

# *Women of Grace* *Easter Edition*

He is  
not here,  
He has  
**Risen!**  
Luke 24:6

*Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love  
toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.*



*Women*  
OF GRACE

for such a time as this

# What Easter Means To Me...

*Written by Sis Jennifer Fudge*

What Easter means to me

Easter means I'm forgiven and I'm free

I can hear the whispers of my failures telling me that I'll never measure up. I can hear the echos of the mistakes I've made and I've made plenty of them, and telling me that grace is not enough. Sometimes I am tempted to believe that I'm not worthy of God's love and mercy and that I'm too far gone. I've done too much but the cross tells a different story, it says I'm forgiven and I'm free and when yesterday brings its accusations. I can hear the cry of Calvary tell me God can use it for his glory oh the cross tells a different story it tells the story of love true love God loves us so much that he wants us to be saved. He went to the cross and bore our sins for each and every one of us. I can hear the songs of sweet redemption and mercy telling me that Jesus paid it all. So when the voice of condemnation comes to me saying, there's no rescue for my soul. When I fall, I say the cross tells a different story. It says I'm forgiven and I'm free when I get thinking over my life I feel unworthy of the mercy and grace God has given me but then I hear the cry of Calvary people like me are why Jesus went to the cross we needed, saved from our sins and the Lord was sinless. He was the supreme sacrifice that was needed. And when doubts fill my mind that God could ever use a past like mine I trace the steps of Jesus up the hill and there I find the cross of Love and Mercy and forgiveness and grace  
John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Thank you Jesus for the Blood applied it has washed me white thank you Jesus for the blood you have saved my life brought me from the darkness into glorious light

Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross for me

As people, we think that we have gone too far and done too much to have God's love and mercy. That's what the enemy wants us to think. So we don't get close to God, well children of God that is not true at all! God went to the cross to pay for all of our sins, he paid the sins of the whole world.

He didn't go to the cross for just this one or that one he went for every one and the ground is level at Calvary it is fully accessible for you and for me. It doesn't matter who or what or where you may be the ground is level at Calvary, you may be a doctor, a lawyer, a banker, or a beggar, a saint or a sinner... it makes no difference to God who walks down the aisle. He said whosoever may come unto me when Jesus died on the cross He made salvation fully accessible for everyone.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If your wondering if you are loved, Let me take you to the cross, let me stand there by your side as we look into the face of the one who choose to die for us. He took our sins, let me take you to the cross to show you how loved you are! That scene upon that hill, I see it as a stage where love and truth is being fulfilled it declares the father's plan for salvation the cross is where new life and hope begins. So when questions of doubt come flooding in look back to Calvary's hill, you will see where he paid it all on that old rugged cross.

# What Easter Means To Me...

*Written By Sis Janet Bulmer*

Thank you Sis. Michelle for asking me what I think about Easter.

When I was a little girl the greatest thing about Easter was that we as girls could take off those long johns and those old wrinkled dark long stockings we wore over them. We had to keep pulling them up for they were held up by an elastic band that lost it's stretch over the winter. Yes we were happy to see Easter arrive for sure. 😊 Well I am much older now, a lot of twists and turns in the road.

Easter isn't about my stockings, or about bunnies. I don't know how that came into being? But I do believe in Jesus christ, God's only Son, Our Lord who was conceived by the holy spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontious Pilot and was beaten, shed His life and Blood for our healing and salvation. He was crowned with thorns on His head, was so disfigured from all the abuse. He was hard to recognize, was crucified. He was stabbed by the guard and his blood and water poured out (some believe causing baptism for the thief to be covered, when he was taken to paradise that day with Jesus. He died and was buried. He descended into hell, snatched the keys of death and hell and on the third day He arose again from the dead. He was seen of many for 50 days. He ascended into heaven and is sitting on the right hand of God. I believe He left His Holy Spirit to help all who will come to believe in Him. He will come again to judge the quick and the dead for He is faithful and true. All Glory and praise is due to Jesus Christ our Lord. No other thing should represent our Lord's Death, Burial and Resurrection or take away from Him, and the life He will give to all who will believe and trust to His words of life. Amen 🙏

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Sis Becky McGillan*

**When I think of Easter, my mind automatically goes to new beginnings. Naturally speaking, its the time of the year that we are transitioning from winter to spring and we start to feel the beginning of a new season. Although, this year we pretty much have to rely on our imaginations to feel spring with all of the winter weather that we have been experiencing. Its bound to change eventually! With the new season comes warmer weather, birds singing, freshness in the air, buds on the trees, and the list goes on.**

**All these things are lovely and enjoyable however, for the christian, Easter is so much more than the beginning of a new season. It marked the beginning of a whole new era. The death burial and resurrection took us into a whole new dispensation, the dispensation of grace where we can find mercy. The calendar changed. The plan of salvation was made new. A new testament or covenant was made with mankind. Salvation was opened up and directed towards all men and not just for the way of the Jews. The sacrifice for sins was changed - thank goodness! I'm so thankful we no longer have to shed innocent blood. His precious blood was deemed sufficient to cover all sin! The Holy Ghost was poured out on all flesh. God Himself was seen of men. And this list too goes on!**

**As we gather with our church families this Easter weekend, I trust you will all be reminded of all the new beginnings that the Lord has bestowed upon us. We are a blessed people simply because He made all things new!**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Rev. James McGillan*

## **The Blood Shed For All.**

**There is nothing more precious than the blood of Jesus.**

**A few weeks ago God showed me something in the story of Rahab while I was sitting on the platform.**

**To give the 2 spies a way of escape, Rahab let down a scarlet (red cord) from her window. It flowed downward from her dwelling place. It was this very cord that gave deliverance to the 2 children of God from the enemy. Upon leaving they informed her that when they returned if this same red chord was in her window that she and whomever (family) was in her home would be saved.**

**The SAME red cord that delivered the 2 spies was the same cord that delivered Rahab from the wrath of God's judgement.**

**The red blood that flowed down from the cross is the blood that delivered us from the enemy. When the trumpet sounds it is the same blood that covers us from God's judgement. In Egypt WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I will pass over you. When we see the red cord God's judgment will pass over your home.**

**Let us remember no matter how long we have been serving God, that it is the same blood that saved you that will save the drunkard, prostitute and every sinner that comes through our doors.**

# What Easter Means To Me...

*Written By Sis. Vicki Olafson*

**What Easter means to me?**

**Some may say it's the Easter bunny, egg hunts, and chocolates. Don't get me wrong I love me some chocolates. And how all these things are fun and enjoyable for the day, but did they do anything for us?**

**As my kids were growing up did I do these things, yes of course I did. These are the fun things for kids and to see smiling faces as they look for Easter eggs around the house and then a few months later find some chocolates that were not found. I then see my smiling face! 😊🍫 I would love to buy those beautiful Easter dresses from Costco for my girls and nice Easter color dress shirt for my boy. And then getting together as a family and eat a nice big meal. And family is very important.**

**Those are some traditions we did for Easter but the most important and the best tradition of all is to teach my kids the true meaning of Easter and that is our Saviour Jesus Christ went on a cross and died for our sins and three days later he arose again. To take my children to church 🏰 and not just Easter Sunday morning but every Sunday morning, because God did not just die on the cross so I could attend one service a year. He died for each and everyone of us, so our sins could be forgiven. And he arose from the dead to go and prepare for us a place some day he made a sacrifice for each and everyone of us. He didn't have to but that's how much he loved us. That's what he did for us. So what can we do for him? Love him, serve him, teach our children about him, praise him, and so much more and we could still never pay back the debt. He paid a debt he did not owe, I owe a debt I could not pay!**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Sis. Joanna Eyolfson*

**John 14:5-6**

**Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? [6] Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

**I'm thankful for the Lord and His Word, and showing us the way of life. Through His death burial and resurrection, we are able to die to our flesh and its desires, and get our lives back in order. Easter to me is about life. Even though Jesus had to die, He came back and in a way shows us that we don't have to live in fear or dread, but in peace and joy. Does life throw lemons at us and tries to make us bitter and sour toward our life? Sure. But we can also give the lemons to the Lord and He can make lemonade so our lives can be a little sweeter when rough times comes.**

**Psalm 34:8**

**O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Sis Terry Corbin*

**What does Easter mean to me?**

**The first thought that comes to mind when I think of Easter is the ultimate sacrifice that was given.**

**Although we use this occasion to spend time with our loved ones and usually have a meal together. And the grandkids are decorating eggs. Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. Oh and lots of chocolate bunnies and other treats.**

**Interestingly enough I just I just learned recently that eggs and bunnies represent fertility, new life, and rebirth. Eggs symbolize Jesus's resurrection and emergence from the tomb.**

**My heart is overwhelmed when I think that God loved us enough; he came to this world and died on a cross so that our sins could be forgiven. And then rose again so that we could have eternal life in and through him.**

**What a privilege it is to serve an Awesome and Mighty God. Serving Jesus is a life that is truly worth living. All because of his ultimate sacrifice.**

**John 3:17**

**"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it."**



# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Sis Jean Fudge*

**Easter means a chance for eternal life that I in no way deserve. Jesus so freely offered Himself for my salvation, now I have a clean slate, I am blood washed, white as snow, He rose again and now dwells in our hearts until the blessed day that He returns for His Blood washed, Blood bought church... His Bride..I am beyond grateful to Him for paying the price for my sin and the sin of the whole world.**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Submitted By Rev. Alan McManus ( Author Unknown )*

## **"THE LORD OF THE DANCE"**

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon, and the stars, and the sun,  
I came down from Heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

**I danced for the Scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me**

**I danced for the fishermen - James and John,  
They came with me and the dance went on!!**

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame,**

**They whipped and they striped and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die.**

**But I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back!**

**They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I'll still go on!!**

**They cut me down, and I leap up high,  
I am the life that'll never die,**

**I'll live in you if you'll live in me,**

**I am the Lord of the dance said He,**

**Dance then wherever you may be,**

**I am the Lord of the dance said He,**

**And I'll lead you all, Wherever you may be,**

**I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He.**

**Dance said He!**

**(Found in Catholic Hymnal at a funeral home by an Apostolic man who brought it to his local church)**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

*Written By Sis Debra O'Donnell*

## **Our First Easter After A Change**

**Because of the greatest sacrifice Jesus made for us, dying on the cross and then rising from the dead three days after He was crucified He defeated death and hell. "Today we are free from the fears of tomorrow" because of this great plan of salvation we can be saved. He's alive again and now we celebrate the resurrection and hope for eternal life.**

**It was the day before Good Friday when I woke up and couldn't move my right arm very well and the side of my face felt weird. I got ready for work anyhow but the symptoms just kept getting worse so I called in sick and drove myself to the hospital. The doctor saw me right away and by then my speech was slurred. He ran some tests and said I think you could be having a stroke and we're going to send you by ambulance to St. John right away. We'll send a nurse with you.**

**I called Robert in the meantime at work and he got there as the ambulance was leaving with me and followed behind us. Things were getting pretty scary by now! When I got to St.**

**John the doctors did a brain scan and a bunch of tests but in the meantime my speech was better and I was beginning to move my fingers and arm a bit. I didn't know that Robert was standing at the window and spoke these words "Lord if you hear me let my wife be ok and I will make changes in my life for you". When the doctor came into my room he said Mrs. O'Donnell I could speculate till the cows come home about what happened to you. They kept me overnight to run a few more tests and then on Good Friday I was released. On my way home I told Robert that we needed to make some changes in our life. I didn't know quite what that meant yet.**

**We went to my moms church on Easter Sunday and Robert sat with his head down most of the service from conviction and I just wanted to get out of there before anyone could see my conviction I was going thru.**

**We didn't go to church right away after that because every Sunday Robert had to work. It was Mother's day and I got my daughter up and asked her to go with me... well I sort of guilted her into it. We went to a local Pentecostal church in the area and I knew that this was going to be the change I needed to make. That evening after Robert got home I asked him to go with me to the evening service. We both went to the altar and asked God to save our souls and repented. That was in 1994 and there was no turning back. We got baptized the next Sunday and I received the Holy Ghost later on in the week and Robert about three weeks later.**

**"Sometimes it takes a mountain**

**Sometimes a troubled sea**

**Sometimes it takes a desert To get a hold of me"**

**One of my favorite songs today as it is my testimony.**

**The fact that it all began on the Easter weekend just makes my love for Him even greater.**

# *What Easter Means To Me...*

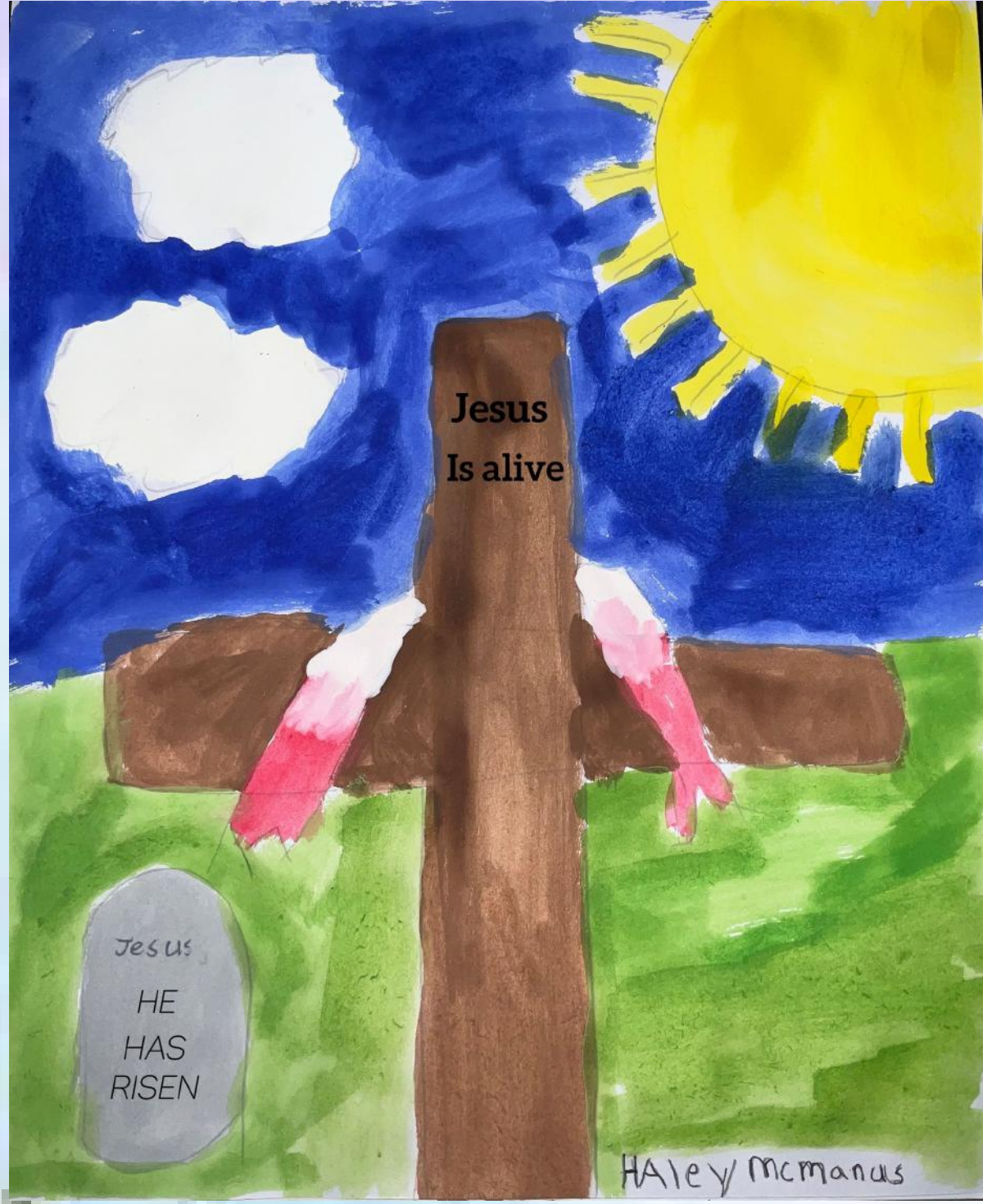
*Written By Rev. Richard Knox*

**What Easter means to me personally is what Jesus accomplished at His resurrection. I thank Him that He came into our world, and that He died for our sins and with His Stripes we are healed, but all of this would avail us nothing if He had not risen from the dead.**

**The Bible says that He arose for our justification (just as though we had never sinned)**

**Jesus said "Because I Live ye SHALL LIVE also." So I thank Him and praise Him for His resurrection and our lives in Jesus Name Amen!**

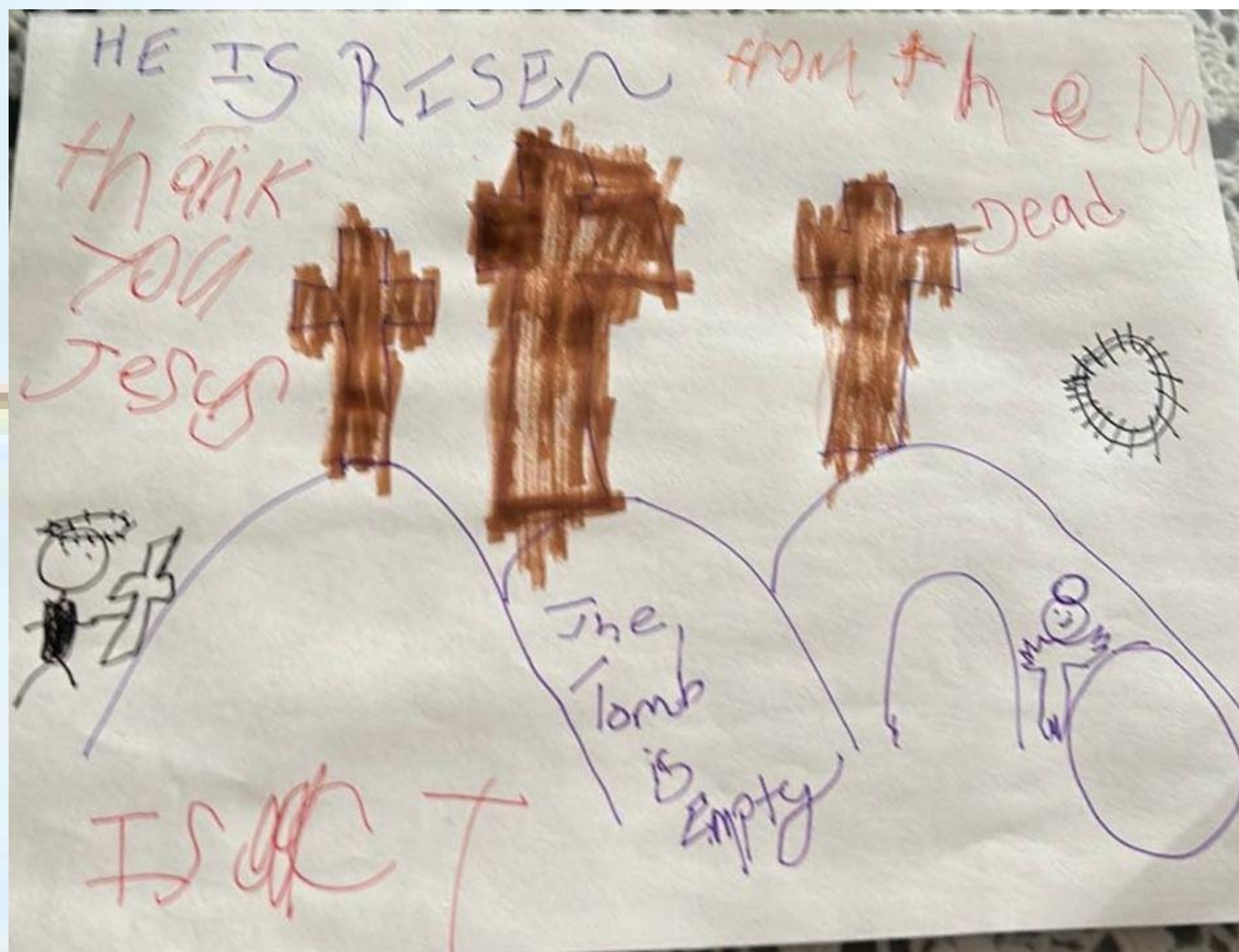
# Easter Drawings From A Kids Point Of View View....



By Haley McManus



By Isaac McManus



By Isaac Tatlock

# *Easter Poetry*

*Written By Bro. Caleb McManus*

## **The Old Man, the Boy, and the Coin**

**Down in westward meadows,  
By the rusted railroad tracks,  
There came an Old Man hobbling  
With his Grandson on His back.  
They'd walked near half a mile  
When the boy jumped to the ground,  
And said, "Hey Grandpa lookie"  
at a mangled coin He'd found.**

**"That's quite the coin," His Grandpa said,  
"I'll tell you what I'll do:  
I'll keep it safe inside my coat,  
all money has its value."**

**"But Grandpa, look" the boy exclaimed,  
"It's all bent out of shape.**

**You have nicer coins at home,  
Is this a coin you'd take?"**

**The Old Man grinned and grabbed the coin,  
And with a wink he whispered,  
"I'd take any broken thing,  
I learned that from the Master."**

**And after that they journeyed on  
into the evening light  
-- shining from an empty tomb,  
Courtesy of Jesus Christ.**

# *Easter Poetry*

*Written By Austin McManus*

**Easter is a time, When I'm reminded Of the King.  
Just to hear He is risen, Gives me a song to sing.**

**To know what He gave, That I might have life,  
As He hung there on a cross, Giving himself as a sacrifice.**

**Makes me realize, How lucky we are,  
That God's not in the tomb, He's everywhere near and far**

**So when your celebrating Easter With your family and your friends  
Just remember God's the reason, He is risen, He's not dead**

**WG Easter Devotional  
Jesus Paid It All**

**We happily Celebrate Easter, BUT we cannot celebrate Easter morning, without first acknowledging the horrific events that took place a few days before, what happened to Jesus and why we owe our very lives to Him and why its of the utmost importance that we serve Him in the truth of His word for all He's done for us...**

**We should not be able to speak or think about the brutal death that Jesus went thru without an overwhelming feeling of compassion, and thankfulness that He willingly offered his life for ours.**

**Twenty centuries later, somehow the cross has lost a lot of its impact. Understanding exactly what JESUS went through on our behalf should move us toward a stronger love and commitment to the one who gave himself. He was innocent and we are sinful. It was our sin that put him there.**

**The Stress of what He was about to face...**

**It's important to note that Jesus' anguish didn't necessarily start at his crucifixion, but rather in the garden the night of his arrest. Luke records that Jesus was in great distress even of sweating drops of blood. Sweating blood is the result of a medical condition called hematidrosis, where the subject undergoes stress at such an intense level that the blood vessels rupture into the sweat glands, causing a hemorrhage into the ducts of the sweat glands and subsequent extrusion out onto the skin.**



## **The Stripes That Heal**

**Following the garden, Jesus was tried and then sentenced to a Roman flogging or “scourging” as the Bible calls it. Even tho during his so called trial, which was a farce as they were determined to kill Jesus regardless of truth, Even Pontius Pilot said he found no fault in him and his wife warned him to have no dealings with Jesus as she had suffered greatly thru the night because of him,,, nightmares etc..but He gave Jesus over to the crowd to be crucified because he feared what the crowd would do if he didn’t...**

**Scourging was the usual punishment prior to a crucifixion, the most brutal and inhumane punishment executed by Roman soldiers. The victim was usually tied to a column then whipped with an instrument that had nine leather straps with metal, iron, or bone attached to the ends. Tenderizing the victim’s flesh during the beating, hooks that sunk into the skin were meant to rip the flesh off. Called the cat of nine tails...He was whipped 39 times as 40 would have killed the victim then and there and 39 represents the 39 Main diseases in the world which is interesting to note.. so 39 times 9 makes it so that 351 rips and tares and organs being damaged inside came across Jesus’s body..Severe blows to the chest and ribs during the scourging ripping his body open, resulting in excruciating pain with every attempted breath. The victim would writhe and twist in agony, falling to his knees, only to be jerked back to his feet again and again until he could no longer stand. The victim was further stripped of his dignity as humiliating insults and scornful words were hurled at him. It is said that they also plucked his beard right outta his face...**

**Dr. Frederick Zugibe describes it this way:**

**“Bouts of vomiting, tremors, seizures, and fainting fits would occur at varying intervals and sometimes appear during these maneuvers [the scourging]. There would be agonizing shrieks by the victim at the conclusion of each lash, The scourging would have propelled him into an early stage of shock. Over the next few hours there would be a slow accumulation of fluid developing around the lungs, adding to his breathing difficulties. There would also be lacerations of the liver and perhaps the spleen.”**

## **Jesus' "Coronation" and Crowning**

**After his beating, Jesus was mockingly given a purple cloak, a reed (a staff), and a crown of thorns was made and pushed down upon his head, piercing into his head causing blood to flow down over him.. Soldiers filed past Jesus, kneeling before him, spitting on him, and taking away his staff, using it to strike his crown of thorns deeper into his head, and striking nose, and face. The blows from the staff would have irritated the nerves so the pain was similar to an electric shock.**

**Again, Dr. Frederick relates, "Exacerbations and remissions of throbbing bolts of pain would have occurred all the way to Calvary and during the crucifixion, activated by the walking, falling, and twisting; from the pressure of the thorns against the cross; and from the many shoves and blows by the soldiers." At this time there would be significant build up in the lungs (pleural effusion), making Jesus progressively weaker, light-headed, ashen in color, short of breath, and unsteady on his feet. The increased blood loss is cycling him toward hypovolemic shock."**

**At high noon in hot, dry conditions, Jesus had to climb about a half mile to Golgotha on an unpaved and bumpy road. Lacerations, open wounds, blood loss, and ripped bones and muscles would have caused stumbling, falling then the effort to get back on his feet. His cloak would have been virtually glued to his body by the clotted blood in the open wounds caused by the scourging, and it's no doubt that it was yanked off, sending jolts of pain throughout his entire body. All this, and yet still to face the most horrific of all: crucifixion.**

**At the place of his death, Jesus was forced to lie down while three Roman soldiers would have secured him to the crossbar of the cross. One soldier most likely laid across his chest, holding him in place, while two others stretched out his arms to secure his hands to the cross bar. The five-inch, square nails were pounded through the palm of the hand, just below the bulge at the base of the thumb. Two soldiers would have lifted him up and secured him to the horizontal piece of the cross. His knees would have been bent until his feet were flush against the cross, then both of his feet were nailed to the cross. Jesus would have been naked and the cross placed at eye level so that mockers could hurl insults and further humiliate him. The hill on which the cross was placed would have been visible to most people in the city.**

**The stress in the garden, the scourging by the Roman soldiers, the nailing to the cross and the upright position he struggled to maintain caused numerous medical issues: loss of circulating fluid volume, severe trauma to the nerves, muscles, and skin, rib fractures, bruises and lung failure, inflammation of the heart sac, frequent vomiting, tremors, and fainting fits, uncontrollable shivering, severe sweating, seizures, a heart rate of at least 200 beats a minute leading to further blood loss etc. Jesus endured so much pain that his body would finally get to the point of giving out due to traumatic and hypovolemic shock. The hemorrhaging and pain overwhelming his body. But we know HE yielded up the ghost, ( Matt 27:50 ) meaning He only died when it was HIS will and time to.. At ANY point during all of this HE could have called 10,000's of angels to minister to him... He could have stopped this or prevented it altogether at any time BUT He chose to give his life for us...He willingly became the blood sacrifice for us. By the time he died he was a mangled mass of flesh, unrecognizable even to his own mother. As a parent, could you imagine seeing the son you love go through this? He did this willingly. I cannot imagine this as a mom and grandmother..No other person on earth has endured this amount of horrific pain ( willingly or otherwise ).He literally poured himself out to provide a way of escape from hell for us.**

Through all this unfathomable pain and heartbreak that Jesus was going thru on the cross He still took the time to show love and mercy to a soul.. the thief on the cross. While one thief hurled insults at Jesus, saying “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”, the repentant thief chided him: “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong” (Luke 23:39-41). Jesus answered the repentant thief with the most hopeful words possible: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). A thief who woke up in the morning on his way to hell had his eternal destiny changed with his plea to the Savior. “Jesus, remember me.”

They crucified him” (John 19:1). He wasn’t the first to die on a cross—it’s been estimated that by the time of Christ the Romans had crucified 30,000 men in Palestine alone. Nor would He be the last. Jesus was, however, the only One who could and did die on a cross for the sins of a lost world, “the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God” (1 Pet. 3:18). He was the only one who endured the extent of the beatings and torment, and the extent of the pain He endured and thru it all was blameless... sinless and did it all FOR US! Jesus also spoke to John and his mother... in the midst of all this.. He made sure his mom was taken care of... made sure John looked after her and that she helped John as a mother would her own. Before Jesus died, in John 19:34 One of the Soldiers pierced Jesus side and out came water n blood, it’s interesting to note... that the only other time that blood and water mixed comes out of a body at the same time is when a woman gives birth... some people say that Jesus death signifies the giving of birth to the Church, ( based on the genealogy in Matthew.. there are 14 generations between Abraham to David and 14 generations from David till the carrying away into babylon and from then till Christ there are only 13 when you count... so some would say, the 14th generation was completed in the death of Jesus... giving birth to the Church ).

To attest to the uniqueness of Jesus' death, Matthew records four phenomenal events that took place when Jesus died. The Gospel writer doesn't explain their meaning; he simply records them. John MacArthur has called these events God's own commentary on the cross.

**THE DARKNESS...** Jesus was placed on the cross at 9 a.m. (Mark 15:25), then "from noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over the whole land" (Matt. 27:45). In the Old Testament, darkness is frequently a sign of judgment (see Amos 5:18; 8:9). Recall that the ninth plague of the exodus event was darkness over the land of Egypt for three days (Ex. 10:21-22). After the plague of darkness came the death of the firstborn sons (Ex. 11:4-5). Darkness preceded death. On the cross, darkness preceded the death of Jesus. The significance? On the cross, our sinless Saviour, our Substitute. Darkness as a sign of divine judgment highlights the substitutionary nature of Christ's death. On the cross, Jesus endured the judgment our sin (see Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24).

**THE CURTAIN** "The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom" (Matt. 27:51). We believe this was the curtain that separated the holy of holies from the other parts of the temple. The holy of holies was associated with God's presence. Worshipers could never enter the holy of holies—only the high priest once a year (Lev. 16). The tearing of the temple curtain signifies that the way to God has been opened to all people. That the curtain was torn from top to bottom signifying that this was the work of God, not of human effort (see Heb. 9:12; 10:19-20).

**THE EARTHQUAKE** "The earth quaked, and the rocks were split" (Matt. 27:51). Earthquakes were common in Palestine, though there was nothing common about this one. The timing and accompanying events suggest this was a supernatural event. Bible scholars have noted the connection between the rock-splitting earthquake at Jesus' death and the splitting of the temple curtain. Stuart Weber wrote, the earthquake reflected "the immensity of the 'earth-shaking' revolution that had just taken place with the splitting of the curtain." (Holman New Testament Commentary).

**THE DEAD RAISED** "The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised" (Matt. 27:52). The opening of the tombs would likely have occurred as a result of the earthquake. The miracle was the raising of many saints from the dead. These would have been Old Testament saints. These resurrections demonstrated Jesus' victory over death. They are a foretaste of what will come at the end of time, the final resurrection of which Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16: "the dead in Christ will rise" (1 Cor. 15:20-23). They symbolize the hope all believers have because of the death and resurrection of Christ. After Jesus died and was taken off the cross, He was laid in a borrowed tomb, (borrowed due to the fact that He knew he wasn't going to be using it for very long!

The significance of Luke 24:1-9 for believers today cannot be overstated. This passage provides several key insights that are relevant to our faith and walk with Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Like my husband ( Alan McManus ) says a lot...." if Jesus never did even one more thing for us after his death and resurrection... we owe absolutely everything to him and he owes us nothing" we are such a blessed people there are no real words to truly express it!

God Bless,  
Sis Michelle McManus

Note: This devotional is a mix of my own thoughts, and information found while reading and researching biblical and historical information on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Be Blessed this Easter season and the year to come!

# Why Did Jesus Fold The Napkin...?

## NOTE OF INTEREST

### Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin?

This is one I can honestly say I have never seen circulating so; if this touches you, you may want to forward it. Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this...The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!' Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side. Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it... The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now, if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.' But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

He is Coming Back!