**The Gospel of Matthew**

**“The gospel was a message before it became a book.”**

**Matthew 26-28**

**Outline of this section:**

Matthew 26:1 The Plot to Kill JesusMatthew 26:6 The Anointing at BethanyMatthew 26:14 Judas Agrees to Betray JesusMatthew 26:17 The Passover with the DisciplesMatthew 26:26 The Institution of the Lord's SupperMatthew 26:31 Peter's Denial ForetoldMatthew 26:36 Jesus Prays in GethsemaneMatthew 26:47 The Betrayal and Arrest of JesusMatthew 26:57 Jesus before the High PriestMatthew 26:69 Peter's Denial of JesusMatthew 27:1 Jesus Brought before PilateMatthew 27:3 The Suicide of JudasMatthew 27:11 Pilate Questions JesusMatthew 27:15 Barabbas or Jesus?Matthew 27:24 Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be CrucifiedMatthew 27:27 The Soldiers Mock JesusMatthew 27:32 The Crucifixion of JesusMatthew 27:45 The Death of JesusMatthew 27:57 The Burial of JesusMatthew 27:62 The Guard at the TombMatthew 28:1 The Resurrection of JesusMatthew 28:11 The Report of the GuardMatthew 28:16 The Commissioning of the Disciples

**Overview of this section:**

The story continues in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples. He then goes to a garden on the Mount of Olives to pray, where he is betrayed by Judas. After trials before the High Priest Caiaphas and Pilate the Roman Governor, he is condemned to death and handed over to be crucified by the Roman soldiers while many women look on. At evening Joseph of Arimathea receives and buries the body and a guard is set to secure the tomb.

Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are coming to see the tomb. An angel from heaven arrives, accompanied by a great earthquake, and rolls back the stone. The guards at the tomb become like dead men, while the angel announces to the women that Jesus has been raised and instructs them to go and tell the disciples that they should meet him in Galilee. While the women are on the way, Jesus himself appears to them and repeats the angel's instruction. While they are going the leaders arrange to pay money to the guards to say that during the night Jesus' disciples came and stole the body while they were sleeping.

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|  | **In the Lectionary** |  |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Text** |
| 4/9/17 | Palm/Passion Sunday | Matt 26:14—27:66 |
| 6/11/17 | Holy Trinity Sunday | Matthew 28:16-20 |

As he has promised, Jesus meets his disciples on a mountain in Galilee. They worship him, though some doubt. Jesus claims all authority in heaven and on earth and then commissions his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them all he has commanded. In his last words in the Gospel he promises to be with them to the end of the age.

**Questions to consider in this text:**

1. **How does Jesus conduct himself? Is he in control or is he a victim?**
2. **Does Jesus want to suffer & die?**
3. **What is Matthew’s message about Judas?**
4. **What is Matthew’s message about Peter?**
5. **Why does Jesus have to die?**
6. **What is Matthew telling us happened in the crucifixion?**
7. **How will Jesus’ work continue?**

**Read Matthew 26:1-13**

What is the woman doing to Jesus in this passage? What is the response of the byst

**Read Matthew 26:14-30**

Does Judas take communion? What is the point of communion according to this passage?

In Matthew 26:31-46, Jesus predicts Peter’s betrayal (3 times before the rooster crows) and all the disciples say they will not leave Jesus. The group leaves the Passover meal and goes to the Garden of Gethsemane (absent Judas). Jesus prays and invites the disciples to pray but they keep falling asleep. What might this mean to those who would be a part of Matthew’s original audience?

**Read Matthew 26:47-56**

Who is doing the arresting?

In 26:57 – 27:1, Jesus is tried by Ciaphas the high priest, Jesus doesn’t respond to their questions – his silence is interpreted as an admission of guilt. The questioning seems to go throughout the night and in the morning the chief priests and elders agree to put Jesus to death. In the courtyard, Peter is confronted 3 times by different people about knowing Jesus. Peter denies knowing Jesus three times and then the rooster crows.

**Read Matthew 27:2-25**

What is the difference between Judas and Peter?

When else were people warned in dreams (Chapter 2 and 3) ? How did they respond? Does it make a difference?

Jesus is mocked and beaten by Roman soldiers before being forced to carry his cross bar to the place of death. As he is carrying the cross the soldiers force a man from Cyrene (modern day Libya) to carry the cross for Jesus.

**Read Matthew 27:33-66**

How does Matthew describe each of the associated characters?

Soldiers, others crucified, the women, Joseph?

What happens when Jesus dies? What are the theological implications of these things?

**Read Matthew 28:1-15**

What is the message of the Angel?

What is the response of faith when the women are met by Jesus?

What is Matthew trying to tell his readers in describing the bribery of the guards?

**Read Matthew 28:16-20**

Who continues Jesus’ mission?

What does the presence of God mean for Matthew’s message: Jesus’ teaching, Jesus’ healing, Jesus death & resurrection?