

The Passion of Christ in



Rembrandt, *The Crucifixion*

the Gospel of Luke

“The most diabolical of all the schemes of Satan was not only countered at every point by a superior plan of God’s devising. It was actually woven into that plan, and made to serve its ends. And if that was what God could do with the master-plot of hell, then there can be no evil which he cannot in the end turn to blessing.”

Michael Wilcox, *The Message of Luke*

This quote perfectly captures the power of the passion of Christ. It also captures the power of the Redemptive Story that begins amidst the shattered covenant after the Fall. **Genesis 3:15** firmly and faithfully declares that the serpent (Satan) will wound the chosen seed of the woman, however, the chosen son will crush once and for all the head of the serpent. This truth is further affirmed in **Genesis 50:20** after the effects of the Fall have proven costly to all of God’s good Creation, and His people are on the precipice of 400 years of backbreaking slavery in Egypt. The Holy Spirit reveals through Joseph that God sovereignly and faithfully uses that which is meant for evil for the purpose of declaring His glory and the redemption of His people (or good for short). These truths find their grandest fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

This Easter season we will look at the passion of Christ in the Gospel of Luke. This devotional is meant to prepare us for worship each Sunday of this season. Read the Scriptures and engage the questions at the end of each section. As a result, I pray that we will be able confess with great joy and confidence the Christological truths of the Apostles’ Creed.

Sola Fide, sola scriptura, solus Christus, sola Gratia, soli Deo Gloria

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He suffered the agony of hell¹,
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church²,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Amen.

¹ We take the position expressed by John Calvin and the Heidelberg Catechism Q/A #44 which states that this refers to the spiritual suffering endured by Jesus Christ in bearing the sins of the elect and receiving the associated judgment of and separation from God

² Other versions include the holy catholic church which refers to the universal church and not the Church of Rome

The Last Passover

*From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. **The afflicted 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 you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. **All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.** Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn that he has done it.*

Psalm 22:25-31

- Read **Exodus 12** about the first Passover and take note of God's grace and promise in this act of redemption.
- Unfortunately, the redemption experienced in the Exodus descended into bitter judgment in exile as a result of the sin of the people of God, however, God promised a new covenant and the restoration of relationship. Consider **Ezekiel 11:14-21** and reflect on its grace and promises.
- Read **Psalm 22:25-31** and **Luke 22:1-23** and compare it with the first Passover and the promises of a new covenant. Take note of the evidences of God's sovereignty and faithfulness.
- Meditate on Jesus' earnest desire to eat this last Passover with the disciples before he was to suffer. What does it mean that Christ is our Passover as written in **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**?

Luke 22:1-23

The Garden of Gethsemane

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.** He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*

Psalm 24:1-6

-According to **Psalm 24:1-6**, who can come before God to receive blessing and righteousness for salvation?

-Read **Ezekiel 21:1-7** and consider God's justice and justness in judging the sins of His people. What does the execution of His justice reveal?

-Read **Luke 22:39-44** and meditate on Jesus' prayer for the cup of judgment that must be exhausted to the dregs to pass from him. What does this reveal about the person of Christ and the cost of serving as our Passover?

-Read **Luke 22:45-53** and consider how the failings and betrayals of those closest to Christ affected him in his humanity.

-Read **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** and give thanks for the lowly and despised Christ who endured such substitutionary suffering that you can only boast in him alone for salvation.

Luke 22:37-53

Peter's Denial of Jesus

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103:6-14

-Meditate on **Psalm 103:6-14**. Which truths bring you comfort?

-According to **Ezekiel 18:25-32**, what is God's desire for those who have denied Him and are separated from Him by their sin?

-Read **Luke 22:54-71** and consider the weight of Peter's denials as Christ's humiliation was erupting in mockery and degrading brutality.

-Read **1 Corinthians 1:4-9** and give thanks for all that you have gained from what proved to be so costly to Christ.

Luke 22:54-71

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away the cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psalm 2:1-6

- What does **Psalm 2:1-6** reveal concerning the desires of the principalities and powers of this world? What does it reveal concerning God's desire?
- Based on **Ezekiel 20:33-39**, what must happen before God's people can be restored to Him under His faithful reign as King?
- Read **Luke 23:1-25** and consider the earthly injustices that were meant for evil that ultimately paved the way for eternal good. Give thanks to God for His sovereignty and goodness.
- Read **1 Corinthians 1:18-25** and praise God for His foolishness and weakness according to the understanding and ways of this world.

Luke 23:1-25

The Crucifixion

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer and by night, but I find no rest. Yet, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted you, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

Psalm 22:1-5

- What do you resonate with in the words of **Psalm 22:1-5**?
- What is the ground on which God deals with His children according to **Ezekiel 20:40-44**?
- Read **Luke 23:26-49** and meditate on the words from “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” on the next page giving thanks for what was gained on your behalf as a result.
- Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-3** and consider how you are standing in this truth.

Luke 23:26-49

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure*

*How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers*

*It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection*

*Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*

Written by Stuart Townsend, 1975

The Resurrection

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.***

Psalm 16:5-11

- According to **Psalm 16:5-11**, what is the purpose of being delivered from the grave (or Sheol)?
- How will the people know that God is the sovereign Lord based on **Ezekiel 37:1-14**?
- Read **Luke 24:1-12** and consider how Christ is the first-fruits of **Ezekiel 37:1-14**.
- Read **1 Corinthians 15:53-57** and give thanks for all that is gained in the resurrection. Consider how you are living in light of the resurrection. Are you walking in newness of life?

Luke 24:7-12