

Good afternoon and welcome to our Easter Service. We look forward to sharing the Easter story together through readings, songs, film and prayers.

At Easter we remember three days that changed the world.

*It started on a Friday
with sadness and with tears.*

*On Saturday came anger
confusion doubt and fears
and then on Sunday morning,
the wonder and the joy
of life that lasts for-ever
that death cannot destroy.*

*Please join us as we sing Three days that changed the
World*

Song:

Three Days that Changed the World

One: Jesus is condemned to death

What had Jesus done?

He had come with stories and wisdom.

He had come with healing and forgiveness.

He had come to make people friends with God.



One: Jesus is condemned to death

But not everyone welcomed the things he did.

There were whispers and lies.

There was anger and spite.

Jesus was condemned to death.



*Dear God
Keep me from anger and spite.
Help me to love and forgive.
Help me to follow Jesus.*

Amen



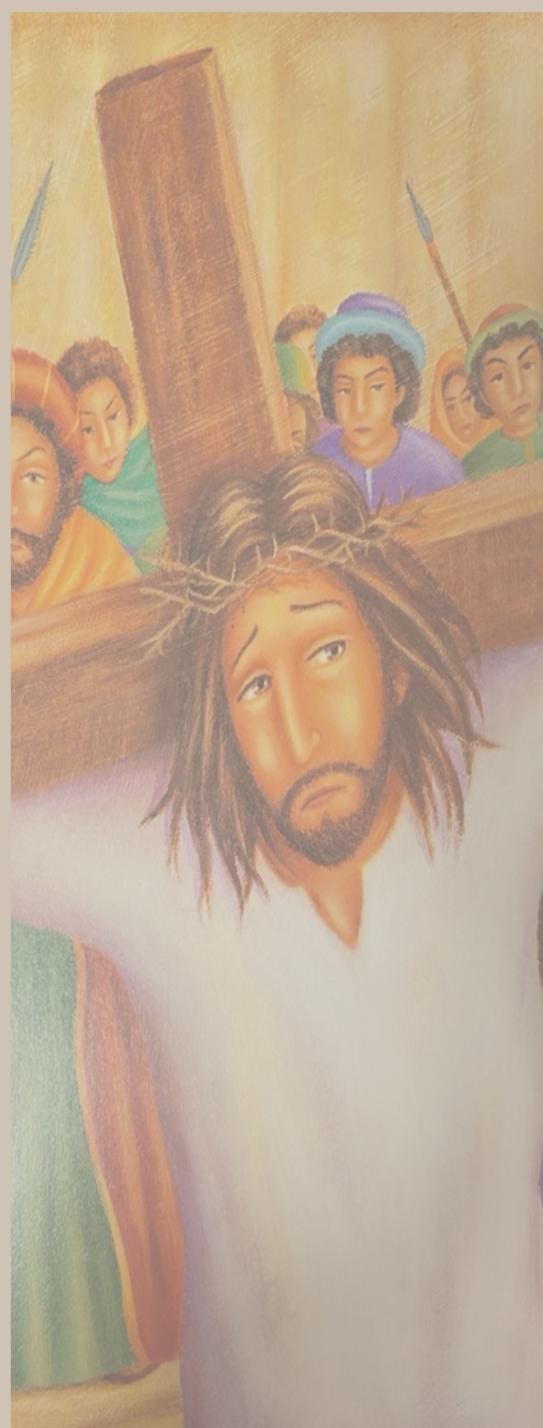
Song:

Hosanna

Two: Jesus is made to carry the cross

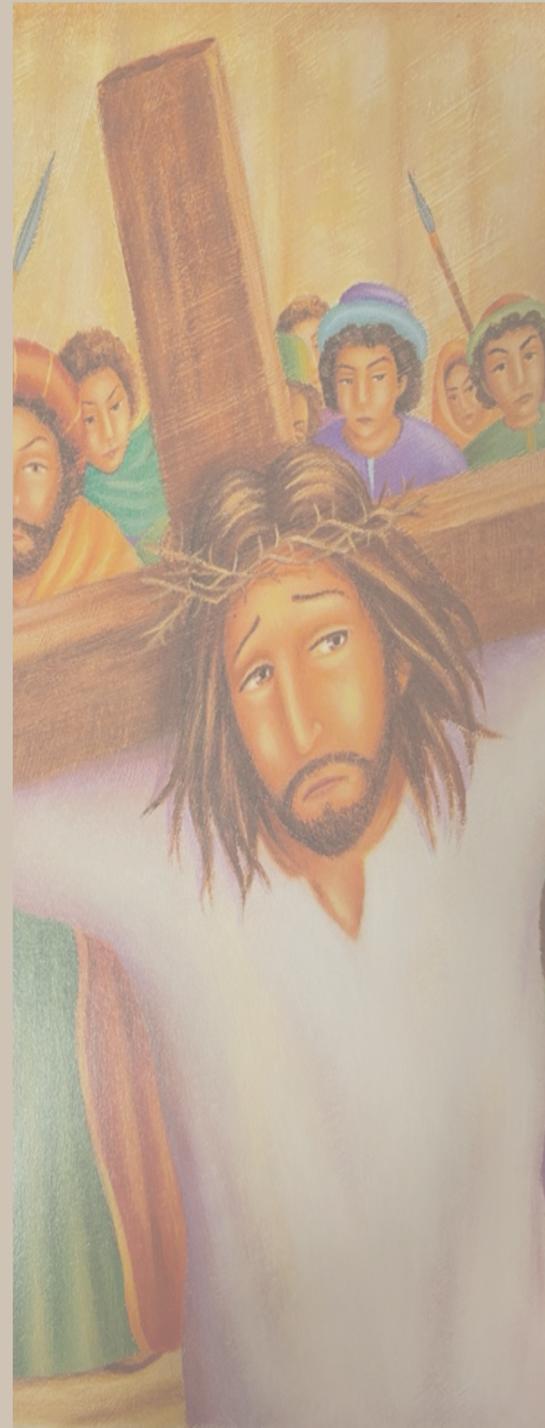
Jesus was condemned to a cruel death: nailed to a cross of wood.

Soldiers loaded the cross onto his shoulders. Although he had done no wrong he was ordered to carry his heavy load through the jeering crowd.



Dear God
When I feel alone
and troubles weigh me down
like a heavy load,
help me to know
that I am walking with Jesus.

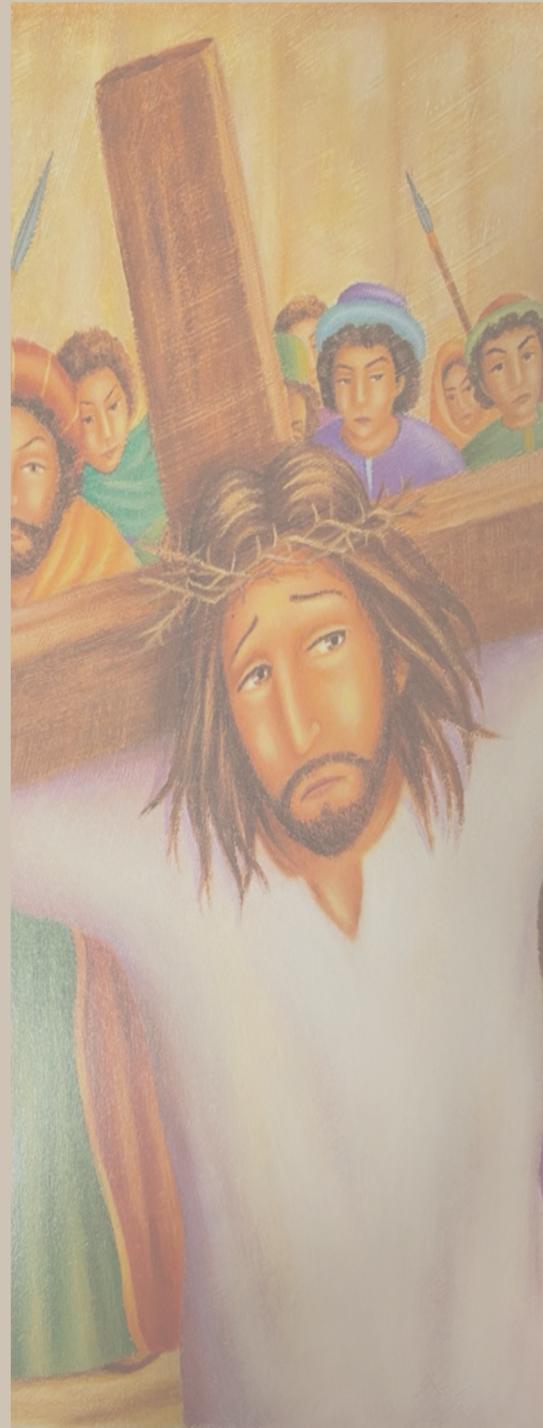
Amen



Three: Jesus falls the first time
under the cross

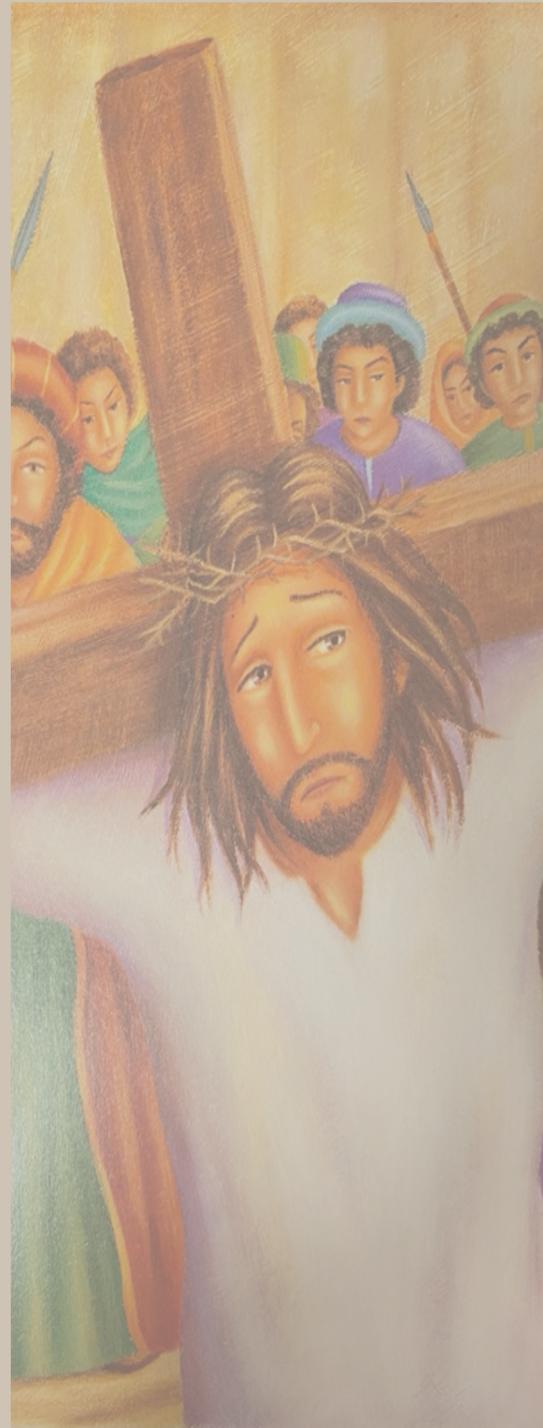
Jesus walked along the narrow streets of Jerusalem, struggling with the heavy cross.

The pavement was rough beneath his feet. The guard hurried him without pity. He lost his footing and fell.



*Dear God
I try to follow Jesus
but sometimes I fail and fall.
May I know in my heart
that Jesus is always with me.*

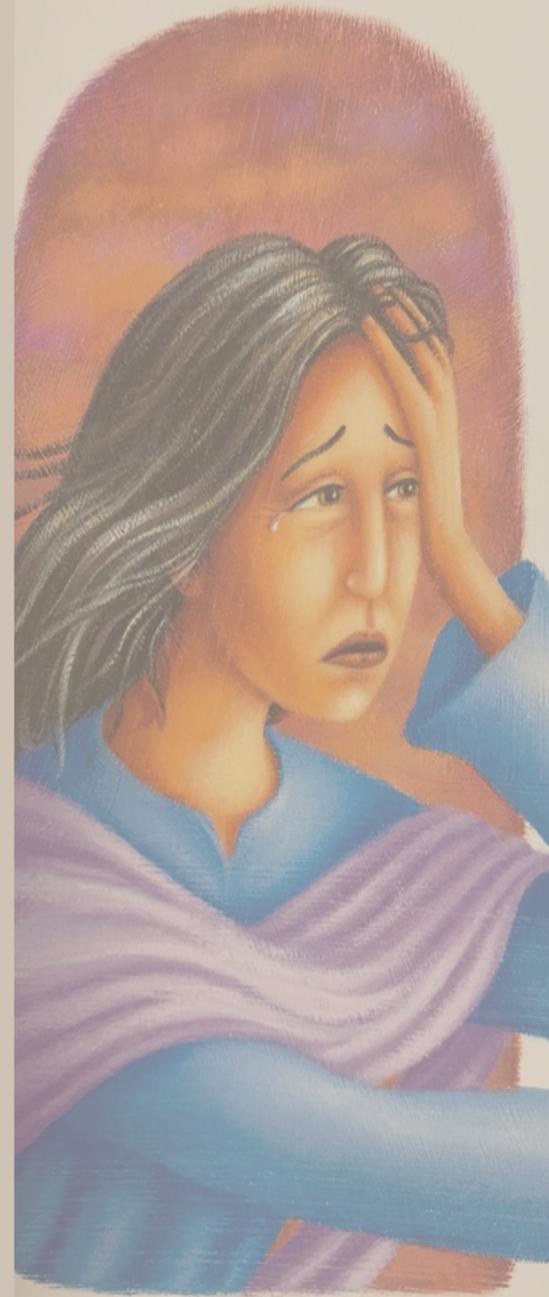
Amen



Four: Jesus is met by his mother

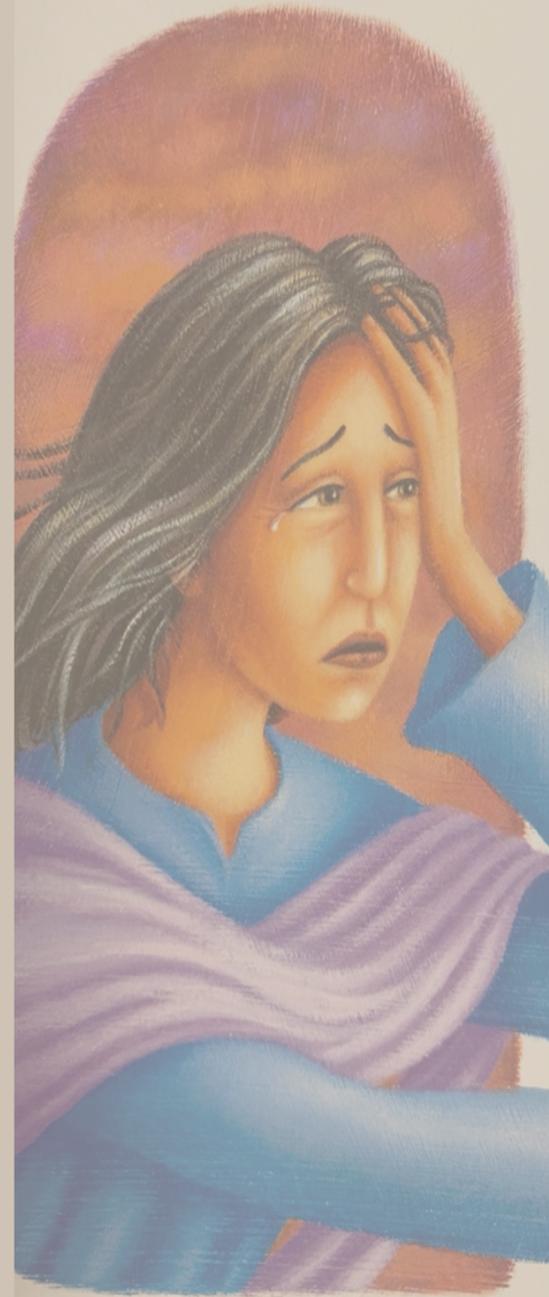
Jesus' mother Mary was in Jerusalem, following her dear son as he walked to a death he did not deserve.

The love of a mother such as Mary is for ever.



Dear God,
Thank you for the great family
of those who follow you,
for they are family to us
and give us help and
encouragement as we also try to
follow you.

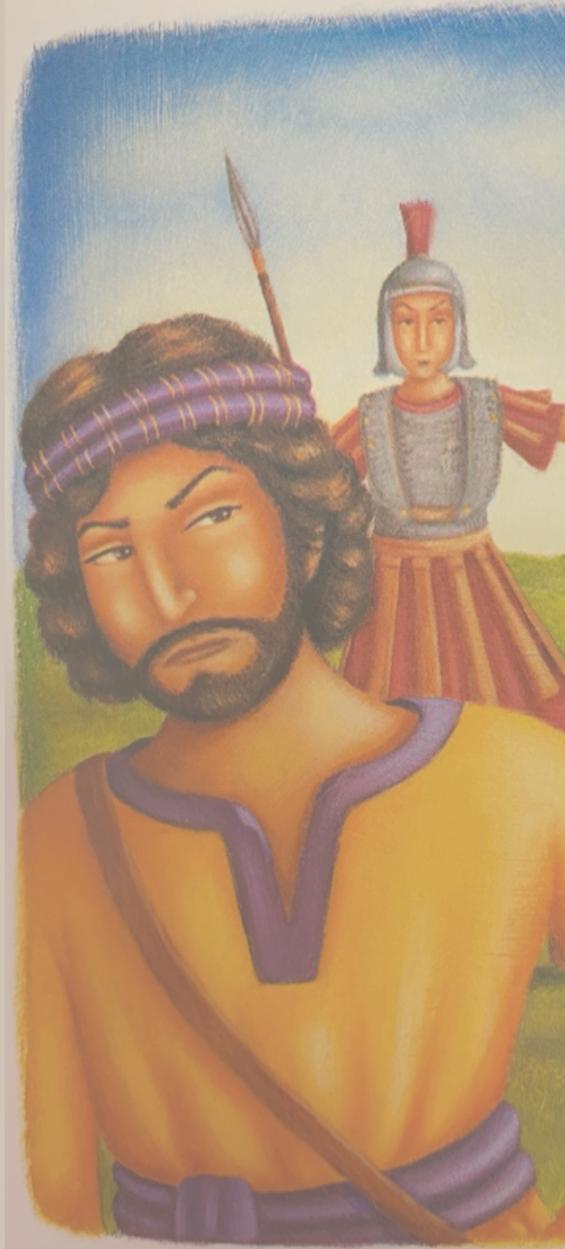
Amen



Five: Simon of Cyrene helps
carry the cross

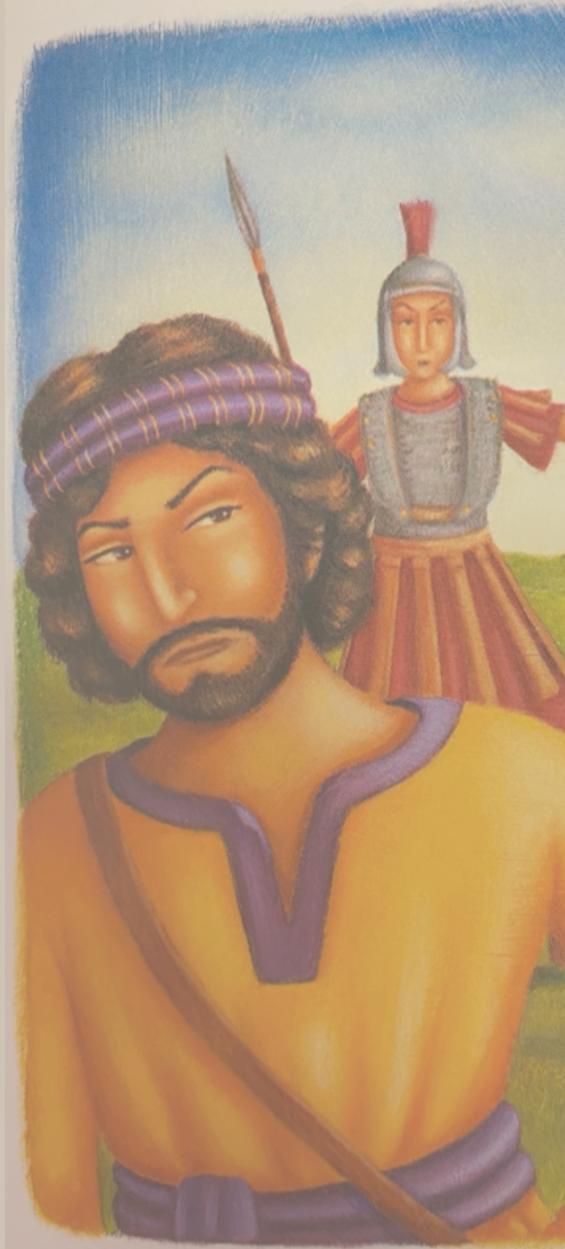
Jesus struggled once again with the cross. The guard grew impatient with his slowness. They saw a strongly built man coming in from the country, Simon of Cyrene.

‘Here, you carry the cross for the wretched prisoner,’ the soldiers commanded. So Simon did.



*Dear God,
Thank you for those whom we do
not know who help us with their
greater strength when we are in
need.*

Amen



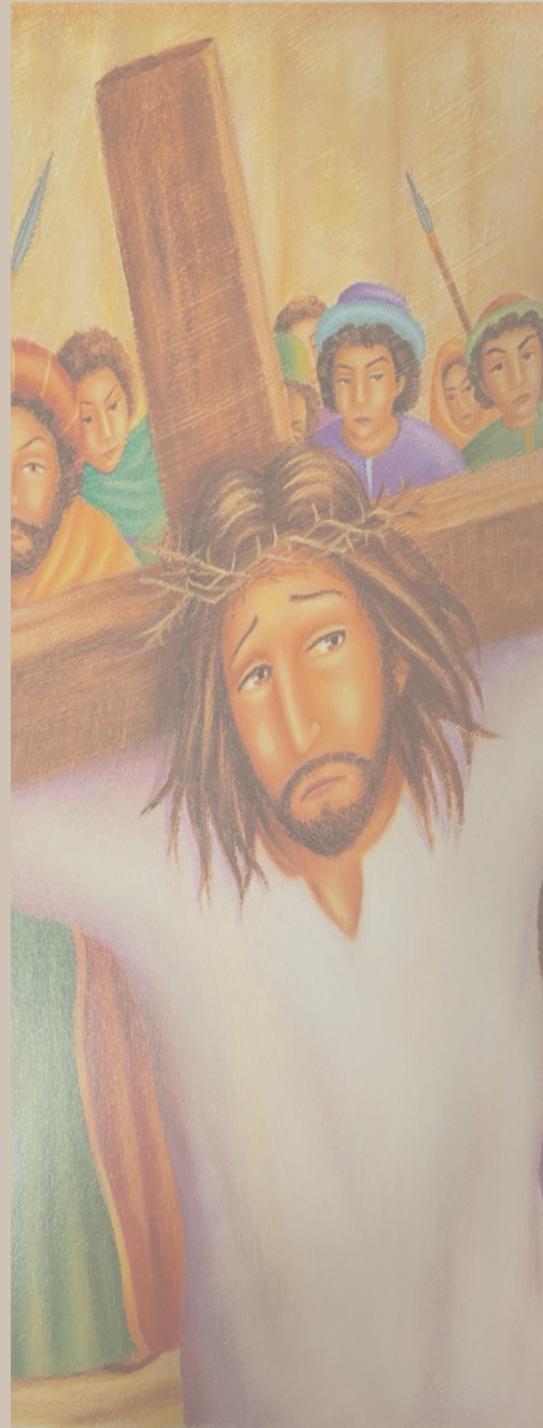
Song:

Everlasting Peace

Six: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

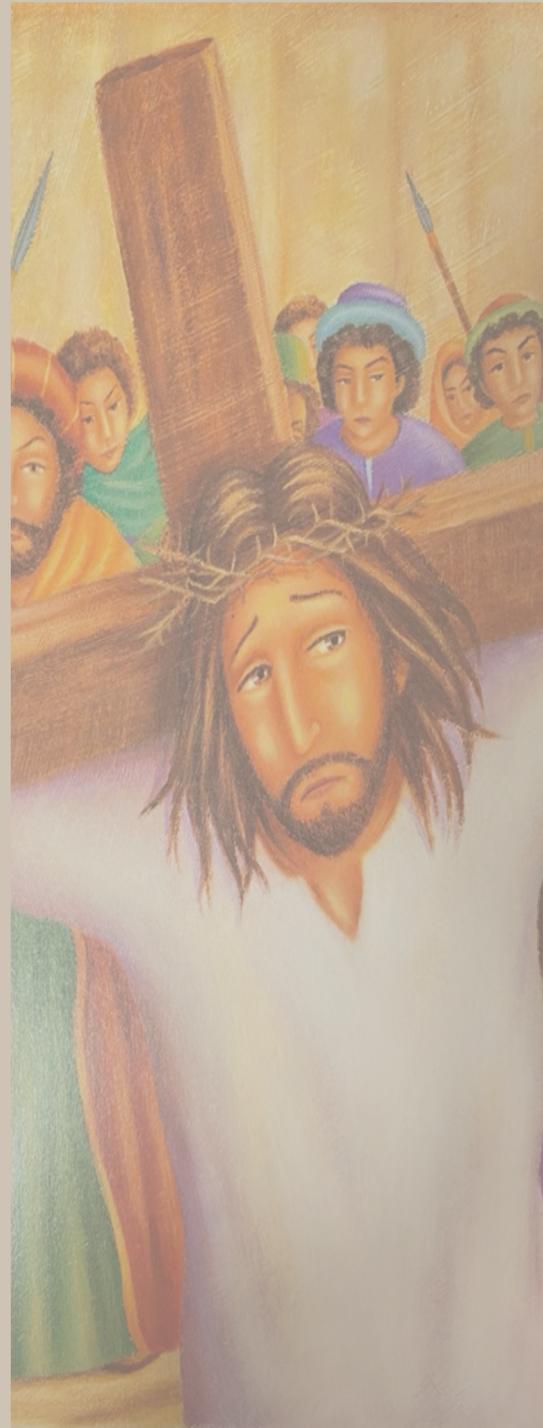
Jesus could barely see the way ahead. Tears clouded his eyes. He tried to wipe them, but only smeared them with the dust from his hands.

Then a woman stepped forward and gently she wiped his face with a cloth.



*Dear God,
We thank you for those who see
the little ways in which to give
help and support.*

Amen

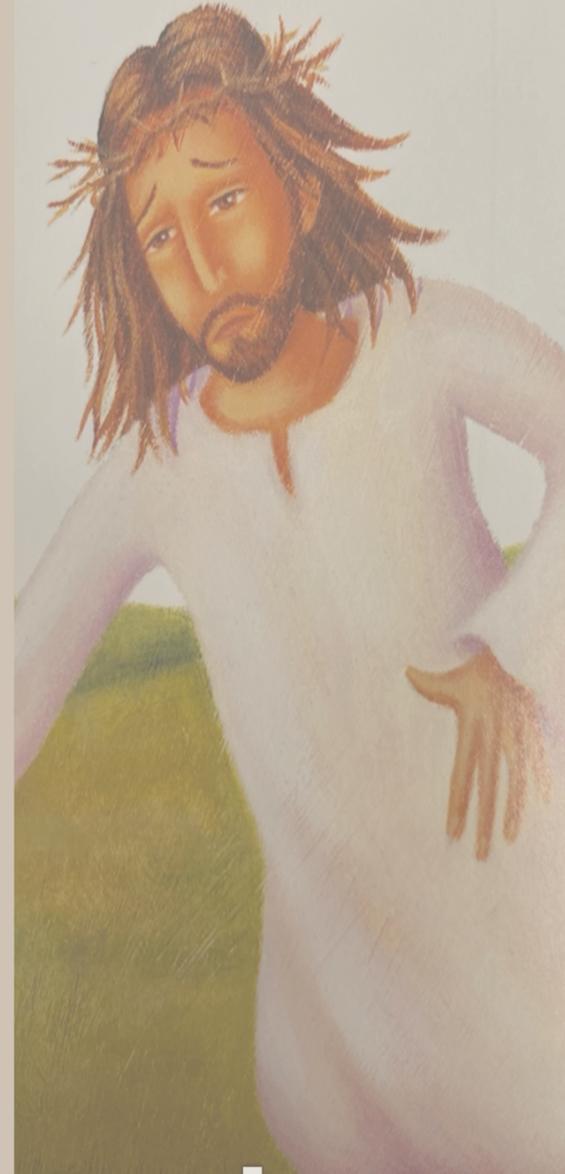


Seven: Jesus falls the second time

The guard urged Jesus forward,
for his sentence to be carried out
without delay.

But who could walk calmly to
the place where there will be pain
and punishment?

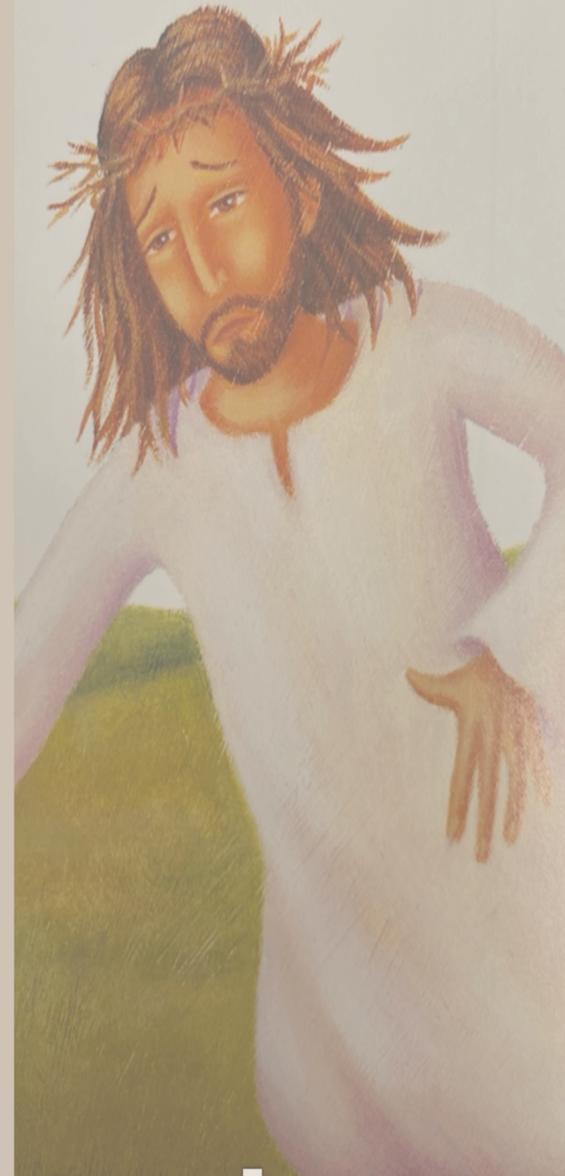
Once again Jesus fell.



Dear God,
I try to follow Jesus
but sometimes I grow fearful and
discouraged.

Help me to trust
that in your care
all things will work together
for the good.

Amen



Eight: The women of Jerusalem mourn for Jesus

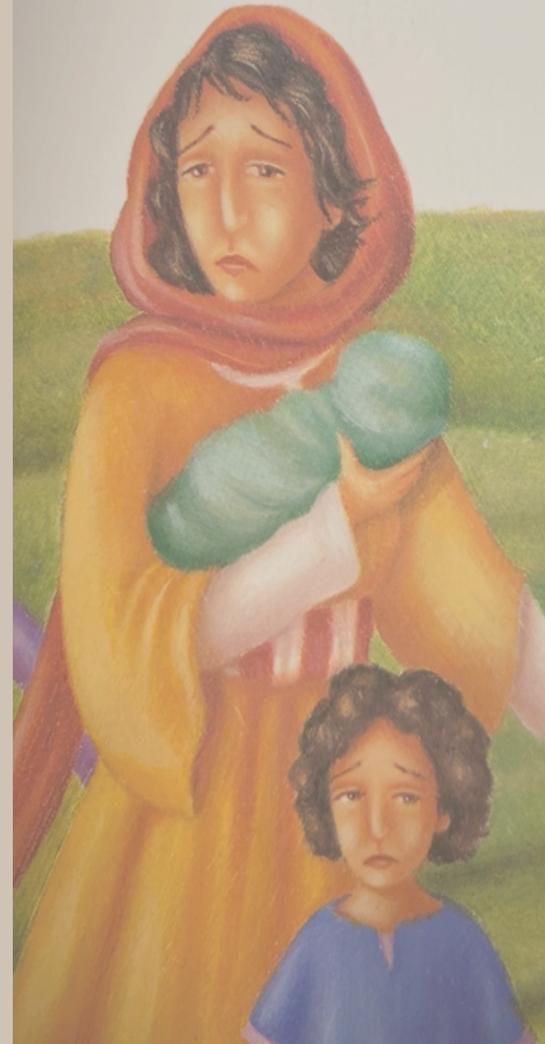
A group of women wept to see
Jesus so cruelly treated.

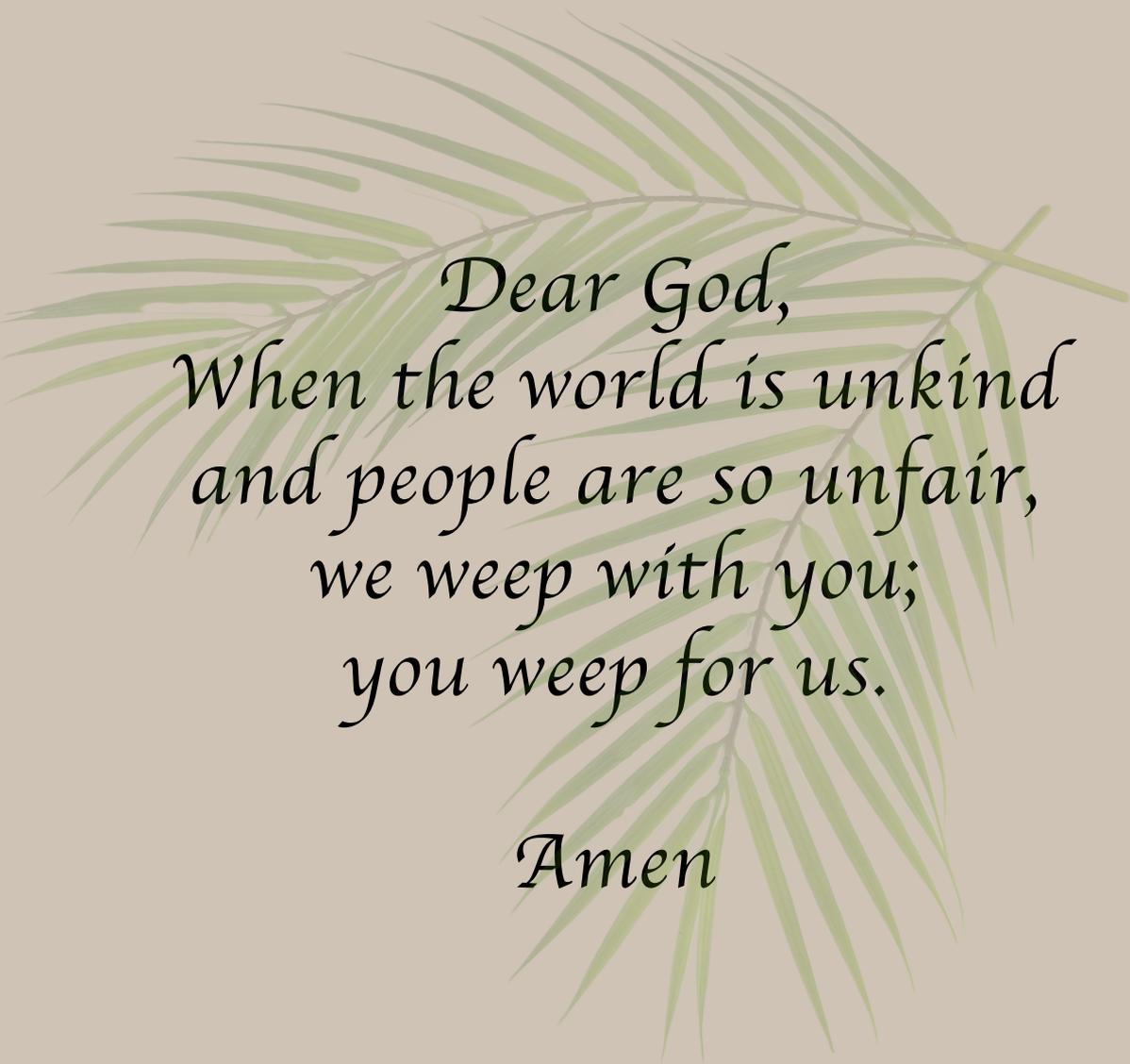
‘He has done nothing wrong,’
they cried. ‘What is happening is
neither right nor fair.’

Jesus looked at them sadly.

‘Do not weep for me,’ he said.

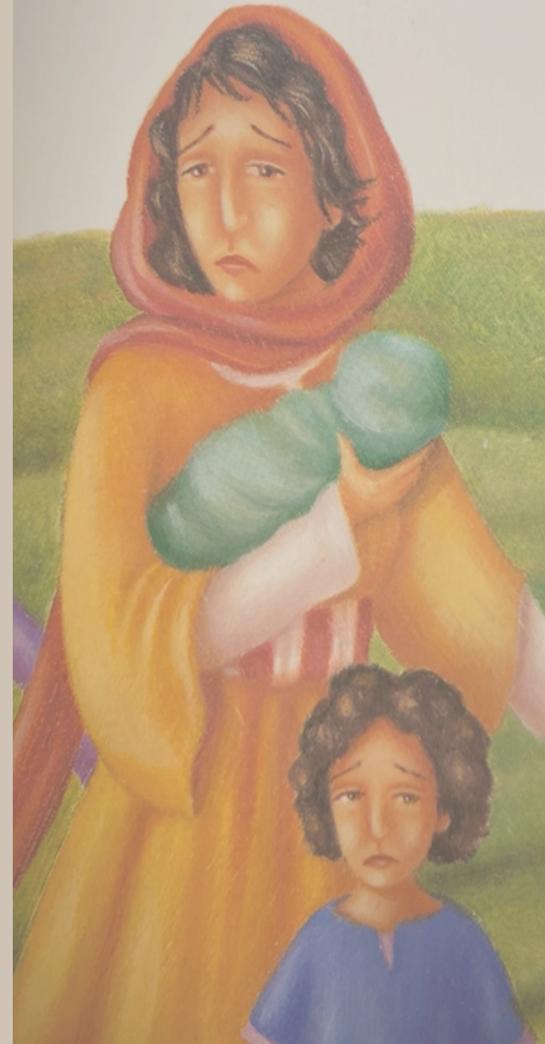
‘Weep for yourselves and for
your children who have to go on
living in these troubled times.’





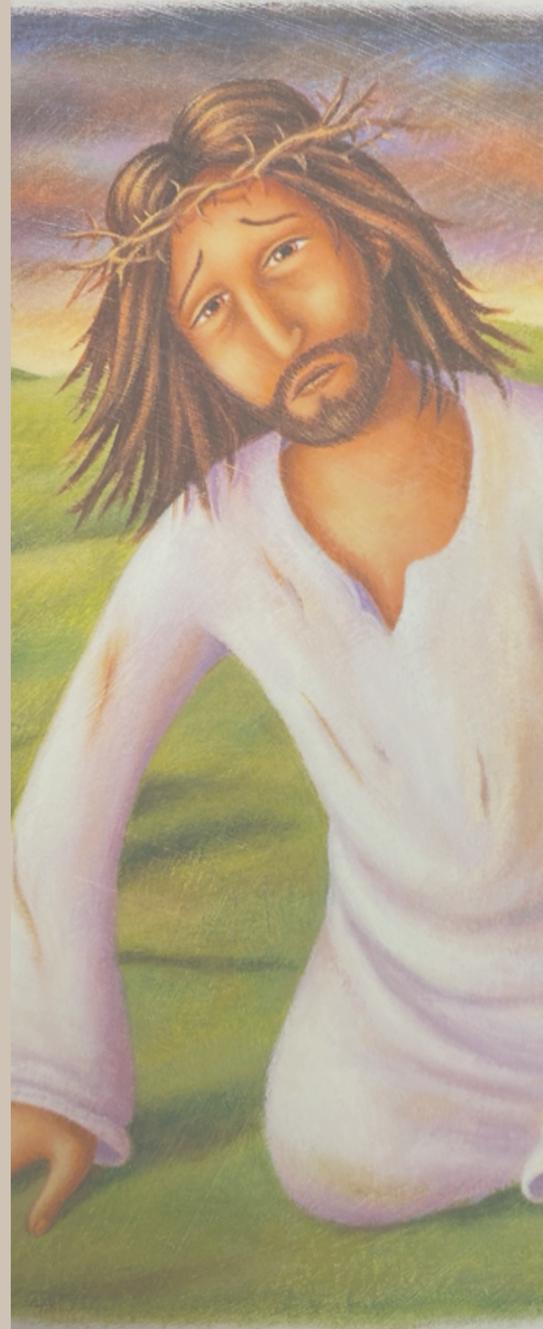
*Dear God,
When the world is unkind
and people are so unfair,
we weep with you;
you weep for us.*

Amen



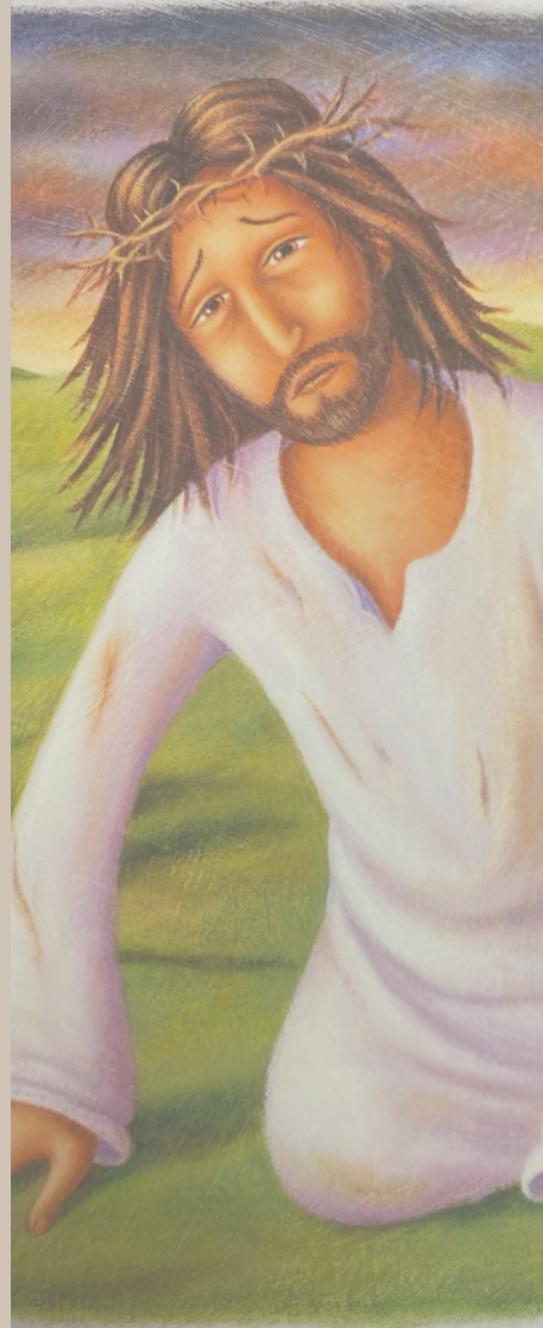
Nine: Jesus falls the third time

Jesus and the guard approached the hill that was to be the end of the journey. Shaking with fear, Jesus fell again.



*Dear God,
Whenever in this world
there is more suffering
than goodness,
help me to believe
that your goodness is strong
and your love is forever.*

Amen



Ten: Jesus is stripped of his
garments

At the place of execution the
guards took from Jesus even the
clothes he was wearing.

They gambled among themselves
to decide who would have his
tunic.

Jesus was left with nothing.



Dear God
Help me not to worry
about the things that people can
steal,
but rather to seek to live in the
way you want,
to live in your kingdom.

Amen



Eleven: Jesus is nailed to the cross

The guards laid Jesus on the cross and hammered nails through his hands and feet.

They hung him up to die while others mocked at his suffering



*Dear God
When I see violent people win,
may I continue to believe in
peace.*

Amen



Song:

See Those Hands

Twelve: Jesus dies upon the cross

For several hours, Jesus hung upon the cross. He asked God to forgive those who had treated him so cruelly.

He asked his friend, John, to be a son to his mother. He pleaded with God to tell him why he had been left alone to suffer.

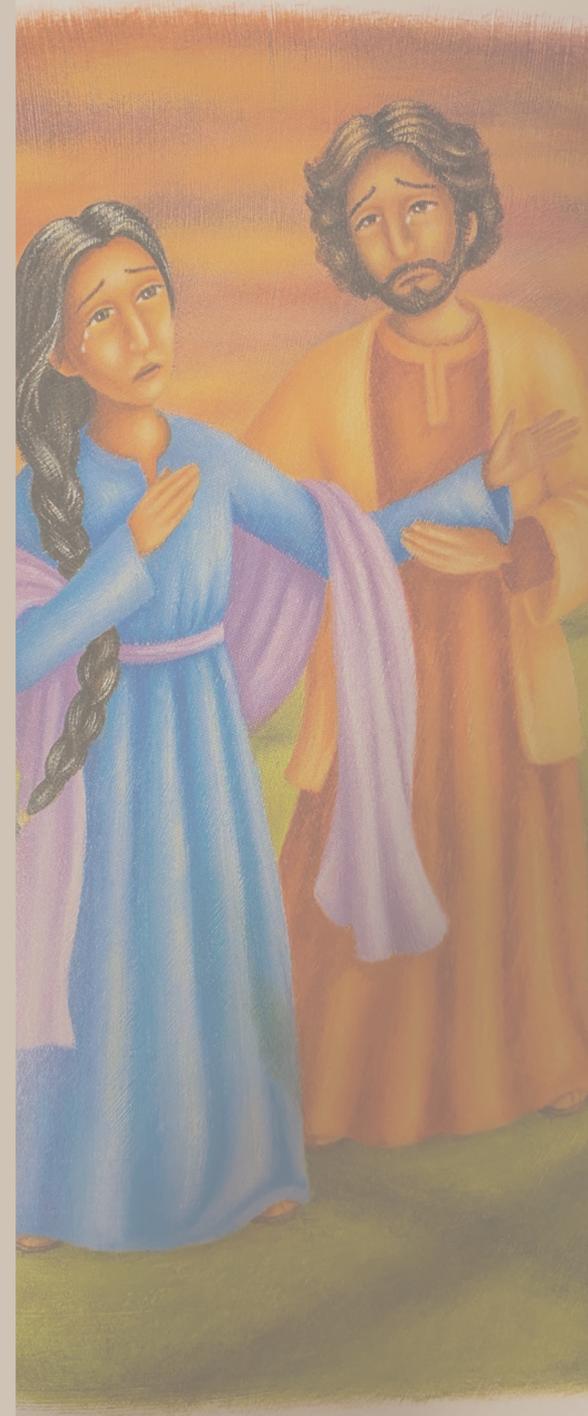
And then he died.



Dear God,

*In the face of darkness,
may I continue to believe
that you bring light.*

Amen

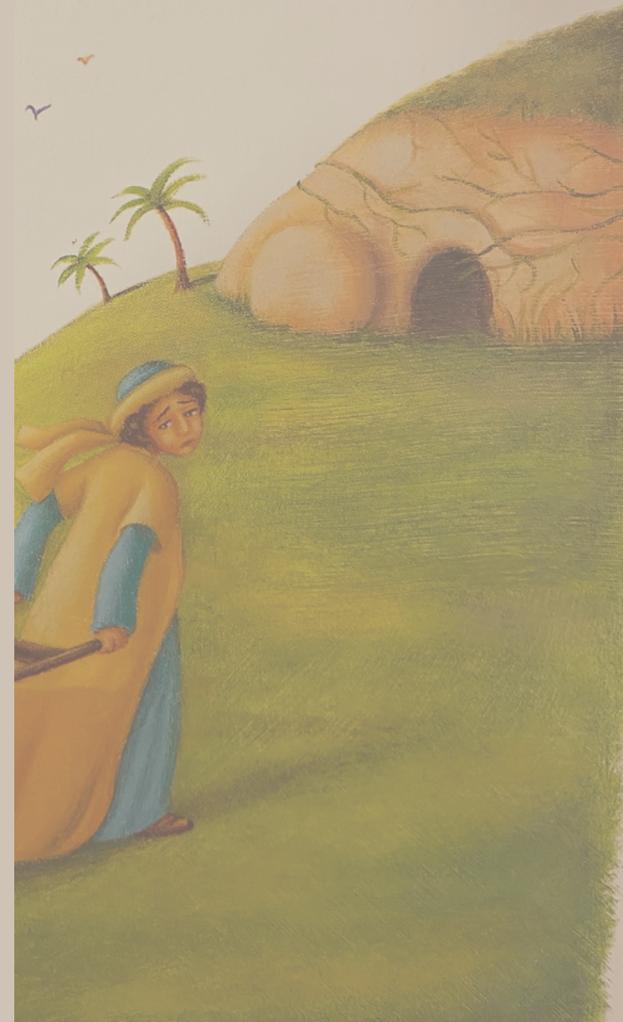


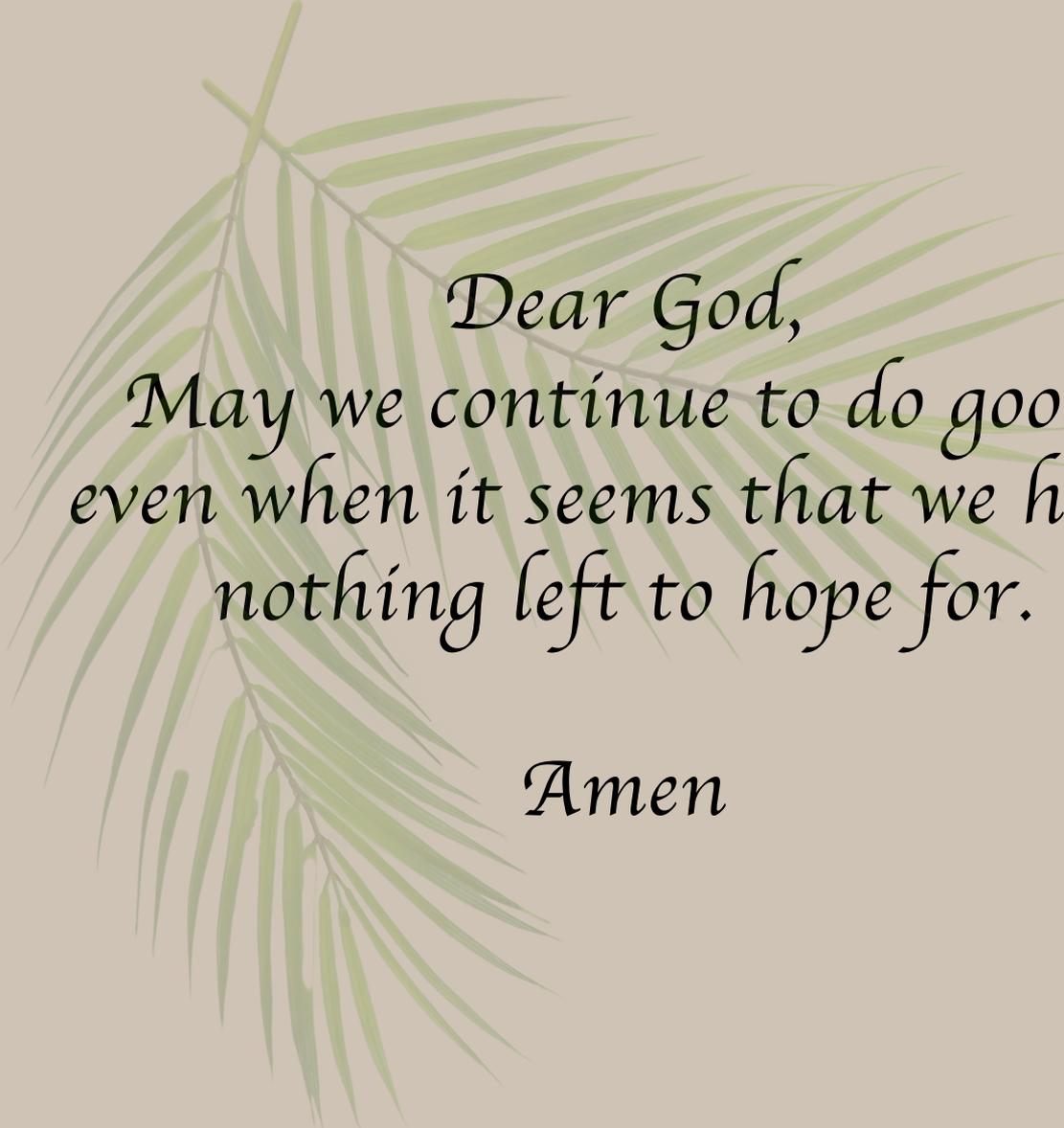
Film 1

Thirteen: The body of Jesus
is taken down from the cross

A man named Joseph, from the town of Arimathea, saw Jesus die.

He was a wealthy man and had been a secret follower of Jesus. He asked Pilate if he could take the body and give it a proper burial.





*Dear God,
May we continue to do good,
even when it seems that we have
nothing left to hope for.*

Amen

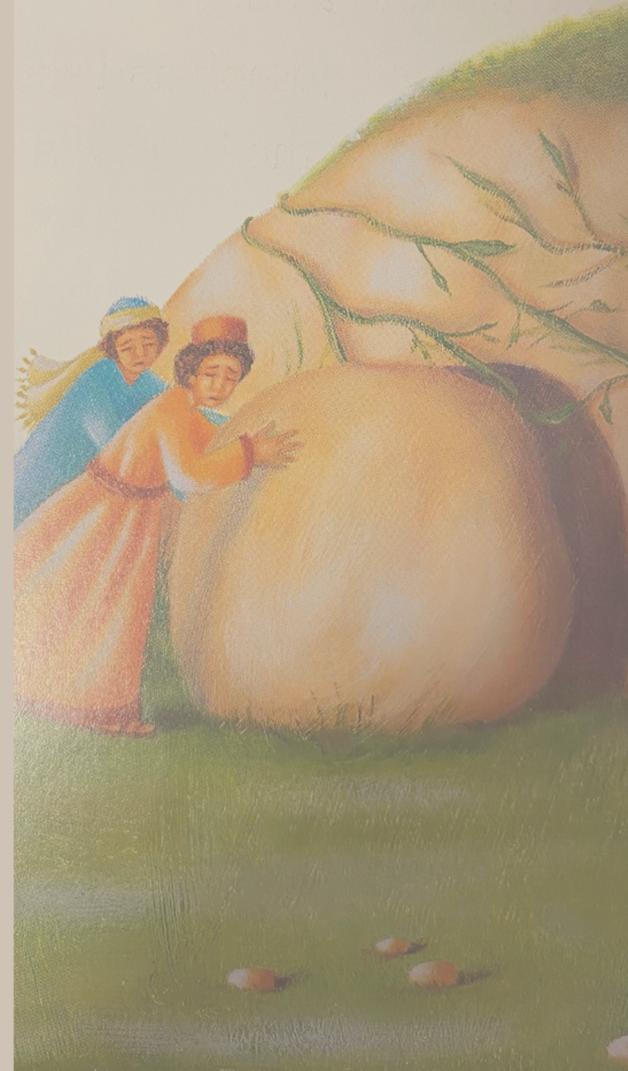


Fourteen: The body of Jesus
is laid in the tomb

Joseph had had a tomb prepared for his own death; a low cave cut into the rock with a large round stone to roll in place as a door.

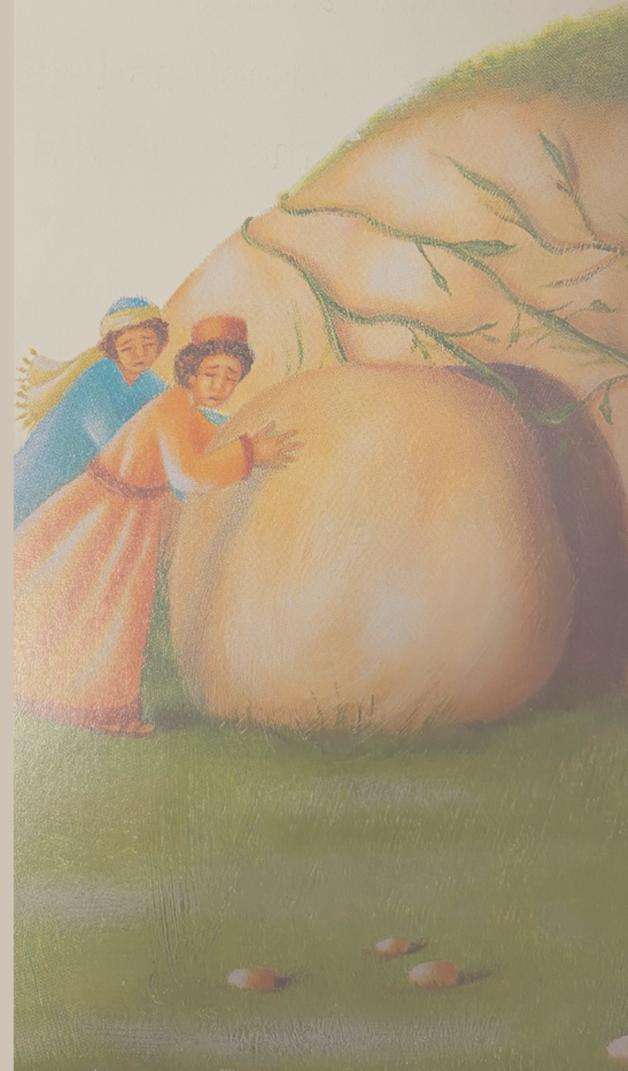
As evening fell, Joseph and some of Jesus' friends hurriedly wrapped the body and laid it inside with the door rolled shut.

Then they had to hurry home because their weekly day of rest, the sabbath, was beginning.



*Dear God,
When we are in despair
and we have too many hours
to sit and weep,
be with us.*

Amen



Fifteen: Jesus rises from the tomb

When the day of rest was over,
some women who had been
followers of Jesus returned to the
tomb.

They brought with them spices
to prepare the body properly for
burial according to their
traditions.



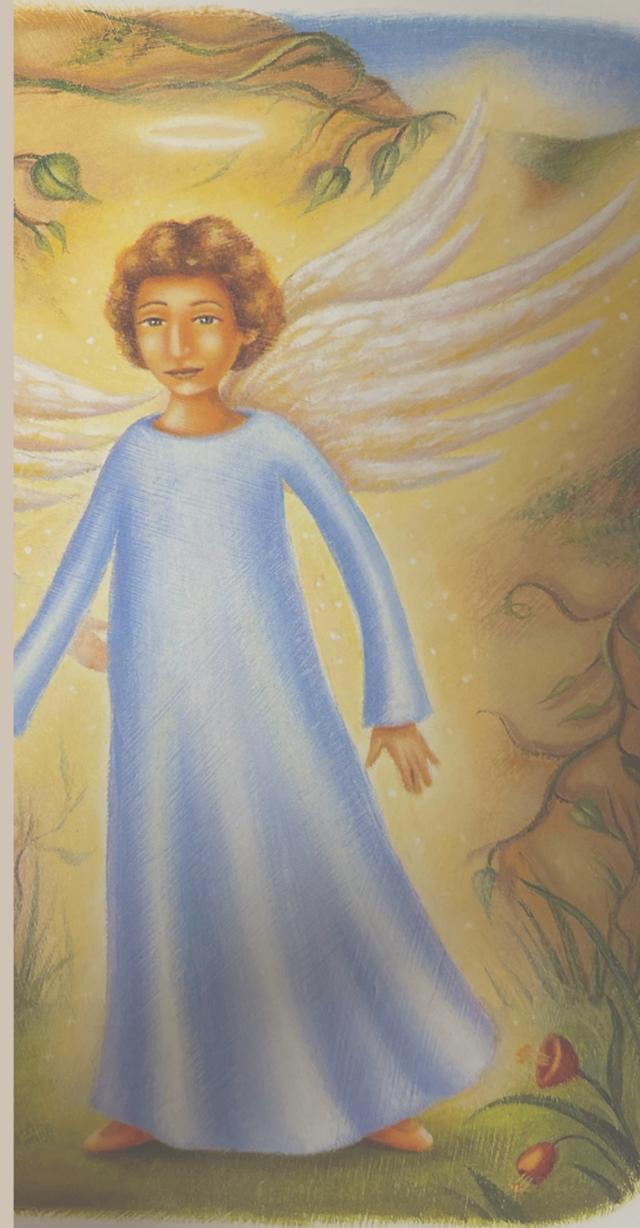
Fifteen: Jesus rises from the tomb

As they approached, they saw that the stone was rolled aside. The body was no longer inside.

Instead, they saw angels.

“Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?” asked the angels.

Jesus is not here; he is risen.

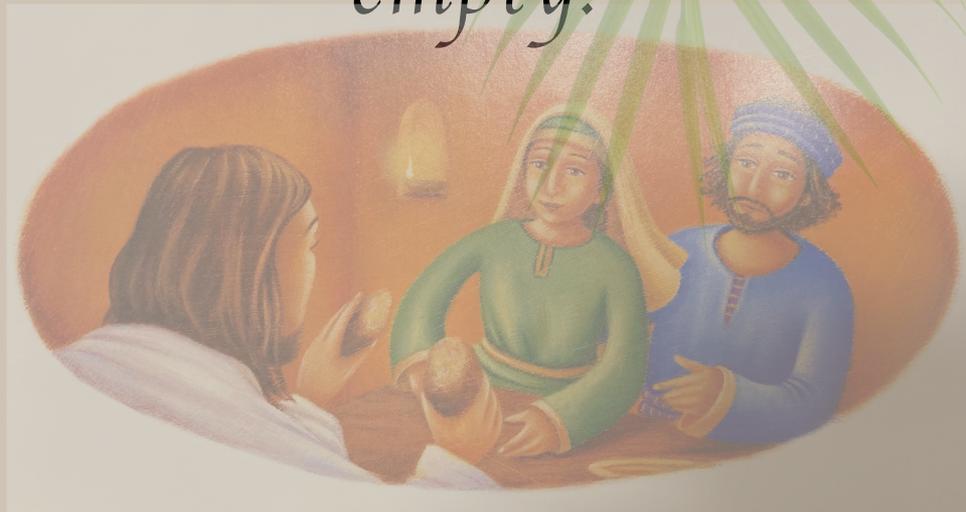


*Dear God
Help us to believe in you
and in the love that will bring us
to everlasting life.*

Amen

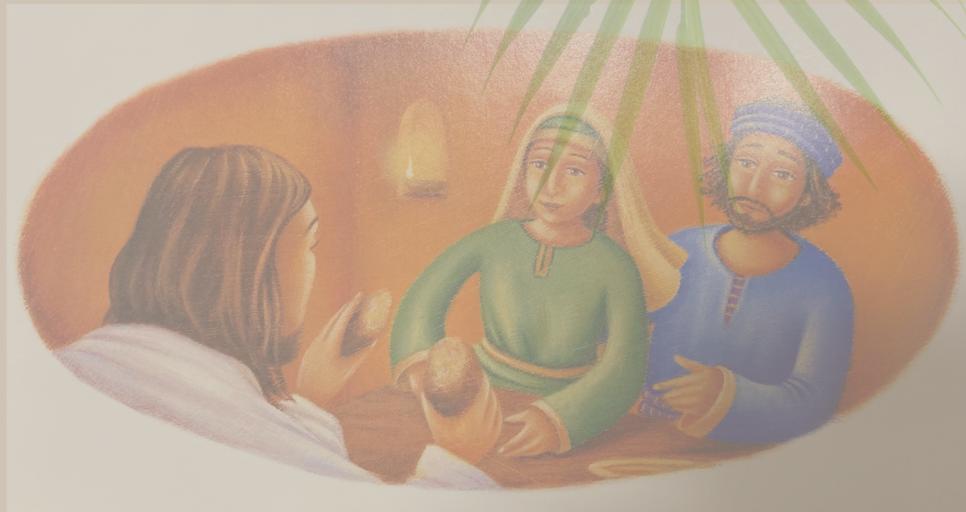


*‘He is not here, He is risen!’
The women could hardly believe the
angels’ words.
They ran to tell the disciples the
astonishing news.
At first, no-one believed what they
said. Yet the tomb was certainly
empty.*

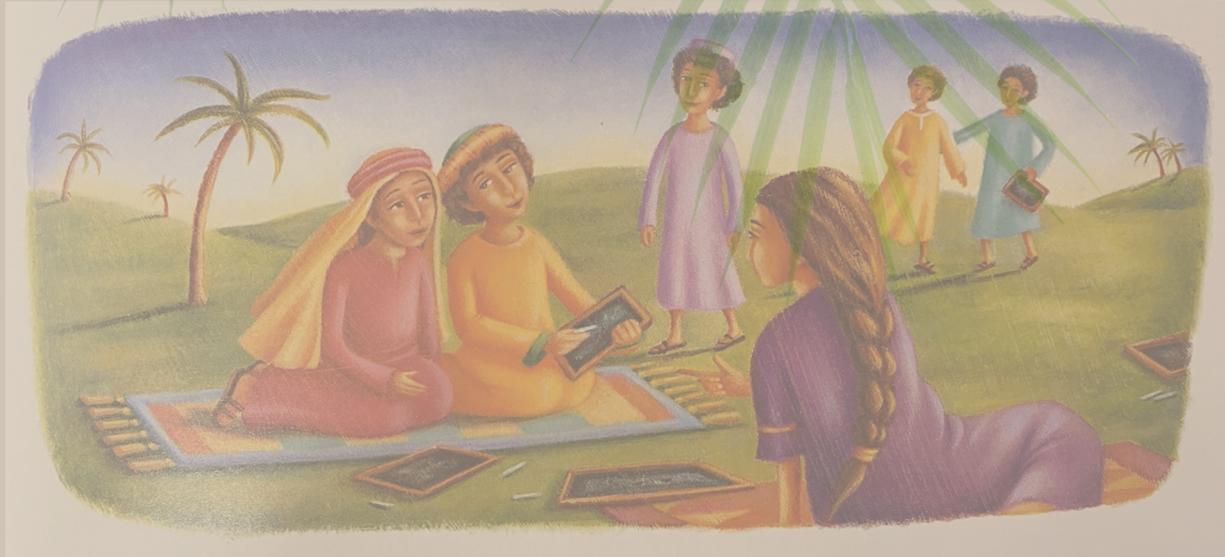


*Then Jesus came and met with
his friends: they saw him and
they touched him.*

*So it continued for forty days,
and then Jesus' friends saw him
being taken up to heaven.*



Soon afterwards, they began to tell the whole story of Jesus, the story of the cross. There is a part of the story when wicked and cruel people seem to be winning. Then God changes everything, bringing life and love that will never end.



Film 2

Song:

Happy Day (The Greatest Day in
History)

Here is what one of Jesus' followers wrote to his friends:

'Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. And God showed his love for us by sending his only son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.'

1 John 4:7-10

Let us Pray

*Thanks be to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults which you have
borne for us.*

*O most merciful redeemer friend and brother,
may we know You more clearly, love You more
dearly, and follow You more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.*

Thank you for coming to our Easter Service

We wish you a very happy Easter

Please join in with our final song 'Thank you'.

Song:

Thank You

*Jesus arrived in the city of Jerusalem on a Sunday,
riding on a donkey.*

Crowds of people came out on the streets to see him.

*They waved palm branches like flags to welcome him,
and they praised God.*

*They were excited about all the amazing things they
had seen Jesus do.*

Later in the week on Thursday, Jesus sat down to a special meal with his friends.

They were remembering how God had rescued them long ago.

Jesus broke bread and poured out wine and gave it to his friends.

He told them to do this in future to remember him.

He said this would be his last meal with them because soon he was going to die to rescue them. .

After the meal, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and ask God to help him.

He prayed all night.

While Jesus was praying, Judas, one of Jesus' friends was paid 30 silver coins for showing some soldiers where Jesus was.

The soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away.

Jesus' friends had told him that they would never leave him.

Peter had said he would be even willing to die for Jesus.

However, Jesus had told him, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will say three times, you don't even know me."

When Jesus was arrested, all his friends ran away.

As the rooster crowed the next morning, Peter realised he had said three times he didn't know Jesus.

The people in charge did not believe Jesus was God.

In those days, you could be killed for saying you were God.

They made Jesus wear a crown of thorns and carry a wooden cross.

Then they nailed Jesus to the cross and he died.

Jesus' body was put in a tomb, a bit like a cave.

They rolled a heavy stone in front of it and guarded the tomb.

On Sunday, three days later, some of Jesus' friends went to visit the tomb.

But when they got there, the stone had been rolled away.

The tomb was empty.

An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead.

He was alive again, just like he said he would be.

On Sunday, three days later, some of Jesus' friends went to visit the tomb.

But when they got there, the stone had been rolled away.

The tomb was empty.

An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead.

He was alive again, just like he said he would be.

Jesus was seen by over 500 people.

One of his friends wasn't sure if it was him until Jesus showed his hands.

There were the marks where the soldiers had nailed him to the cross.

Jesus was alive again!