

As Jesus made his entry into Jerusalem riding a donkey, he was surrounded by a large crowd. Some laid their cloaks or branches on the ground. Everyone was shouting and cheering—an ancient red-carpet event and ticker-tape parade all rolled into one!

AND THE CROWDS THAT WENT BEFORE HIM AND THAT FOLLOWED HIM WERE SHOUTING, "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!"

MATTHEW 21:9

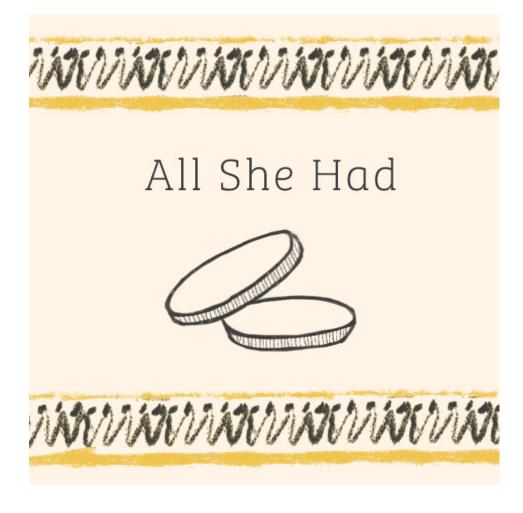


Place of Worship

Jesus restored the temple as a place of worship, and began healing the lame and blind as an example of boundless love. The miracles He did began to ripple through the crowds; the power of God was so evident that the children began shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David!

FROM THE MOUTHS OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES, YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A STRONGHOLD.

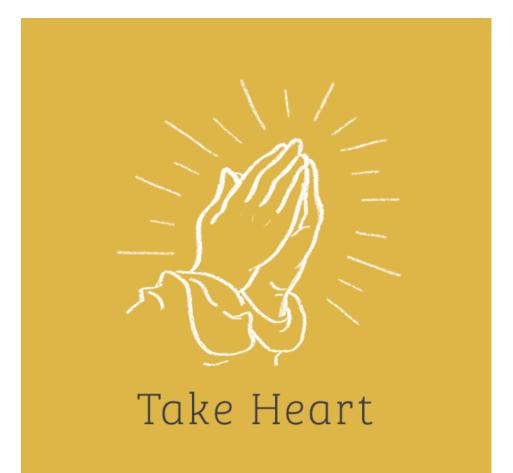
PSALM 8:2



Jesus is teaching in the Temple like one with authority. In fact, He's just warned His disciples to beware the teachers of the law! The leaders in the temple flaunt their wealth and power, but mistreat the poor. As if on cue, Jesus looks up and sees both the wealthy and a poor widow leaving their gifts at the Temple. It is the widow's offering that pleases Him—not because she gave greatly, but because she gave everything she had.

HE ALSO SAW A POOR WIDOW DROPPING IN TWO TINY COINS. "TRULY I TELL YOU," HE SAID, "THIS POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL OF THEM."

LUKE 21:2-3



In the final hours of His life, Jesus gathered His closest friends together for a time of blessing and instruction. Then He prayed for them—and for you.

"I PRAY NOT ONLY FOR THESE, BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD. MAY THEY ALL BE ONE, AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME AND I AM IN YOU. MAY THEY ALSO BE IN US, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE YOU SENT ME."

JOHN 17:20-21

Serve One Another

Jesus is our King...and yet He gave Himself the lowest status of all: feet-washer. Then He commanded His followers to do the same, to use our lives to serve others.

WHEN JESUS HAD WASHED THEIR FEET AND PUT ON HIS OUTER CLOTHING, HE RECLINED AGAIN AND SAID TO THEM, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR YOU? YOU CALL ME TEACHER AND LORD—AND YOU ARE SPEAKING RIGHTLY, SINCE THAT IS WHAT I AM. SO IF I, YOUR LORD AND TEACHER, HAVE WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.

JOHN 13:12-14



It is Finished

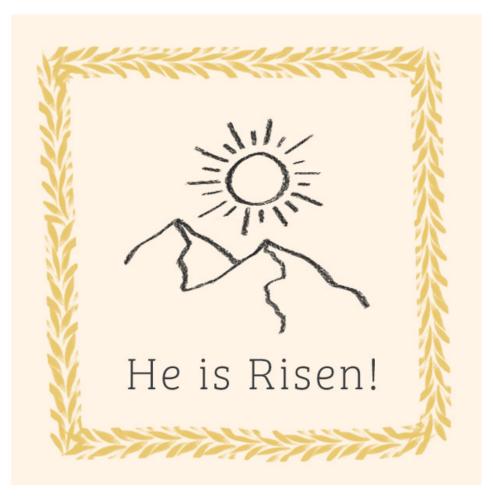
The hope that had filled the hearts of Jesus' followers just a week previously, as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, must have felt deflated and broken as Jesus took His last breath on the cross. Soon, they would see that His death had given everyone access to God and forgiveness of sin.

"BUT JESUS CRIED OUT AGAIN WITH A LOUD VOICE AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT. SUDDENLY, THE CURTAIN OF THE SANCTUARY WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, THE EARTH QUAKED, AND THE ROCKS WERE SPLIT."

MATTHEW 21:9



On this Holy Saturday, we join with Jesus' first disciples and wait. We remember the day Jesus spent in the tomb, a day of darkness and dread. But the story is not over yet....



Today we celebrate that Jesus has risen! He is alive! Hallelujah! Make some noise!

MARY MAGDALENE WENT AND ANNOUNCED TO THE DISCIPLES, "I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!"

JOHN 20:18