

# Redemption 101

## FINAL WEEK OF JESUS' LIFE

Login to join the most fascinating class in all of history about the final week of Jesus' life.





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**St. Matthew** Welcome class! My name is St. Matthew the Evangelist and I'm pleased to be one of your instructors for this class. I will be co-teaching this exciting course alongside my brethren and fellow evangelists, who will introduce themselves to you momentarily. First, each of us will share a little bit about our unique perspective on the amazing life of Jesus. To me, Jesus is a fulfillment of all that the Jews had been waiting for—the Messiah who would save them. He saved me and I am so blessed to be able to tell you about His final week in this world.



**St. Mark** Hello everyone. My name is St. Mark and I'm looking forward to sharing the gospel with you. I had the privilege of seeing our Lord Jesus Christ as a true Servant who was obedient unto death. The Servant character of the Lord Jesus is seen throughout my writings. I'm particularly fascinated with the miracles which Christ performed and His character as a diligent Worker. I'm so pleased to see that the work of Christ through me in spreading the gospel to Egypt has produced such strong disciples of Christ as I see in this class today—over 2,000 years later! Praise God!



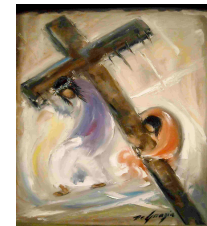
**St. Luke** Good evening everyone. It is a great privilege to be here with you on this journey through Christ's final week. I've put aside my duties as a physician and my hobby as an artist to be your guide through this amazing week. I have a unique perspective as I am the only Evangelist who was not a Jew. My writings focus on the fact that Christ came for ALL—every nation, every person—He came to save each and every human being. What a relief!



**St. John** Greetings class. I am eager to share the gospel that I wrote with you since I wrote it because I "want you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (Jn. 20:31) What more could anyone ask for than a life in Jesus? Some people call me a theologian, but I am most honored by the title, "The Beloved of Christ". I pray that starting this week you will experience the same deep and boundless love of Christ that I am so blessed to have.

## Redemption 101

### FINAL WEEK OF JESUS' LIFE



About

This is a one-week crash course in the ultimate sacrifice ever made. You will study the final week of Jesus' life and learn how He redeemed you with His precious blood. This class knows no space or time. You will have some stellar classmates known as The Church Fathers whose input will be invaluable to you. Your other classmates will be real people from the Bible as well as fictional characters just for fun.

Objectives

- To know the main events of each day of Holy Week and their significance in your life today
- To learn what the church fathers teach about key Bible passages which are read during Holy Week
- To gain an unshakeable faith that God's love for you is eternal and unconditional

Grading Scale

Class participation is 100% of your grade. You are to read the passages posted by the professors and comment on the faithbook class page. Feel free to share your favorites posts with all your friends—even if they're not on faithbook.

Text

- Holy Bible, NIV
- Treasures of the Fathers of the Church, Vol. 3, The Holy Pascha, St. Paul Brotherhood (excerpts included in this book)

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It's the Eve of Holy Monday and we need to hate our life in this world?!

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## St. John

Good evening class. I hope you're excited to embark on this journey together! We have lots to cover in a short amount of time, so let's jump in. This morning we celebrated Palm Sunday and it was an AMAZING morning when we joyfully shouted to Jesus saying, "Hosanna!", which means "save us". The mood quickly turns tonight as we see Jesus predicting His own death. Death? Yes, believe it or not the same people who were praising Jesus will turn on Him and put Him to death. It just goes to show you that you can't just blindly follow a crowd because they clearly can't be trusted. We must think for ourselves and seek God's guidance in all that we do, even if it means we stand out and are ridiculed for not going with the flow. Now, let's see what Jesus calls us to do in this passage I wrote below. Post your answer to the question below to receive credit for today's class.

*<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> **Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. <sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up<sup>l</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself."<sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup> The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. <sup>36</sup> Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. John 12:20-36*

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."? How does that change the way you view your life and the choices you make each day?

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**St. John Chrysostom** If anyone looks to heaven and sees the beautiful things there, he will soon despise this life and make no account of it...If then we would choose to look to that beauty and observe the splendor of the kingdom there, we should soon free ourselves from our present chains; for a kind of chain it is, this sympathy with present things... For as we cannot endure even to hear the voice of those we hate, nor to look upon them with pleasure. So, we must forcefully turn away from the soul when it commands us to do things contrary to what is pleasing to God.



**Simon the Sadducee** What is all this talk of heaven and eternal life? When you're dead, you're dead! PERIOD. There's NO afterlife.



**Jumpin' Jehosophat** So if there's no afterlife then who cares what I do. LET'S PARTY! Does anyone know how to do the water into wine thing like Jesus?



**Mary Magdalene** Slow down guys! Didn't you catch what Jesus said? He promised eternal life to those who hate their life in this world. If Jesus said there's eternal life, then it must be true. After all, He is the Way, the TRUTH and the Life. Now that that's settled, let's get back to St. John's question. I think what Jesus was saying was that if I choose to follow Him and obey Him and not my own sinful desires, then I'll live forever with Him in heaven.



**Farmer MacDonald** Yep, it's just like He said, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds". Jesus died on this earth, just like the seed, so that by His death and resurrection, all of us would have a chance to live forever with Him. Now, that should make y'all sing for joy 'til the cows come home!



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**St. John** So let me ask you, What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”? How does that change the way you view your life and the choices you make each day?

Your comment:

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Write something...

It's the Eve of Holy Tuesday and we need to watch and pray!

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**St. Luke** This morning's readings focused on the story of Adam and Eve: their creation, their sin, and their removal from the Garden of Eden. We see once they sinned they could not remain any longer in Eden because good and evil cannot live together. There's an amazing connection between yesterday evening's readings and this morning's readings. Does anyone know what that is? HINT: If you weren't able to attend last night or this morning, ask your parents what the readings were about.



**Eager Beaver** Yesterday evening we saw that when Christ was hungry He cursed a fig tree with many leaves but no fruit. This was a symbol of the Jewish nation, which had the outward appearance of fruits, because they had followed the letter of the law. But they lacked fruit in that they did not abide by the Spirit of the law and "neglected the weightier things of the law." The church is reminding us that we should not think of this week as simply an outer appearance of worship without sowing the fruits of repentance, love, and meekness. As Adam and Eve tried to cover their sin with the fig tree leaves, Christ rebukes the fig tree to tell us that we can no longer cover our sins with a cloak of hypocrisy.



**St. John Chrysostom** The fig tree with its broad leaves represents the wide road. Also it reminds us of the sin which Adam tried to cover with its leaves.



**St. Luke** Excellent class! Now let's turn to a key passage from tonight's readings that I wrote.

*34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and **that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.** 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray** that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." 37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple. Luke 21: 34-38*

What does it mean to be "on the watch"? What should your life look like on a daily basis if you're being watchful? How would your actions and attitudes change if you thought Christ was coming back today?!

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**Vick the Vinedresser** Oh this is an easy question! What that means for my daily life is that I'm supposed to be on the lookout for when the Master sends his servants to collect the fruit, so that I can knock him out! Yeah, who does He think He is, taking the fruit that I worked so hard to produce?



**St. Mathew the Evangelist** Excuse me Vick, but do you know who's vineyard that is? You are very much mistaken if you think the vineyard is yours. Do you know what the consequences of your actions are? 41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," ... "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Matthew 21:41 That is not what being watchful is about.



**St. Luke** Let's see if anyone else has a more reasonable answer as to how to be 'on the watch'.



**Prodigal Pete** I know what being 'on the watch' means. My father was on the watch for me so that he could see me coming from far off. He was ready and waiting for my return. He was excited to see me and eager to have me back even though I had rejected him in the worst way. So, now I'm eagerly on the watch for Christ's return and I learned from my father what that looks like. It means that I am ready and excited for Christ to return. My actions and attitudes reflect that He could be coming back any day—even TODAY! This means that when I work, I work as if Jesus is coming TODAY and I do my best at everything. When I interact with my family and friends, even my difficult older brother, I do so with love remembering that Christ may return any minute and see me—I would be horrified and embarrassed if He caught me bad-mouthing a friend, disrespecting my father or yelling at my brother.



**St. Luke** Great answer! Thanks for sharing that Prodigal Pete. Anyone else have any ideas? Here's the questions once more: **What does it mean to be "on the watch"? What should your life look like on a daily basis if you're being watchful? How would your actions and attitudes change if you thought Christ was coming back today?!**

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Write something...

It's the Eve of Wednesday. What are you wearing to the wedding?

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**St. Matthew**

Good evening class. I hope you're enjoying this week so far. Yesterday St. Luke taught us the importance of being ready for the Master to return. Today the Church also stresses Jesus' Second Coming, the end of the world and the urge to get ready. This is the day our Savior lovingly invites us to keep watching with our lamps lit. Speaking of invitations, you have all just been invited to an AMAZING wedding! Save the date for the most glorious wedding of all time!



**Eager Beaver**

Great St. Matthew. We'd love to save the date, but you have to tell us what date it will be.



**St. Matthew**

That's the tricky part. Nobody actually knows WHEN the wedding will be.



**Jumpin' Jehosaphat**

Well then who's gettin' married? I can't wait to partay!



**St. Paul**

The Church--that's you and me and all who believe in Christ. We're going to be united to Christ in the kingdom of heaven one day! Check out Ephesians 5:23.



**Felicia the Foolish**

So if I don't know when the wedding will be, how will I know when to start getting ready? I have to start shopping for a dress, make an appointment to get my hair done, and my nails and .... I just have SO much to do!



**Melinda at the Mill**

I can't wait! Let's meet at the mall. I've been dying to go shoe shopping! Now I finally have an excuse to buy those heels I've been eyeing. All this grinding at the mill can wait. Let's go!



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It's the Eve of Wednesday. What are you wearing to the wedding?

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**St. Matthew** Slow down ladies! You're right that we all need to be ready, but not in the way you're thinking. You do have to wear the right dress, but it's not something you'll find at the mall. Let's see if this passage helps you understand the kind of fashion sense that God wants us to have.

*Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 **"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. 13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'** 14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:1-14)*

So what is the wedding garment? What are we suppose to "wear" to this glorious event? Do you think Christ is talking about actual clothes or something spiritual?



**Wanda the Wise** According to the Orthodox Study Bible commentary on this passage, "The wedding garment would have been provided by the king, and therefore the man had no excuse for not wearing one; thus he is speechless. His refusal to wear the garment that was provided is an illustration of those who refuse God's hospitality, or who want His kingdom on their own terms..."

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### St. Matthew

That's a great point about "want[ing] His kingdom on their own terms." I wonder if we want to have eternal life in heaven but we're unwilling to do it God's way. **Class, your assignment is to prayerfully consider anything that you're holding onto—a friendship, an addiction, an obsession or any sin—that's keeping you from Christ. Ask God to help you repent—turn away from sin—and leave it at His feet. Tell Him that you want to enter His kingdom and that you know that the only way to do it is His way.**

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Eve of Thursday: The beauty of brokenness

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## St. Mark

Hello class. As we get closer and closer to the foot of the cross, you can feel the intensity rising. Today we see the dramatic difference in responses as those who are near Christ begin to feel the pressure of the upcoming moment of truth—when they'll have to choose to follow Christ to His death or betray Him. Read this passage below and you'll see what I mean.

*3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. 4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages[a] and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. 6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you,[b] and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. 8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." 10 **Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.** 11 They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*  
Mark 14: 3-11

Does anyone have any ideas why she broke the jar? Couldn't she just have opened it up?



## Wanda the Wise

I think she was saving that oil for something really special—maybe for her wedding day. By anointing Jesus with such costly oil she showed her great love for Him. More importantly, she showed that she was completely sold out to Him and Him alone when she broke the jar. It was as if she was saying, "I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!" She wasn't going to save the oil for her wedding day or for anything else. Here was Jesus right in front of her and who else would ever be worthy of all her love?

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## Fr. Tadros Malaty

The evangelist St. Mark said that she broke the vessel! What an amazing mystery; for the church has seen the Lord offering His life in sacrifice on the Cross, and the springs of His love **breaking** out through His open and pierced side. She, too, came ... as a bottle of fragrant oil **breaking** it voluntarily, and the fragrance of her love exploded through the perfume.



## Eager Beaver

Is Fr. Tadros Malaty saying that when people are broken and squeezed their true character shows?



## St. Mark

That's exactly it! We said that there was great tension with every passing day. The Scribes and Pharisees wanted Jesus dead and Christ knew His time was near. He had been warning His disciples and everyone felt the mounting pressure. Now let's look at how each person in the passage handled pressure. When Jesus was under pressure, what came out of Him? Love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. When this woman was under pressure what came out of her? Complete submission and great love for Christ. What came out of Judas? Betrayal, greed and selfishness. Before we are too quick to judge Judas, let's consider what's inside of us when we're under pressure. **How do you react under peer pressure? Do you go with the flow so you don't stand out even if it means you're dishonoring God? How do you react when you have all the pressures of school, sports and all your extracurricular activities hanging over you? Do you take it out on your family and friends when you're pressed for time? Do you blame your teachers for not giving you enough time when you're late turning in an assignment? When you're broken, does a beautiful fragrance come out or are you spewing a horrid odor that nobody wants to experience?**


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Eve of Friday: What are you worth?

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## St. John the Evangelist

Hello everyone. This morning was an AMAZING morning! We celebrated the Liturgy of the Blessing of the Water where we relived and witnessed the mind-boggling humility of Christ as He washed His disciples' feet. If you missed it, here's a recap of what happened. Try and find the key to Christ's humility in this passage:

*It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 **Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;** 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:1-17)*



## Zechariah the Prophet

Jesus knew His worth in the eyes of His Father and that's all that mattered to Him. That's how He was able to do ANYTHING that His Father asked of Him—including humbling Himself to serve His disciples and even to take up the shame of the cross. You too should know what you are worth in the eyes of your Heavenly Father. Did you know what I prophesied years ago about your salvation? Check out this powerful verse that I was inspired to write years before the birth of Christ: "The Lord their God will save his people (that's YOU) on that day (Resurrection Sunday) as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown." (Zechariah 9:16). Did you catch that??! God sees YOU, His child, as a jewel—not even an ordinary jewel—He sees you as a chosen jewel, the kind that you would carefully select to put in the crown of a king or queen. Can you believe it?

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## St. Luke the Evangelist

It was when Jesus knew His worth, that He was able to sacrifice Himself in the most selfless way. He was able to obey the Father even to His excruciating death. In the sixth hour of tonight's prayers, we see the beginning of His suffering and how He taught us to pray in the midst of our suffering. Jesus was going to the Garden of Gethsamene and ...*"40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." 41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. 45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22:40-46)*

Why did He pray that the Father's will be done and not His own?



## St. Ephraim the Syrian

[He wanted] to teach His disciples to confide their life and death in God. If He, who is wise on account of the wisdom of God, asked for what was fitting for Him, how much more should ordinary people surrender their will to the One who knows all things?



## St. Luke the Evangelist

He's exactly right! Jesus prayed for the will of the Father and Jesus is God—He is wiser than wise. We, who know nothing about the future or what's good for us, should pray this with a greater urgency. Can you pray that same prayer, "Not my will, but Yours be done." about every aspect of your life? Before you answer, I want to read you a letter that the Father wrote to you, personally. I want to make sure you know your worth in the Father's eyes, just as Jesus knew His worth in His Father's eyes, before you decide if you can pray that all your thoughts, desires, dreams and hopes be put aside so that His will may be done in your life.

Dear Child,

*You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your*



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*mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32*

Love, Your Dad,  
Almighty God

(fathersloveletter.com)

**Now, that you know what you're worth in your Father's eyes, I'd like to ask you again, can you pray that same prayer, "Not my will, but Yours be done." about every aspect of your life—who your friends are, where you go, what you do, the words you say, the choices you make---not what I want Lord, but what You want for me? Use the space on the next page to answer the question and to write down a prayer asking God to help you change your heart and let go of the things you're holding onto so that you can one day freely say that you are living in God's will.**

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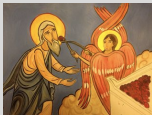
Good Friday: It is finished!

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## St. Matthew

Hello class. We pray that your journey so far has been fruitful in revealing your need for a Savior. Today is the day that all of history has been awaiting—the day that Christ pays the punishment for my sins and yours. He left heaven to take what is mine—the punishment I deserve for all my sins—and give me what is His—eternity with Him. This is the day that the people of God, the Jewish nation, have been praying would finally come. This is the day that prophets prophesied about—they foretold the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus hundreds of years before His birth. We KNOW—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that Jesus truly is God because he fulfilled these prophecies. Today, we are blessed to have a special guest lecturer, Isaiah the Prophet. He will astound you with the accuracy with which Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecies that he himself wrote about hundreds of years before Jesus was born into this world.



## Isaiah the Prophet

Thank you for such a warm welcome. I have been looking forward to this class for many decades. I'm finally able to share how AMAZING it is that so many details of Jesus' suffering and death that I wrote about really happened. There's just so much to cover that I want to jump right in. Ready? Great! Now the way this is going to work is that you're going to need your Bibles, so I'll give you a minute to get yours. Now I'll tell you what I prophesied long, long ago and then I'll tell you where to find it's fulfillment in the New Testament. Once you find the verse in one of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), just jot down the key words from that verse that fulfill that prophecy. I'll do the first one for you. Hint: The gospels are the first 4 books of the New Testament.

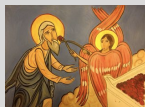
1. Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.  
John 1:11 His own did not receive Him
2. Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.  
Mark 15:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Isaiah 50:6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.  
Matthew 26:67  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.  
Matthew 27:57-60 \_\_\_\_\_



Write something...

Good Friday: It is finished!

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## Isaiah the Prophet

Did you see that? Jesus fulfilled ALL those prophecies and there are so many others that would take us hours to discuss. This was just a small sample of all the Old Testament prophecies He fulfills. Now, I've saved my favorite to the end. Here's one that you've read a few verses from but let's read it all together so we can see the heart of Christ and the true sacrifice He made for us.

*But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and **by his wounds we are healed** 6 **We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** 7 **He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.** 8 *By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; **for the transgression of my people he was punished.** 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 **After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;** by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. **For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** (Isaiah 53:5-12)**

Jesus accomplished or FINISHED all the prophecies and that's what he shouts as His final words on the cross.



## St. John

Jesus, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, uttered His last words on the cross. At the end, He shouted, "It is finished!" The prophecies are fulfilled. Jesus' last words on the cross today were words of victory not defeat. He shouted with joy, "It is finished!" Salvation is complete.

**Now that you know that Jesus accomplished all that was said about the coming Savior in the Old Testament, does that change the strength of your faith? Do you have any doubts that Jesus was the One whom all of creation was awaiting for it's salvation? Write your answers and a prayer asking God to strengthen your faith so that you know without a doubt that Jesus is the One and Only Savior of us all.**


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Resurrection Liturgy: Death Defeated!

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**Mary Magdalene** Did you see Him?!! He's alive! Jesus is ALIVE! I went with Salome and Mary to the tomb to bring some spices to anoint Jesus and I was so worried about who would roll away the stone and then we got there and the stone had already been rolled away and we looked inside the tomb and saw angel who told us He is RISEN!!! And then He came to me—the worst sinner of all who was demon-possessed and completely living in sin—and He came to me first. I didn't even know it was Him until I heard Him say my name. Oh what overwhelming joy to hear and see my Lord alive!! (Mark 16 and John 20) I was devastated, completely crushed that they had crucified Him. I couldn't bear the thought of being without my Savior. He gave me my life back after having drowned in my own sin. I couldn't leave Him at the cross. I just stayed there weeping at His feet until they took me away. But now, NOW, my deepest sorrow has been replaced with uncontainable and inexpressible JOY! He's alive! Really ALIVE!



**St. Peter** I know! I couldn't believe it either when Mary told me and then I saw the empty tomb with the linen cloths lying there (Luke 24:12). It's true. He really is alive!!



**Isaiah the Prophet** Why doesn't anyone believe me? I told you already that He "will swallow up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8)



**Hosea the Prophet** I feel your pain Isaiah. I've been trying to tell them too, but nobody listens. God spoke through me hundreds of years ago and said, "I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" (Hosea 13:14)



**St. Paul** Amen! "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:55) Jesus "shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Hebrews 2:14,15)



**Felicia the Foolish** Wait! Slow down. I'm confused. You mean death is dead? Huh?

Write something...

Resurrection Liturgy: Death Defeated!

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**Wanda the Wise** Yes! Didn't you see what just happened? Jesus defeated DEATH with His resurrection. He died on the cross and on the third day He rose from the dead, just like He promised. So, now, whoever believes in Jesus doesn't just die and get buried and that's the end of the story—when their body dies, they live on and pass from this life on earth to eternal life with Christ.



**St. John** For those of us who have been asleep in class this past week, let me fill you in what just happened. God loved the world SOOOO MUCH that He gave up His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes in Him will not die but will live forever. (John 3:16)



**Jumpin' Jehosaphat** But you don't know what I've done. I've broken every commandment and then some. I'm sure I've broken God's heart with all that I've done. I can't see how He could want me to be with Him forever.



**Wanda the Wise** But you missed the whole point! Jesus died for ALL of our sins.



**St. John** Wanda's right. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from ALL unrighteousness. (I John 1:9) and it's the blood of Jesus —by His death on the cross— that purifies us from all sin (I John 1:7). No matter what you've done, He can and is eager to forgive you. He didn't just take our sins on the cross and die. He rose from the dead to defeat death—that way we won't live in fear of death but can live with Him forever!



**St. Matthew** This whole week we've been following Christ throughout the last week of His life on earth. We rejoiced on Palm Sunday and shouted "Hosanna!" with joy. We felt His pain when He was betrayed by Judas and cringed at His excruciating and humiliating death on the cross. Today, we rejoice with abundant joy as we rise with Him.



**St. Gregory of Nazianzen** Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am given life with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise again with Him.



**Jumpin' Jehosaphat** Now that's a reason to celebrate!

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Resurrection Liturgy: Death Defeated!

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**St. Matthew** Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His ultimate sacrifice for you and for allowing you the opportunity to live with Him forever. Express your joy over His resurrection and your relief that you don't have to live in fear of death anymore.

Your comment:

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**It's time to logout now, but we hope you had a fascinating journey during this class.  
We pray that you grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ  
each and every day of your life!**