11</i>	<i>1 John 1:5-10</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>15:20-23</i>	
SUNDAY, 3/13: <i>John 18:1-19</i>	<i>Psalm 20:1-9</i>	<i>1 John 2:1-6</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>15:24-28</i>	
SUNDAY, 3/20: <i>John 19:14-30</i>	<i>Psalm 21:1-13</i>	<i>1 John 2:23-25</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>15:45-49</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
SUNDAY, 3/27: <i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Psalm 116:1-9</i>	<i>1 John 2:28-3:3</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>15:50-55</i>	
SUNDAY, 4/3: <i>John 21:1-19</i>	<i>Psalm 116:10-19</i>	<i>1 John 4:7-12</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>15:56-58</i>	

Weekly Congregational Confession: *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

The Week of March 6th:

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

MONDAY: *Psalm 16:1-11*: What blessings result from being in the presence of God?

TUESDAY: *1 John 1:5-10*: Can you walk in both darkness and light and have assurance of your pardon in Christ? If you are walking in both darkness and light, what do you need to do to gain assurance of your pardon in Christ?

WEDNESDAY: Pray for Brian and Mandy in South Asia and for Matthew O'Sullivan serving as an intern here at Christ Community.

THURSDAY: *John 17:1-26*: What are the things that Christ requests in this prayer? Are they as important to you as they were to Him?

FRIDAY: *1 Corinthians 15:20-23*: Why is it important for Christ to be the firstfruits in being raised from the dead?

SATURDAY: Pray for Jesus to be glorified in your life and our worship, for those present on Sunday to know in greater measure the only true God, for God's name to be manifested and glorified, for those who don't believe in Christ alone as Savior to come to know Him as Savior through faith alone, and for the Christ Community to be unified in its redemptive mission. Reflect on the words of "Did Christ Over Sinners Weep?".

"We need not doubt that, in this place at any rate, the word "sanctify" means "make holy." *It is a prayer that the Father would make His people more holy, more spiritual, more pure, more saintly in thought and word and deed, in life and character.* Grace had done something for the disciples already- called, converted, renewed, and changed them. *The great Head of the Church prays that the work of grace may be carried higher and further, and that His people may be more thoroughly sanctified and made holy in body, soul, and spirit- in fact more like Himself.*"

J.C. RYLE, *Expository Thoughts on John*

Hymn for Reflection:
Did Christ Over Sinners Weep?

TEXT: Henry Lyte

Did Christ over sinners weep?
And shall our cheeks be dry?
Let floods of penitential grief
Burst forth from every eye
Burst forth from every eye

Chorus:

Behold, the Son of God in tears
The angels wondering see
Hast thou no wonder, O my soul?
He shed those tears for thee!

He wept that we might weep
Might weep over sin and shame
He wept to show His love for us
And bid us love the same
And bid us love the same

Chorus

Then tender be our hearts
Our eyes in sorrow dim
Til every tear from every eye
Be wiped away by Him
Be wiped away by Him
Be wiped away by Him

Chorus

The Week of March 13th:

The Arrest of Jesus in the Garden

MONDAY: *Psalm 20:1-9*: According to David, what results in shouts for joy? Do you still regularly take joy in this?

TUESDAY: *1 John 2:1-6*: If we desire to abide in Christ, what must we do? Give some examples from the life of Christ. What does this look like in your life?

WEDNESDAY: Pray for Tim and Rhianna Mills in Thailand and for Mic Knox serving as an intern at Midway PCA.

THURSDAY: *John 18:1-14*: Who is in control in the garden? What does Jesus' response of "I am" indicate about His identity?

FRIDAY: *1 Corinthians 15:24-28*: Who is the kingdom being delivered to? Who are you being saved to?

SATURDAY: Pray for us to grow in our understanding that Jesus is both God and man, for us to recognize the power in His name, for people to genuinely seek Him this Sunday in worship, and for our church to remain loyal to Him performing the good works that He has prepared for us. Reflect on the words of "Go to Dark Gethsemane."

"Jesus is not departing as the victim of Judas' betrayal and the superior might of his enemies. He has the power to lay down his life before taking it up again, and no one takes it from him (10:18). What he does and suffers he does and suffers out of love for and obedience to the Father (cf. 14:21)."

HERMAN RIDDERBOS, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary*

Hymn for Reflection:
Go to Dark Gethsemane

TEXT: James Montgomery

Go to dark Gethsemane
Ye that feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict see
Watch with Him one bitter hour
Turn not from His grief's away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray

See Him at the judgment hall,
Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Christ to bear the cross
Learn of Christ to bear the cross
Learn of Christ to bear the cross

Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die
Learn of Jesus Christ to die
Learn of Jesus Christ to die

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes;
Savior, teach us so to rise
Savior, teach us so to rise
Savior, teach us so to rise

The Week of March 20th:

The Crucifixion of Jesus

MONDAY: *Psalm 21:1-13*: Based on this Psalm, is God actively involved in preserving the King or is He disinterested and waiting to see what will happen?

TUESDAY: *1 John 2:23-25*: What do you gain by confessing that Jesus is the Christ?

WEDNESDAY: Pray for Steve and Amy Robertson in Chile and for Chris Foglesong at Mountain City Church in Jasper, Georgia.

THURSDAY: *John 19:14-30*: In the death of Jesus on the cross, what is finished? Reflect on the words of "It is Finished- Part 2 (Hark, the Voice of Love and Mercy)."

FRIDAY: *1 Corinthians 15:45-49*: Compare the man of dust with the man of heaven. Which one does your life most reflect?

SATURDAY: Prepare for the Lord's Table by meditating on the painful cost of your redemption to Christ. Give thanks for the finishedness (or completeness) of His work on your behalf. Ask the Spirit to reveal to you anyone with which you need to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation. Consider how you are walking in newness of life in the new covenant.

"It is finished....Now this word, which Christ employs, well deserves our attention; for it shows that the whole accomplishment of our salvation, and all the parts of it, are contained in his death. We have already stated that his resurrection is not separated from his death, but Christ only intends to keep our faith fixed on himself alone, and not allow it to turn aside in any direction whatever. The meaning, therefore, is, that every thing which contributes to the salvation of men is to be found in Christ, and ought not to be sought anywhere else; or- which amounts to the same thing- that the perfection of salvation is contained in him."

JOHN CALVIN, *Commentary on John*

Hymn for Reflection:
It is Finished- Part 2
(Hark, the Voice of Love and Mercy)

TEXT: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855

Hark, the voice of love and mercy
Sounds aloud from Calvary
See, it rends the rocks asunder
Shakes the earth and veils the sky
“It is finished, it is finished,” hear the dying Savior cry
“It is finished, it is finished,” hear the dying Savior cry

“It is finished,” o what pleasure
Do these charming words afford
Heavenly blessings, without measure
Flow to us from Christ the Lord
“It is finished, it is finished,” saints the dying words record
“It is finished, it is finished,” saints the dying words record

Finished all the types and shadows
Of the ceremonial law
Finished all that God had promised
Death and hell no more shall awe
“It is finished, it is finished,” saints from hence your comfort draw
“It is finished, it is finished,” saints from hence your comfort draw

Tune your harps, anew, ye seraphs
Join to sing the pleasing theme
Saints on earth and all in heaven
Join to praise Immanuel’s name
Hallelujah, hallelujah Glory to the bleeding lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah Glory to the bleeding lamb!

The Week of March 27th:

The Resurrection of Jesus: Part 1

MONDAY: *Psalm 116:1-9*: Why does the Psalmist express his love for the Lord? What role does resurrection play in these verses?

TUESDAY: *1 John 2:28-3:3*: Does it matter how we live between the now and the not yet as we await the return of Christ?

WEDNESDAY: Pray for Eric Larsen and Global Youth and Family Ministries and for Jody Stancil at Riverside Community Church in Cartersville, Georgia.

THURSDAY: *John 20:19-31*: Why was it so important for Thomas to experience the resurrected Jesus in the flesh? How does Jesus deal with his demand?

FRIDAY: *1 Corinthians 15:50-55*: Why can't perishable flesh and blood inherit the kingdom? What makes it perishable? What is the benefit of putting on the imperishable?

SATURDAY: Pray for the Spirit to guide you in a deeper understanding of the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus, for the Spirit to draw people to Christ Community on Sunday who need to encounter the risen Lord, and for the celebration of the fruit of repentance and resurrection to newness of life to the glory of God. Reflect on the words of "Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today."

"Thomas' confession does not merely acknowledge the reality of the resurrection but also expresses its ultimate significance: Jesus is the conqueror of death because he is none other than the creator of life. Now the story is told. *The wound of the Garden is healed. On resurrection morning God was able again to say what he had exclaimed over his creation so long ago: "It is good. It is very good."* It matters that Jesus was restored bodily, because it signaled that Jesus was the Creator and promised Redeemer who covenants with his people, who promises to come to them, and who keeps his promises. Jesus the one and only has made Yahweh known. With Thomas we confess that he is God, and we are his."

MICHAEL D. WILLIAMS, *Far as the Curse is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption*

Hymn for Reflection:
Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today

TEXT: Charles Wesley

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

The Week of April 3rd:

The Resurrection of Jesus: Part 2

MONDAY: *Psalm 116:10-19:* How does the Psalmist respond to God loosing the bonds of death and allowing him to walk before the Lord in the land of the living?

TUESDAY: *1 John 4:7-12:* What best reflects our being born again of God in Christ? What does this look like in your life?

WEDNESDAY: Pray for Zach Wagoner, CO, Joehann Guadalupe, CO, and Phillip Mason, RUF as they raise funds to go on staff with their associated campus ministries.

THURSDAY: *John 21:1-19:* Consider how Peter's interaction with the resurrected Christ evidences his restoration. What scenes from the life of Peter are reflected here? How is Christ asking Peter to follow Him at this point that is different than the first time?

FRIDAY: *1 Corinthians 15:56-58:* What victory have we been given through the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ? What impact should this have on us?

SATURDAY: Pray for the peace of Christ to be present in our congregation on Sunday as He presides with us, for clear direction and equipping for the work of the ministry into which we are called to follow Him, for the Holy Spirit to empower us as witnesses to His Gospel, and for our faith to be strengthened in Christ. Reflect on the words of "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

"The question (Jesus) propounds is of such vital importance that all other questions may be set aside till this one question is positively settled, "Lovest thou me?" Hence, beloved, I infer that it is of infinitely more consequence for me to know that I love Christ than it is to know the meaning of the little horn, or the ten toes, or the four great beasts. All Scripture is profitable to those who have grace to profit by it; but wouldest though both save thyself and them that hear thee, though must know him and love him to whom patriarchs, prophets, and apostles bear witness that there is salvation in none other, and no other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved."

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON, *"Do I Love the Lord or No?"*

Hymn for Reflection:
Crown Him with Many Crowns

TEXT: Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him
Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love,
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His wond'ring eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never fail
Throughout eternity.