

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

## *Introduction*

*The book of Luke has many things in common with Mark and Matthew. He addresses his writing to a non-Jewish community; his message is more immediately accessible to pagan readers. He wants to write as a historian and presents himself as a historian in the Greek style.*

*His gospel is the first part of a more extended work that continues with the Acts of the Apostles. In this, his gospel is positioned between the announcement and preparation of the Old Testament, and the time of the Church, beginning at Pentecost.*

*Luke interweaves his writing with dates taken from the historical happening of the time. He retells the origins of Jesus, the life of Jesus starting with his infancy.*

*His gospel has a strong ethical and social agenda, in favor of the poor and oppressed. Of primary importance is his message on mercy and the teaching about prayer. He gives particular attention to the role of women.*

*The old tradition has identified the author with the medical doctor Luke of Colossians 4:14.*

## **The announcement of the birth of John**

**1** <sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah, belonging to the priestly clan of Abiah. Elizabeth, Zechariah's wife, also belonged to a priestly family. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were upright in the eyes of God and lived blamelessly in accordance with all the laws and commands of the Lord, <sup>7</sup>but they had no child. Elizabeth could not have any and now they were both very old.

<sup>8</sup>Now, while Zechariah and those with him were fulfilling their office, <sup>9</sup>it fell to him by lot, according to the custom of the priests, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>At the time of offering incense all the people were praying outside; <sup>11</sup>it was then that an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>On seeing the angel, Zechariah was deeply troubled and fear took hold of him.

<sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him:

—Don't be afraid, Zechariah, be assured that your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall name him John. <sup>14</sup>He will bring joy and gladness to you and many will rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup>This son of yours will be great in the eyes of the Lord. Listen: he shall never drink wine or strong drink, but he will be filled with holy spirit even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>Through him many of the people of Israel will turn to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>He himself will open the way to the Lord with the spirit and power of the prophet Elijah; he will reconcile fathers and children, and lead the disobedient to wisdom and righteousness, in order to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel:

—How can I believe this? I am an old man and my wife is elderly, too.

<sup>19</sup>The angel replied:

—I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I am the one sent to speak to you and bring you this good news! My words will come true in their time. <sup>20</sup>But you would not believe and now you will be silent and unable to speak until this has happened.

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people waited for Zechariah, and they were surprised that he delayed so long in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When he finally appeared, he could not speak to them and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He remained dumb and made signs to them.

<sup>23</sup>When his time of service was completed, Zechariah returned home <sup>24</sup>and some time later Elizabeth became pregnant. For five months she kept to herself, remaining at home, and thinking:

<sup>25</sup>—What is the Lord doing for me! This is his time for mercy and for taking away my public disgrace.

## **The announcement of the birth of Jesus**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent <sup>27</sup>to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>The angel came to her and said:

—Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

<sup>29</sup>Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

<sup>30</sup>But the angel said:

—Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. <sup>31</sup>You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever <sup>33</sup>and his reign shall have no end.

<sup>34</sup>Then Mary said to the angel:

—How can this be if I am a virgin?

<sup>35</sup>And the angel said to her:

—The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>With God nothing is impossible.

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said:

—I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said.

And the angel left her.

## **Mary visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup>Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and <sup>42</sup>giving a loud cry, said:

—You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

—My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit exults in God my savior!

<sup>48</sup>He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness,

and people forever will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup>The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
Holy is his Name!

<sup>50</sup>From age to age his mercy extends  
to those who live in his presence.

<sup>51</sup>He has acted with power and done wonders,  
and scattered the proud with their plans.

<sup>52</sup>He has put down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifted up those who are downtrodden.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He held out his hand to Israel, his servant,  
for he remembered his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>even as he promised our fathers,  
Abraham and his descendants forever.

<sup>56</sup>Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

## Birth of John

<sup>57</sup>When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said:

—Not so; he shall be called John.

<sup>61</sup>They said to her:

—No one in your family has that name.

<sup>62</sup>And they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. <sup>63</sup>Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, ‘His name is John,’ and they were very surprised.

<sup>64</sup>Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

<sup>65</sup>A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. <sup>66</sup>All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, ‘What will this child be?’ For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>Zechariah, filled with holy spirit, sang this canticle:

<sup>68</sup>—Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has come and redeemed his people.

<sup>69</sup>He has raised up for us a victorious Savior  
in the house of David his servant,

<sup>70</sup>as he promised through his prophets of old,

<sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of our foes.

<sup>72</sup>He has shown mercy to our fathers  
and remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup>the oath he swore to Abraham, our father,

<sup>74</sup>to deliver us from the enemy,

<sup>75</sup>that we might serve him fearlessly

as a holy and righteous people

all the days of our lives.

<sup>76</sup>And you, my child,

shall be called prophet of the Most High,  
for you shall go before the Lord  
to prepare the way for him  
<sup>77</sup>and enable his people to know of their salvation  
when he comes to forgive their sins.

<sup>78</sup>This is the work of the mercy of our God,

who comes from on high as a rising sun  
<sup>79</sup>shining on those who live in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and guiding our feet into the way of peace.

<sup>80</sup>As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

## **Birth of Jesus**

**2**<sup>1</sup>At that time the emperor issued a decree for a census of the whole empire to be taken.  
<sup>2</sup>This first census was taken while Quirinus was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone had to be registered in his own town. So everyone set out for his own city; <sup>4</sup>Joseph too set out from Nazareth of Galilee. As he belonged to the family of David, being a descendant of his, he went to Judea to David's town of Bethlehem <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was with child.  
<sup>6</sup>They were in Bethlehem when the time came for her to have her child, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger, because there was no place for them in the living room.

<sup>8</sup>There were shepherds camping in the countryside, taking turns to watch over their flocks by night. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, with the Glory of the Lord shining around them. As they were terrified, <sup>10</sup>the angel said to them:

—Don't be afraid; I am here to give you good news, great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today a Savior has been born to you in David's town; he is the Messiah and the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Let this be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly the angel was surrounded by many more heavenly spirits, praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup>—Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth for God is blessing humankind.

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

—Let us go as far as Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us.

<sup>16</sup>So they came hurriedly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger.  
<sup>17</sup>On seeing this they related what they had been told about the child, <sup>18</sup>and all were astonished on hearing the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>As for Mary, she treasured all these messages and continually pondered over them. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds then returned giving glory and praise to God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angels had told them.

## **Circumcision and presentation**

<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day the circumcision of the baby had to be performed; he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

## The boy Jesus at the Temple

<sup>41</sup>Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. <sup>42</sup>And when Jesus was twelve years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. <sup>43</sup>After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

<sup>44</sup>They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, <sup>46</sup>and on the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. <sup>47</sup>And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

<sup>48</sup>His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him:

—Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you.

<sup>49</sup>Then he said to them:

—Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

<sup>50</sup>But they did not understand this answer. <sup>51</sup>Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and age, and in divine and human favor.

## In the synagogue of Nazareth

**4** <sup>14</sup>Jesus acted with the power of the Spirit, and on his return to Galilee the news about him spread throughout all that territory. <sup>15</sup>He began teaching in the synagogues of the Jews and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup>When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. <sup>17</sup>He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup>*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed* <sup>19</sup>*and announce the Lord's year of mercy.'*

<sup>20</sup>Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he said to them:

—Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen.

<sup>22</sup>All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked:

—Who is this but Joseph's son?

## Calling of the first disciples

**5** <sup>1</sup>One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the

fishermen now washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking he said to Simon:

—Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.

<sup>5</sup>Simon replied:

—Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets.

<sup>6</sup>This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking. <sup>8</sup>Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying:

—Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!

<sup>9</sup>For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made <sup>10</sup>and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon:

—Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on.

<sup>11</sup>So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

## Healing of a paralytic

<sup>17</sup>One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup>Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to place him before Jesus, <sup>19</sup>but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

<sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man:

—My friend, your sins are forgiven.

<sup>21</sup>At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder:

—This man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God?

<sup>22</sup>But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them:

—Why are you reacting like this? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or: 'Get up and walk?' <sup>24</sup>Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

And Jesus said to the paralyzed man:

—Get up, take your mat and go home.

<sup>25</sup>At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God.

<sup>26</sup>Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said:

—What wonderful things we have seen today!

## Forgives a woman sinner

<sup>7</sup> <sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to share his meal, so he went to the Pharisee's home and as usual reclined on the sofa to eat. <sup>37</sup>And it happened that a woman of this town, who was

known as a sinner, heard that he was in the Pharisee's house. She brought a precious jar of perfume <sup>38</sup>and stood behind him at his feet, weeping. She wet his feet with tears, she dried them with her hair and kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

<sup>39</sup>The Pharisee who had invited Jesus was watching and thought:

—If this man were a prophet, he would know what sort of person is touching him; isn't this woman a sinner?

<sup>40</sup>Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisee and said:

—Simon, I have something to ask you.

He answered:

—Speak, master.

And Jesus said:

<sup>41</sup>—Two people were in debt to the same creditor. One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>As they were unable to pay him back, he graciously canceled the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?

<sup>43</sup>Simon answered:

—The one, I suppose, who was forgiven more.

And Jesus said:

—You are right.

<sup>44</sup>And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon:

—Do you see this woman? <sup>45</sup>You gave me no water for my feet when I entered your house, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she came in. <sup>46</sup>You provided no oil for my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup>This is why, I tell you, her sins, her many sins, are forgiven, because of her great love. But the one who is forgiven little, has little love.

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to the woman:

—Your sins are forgiven.

<sup>49</sup>The others sitting with him at the table began to wonder:

—Now this man claims to forgive sins!

<sup>50</sup>But Jesus again spoke to the woman:

—Your faith has saved you, go in peace.

## Transfiguration

**9** <sup>28</sup>About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Two men were talking with Jesus: Moses and Elijah. <sup>31</sup>They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that had to take place in Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup>Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they awoke suddenly and saw Jesus' Glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup>As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him:

—Master, how good it is for us to be here for we can make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.

For Peter didn't know what to say. <sup>34</sup>And no sooner had he spoken than a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then these words came from the cloud:

—This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him.

<sup>36</sup>And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of anything they had seen.

## The Good Samaritan

**10** <sup>25</sup>Then a teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said:

—Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life? <sup>26</sup>Jesus replied:

—What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?

<sup>27</sup>The man answered:

—It is written: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength* and with all your mind. And *you shall love your neighbor as yourself*.

<sup>28</sup>Jesus replied:

—What a good answer! Do this and you shall live.

<sup>29</sup>The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied:

—Who is my neighbor?

<sup>30</sup>Jesus then said:

—“There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

<sup>31</sup>“It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

<sup>35</sup>“The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: ‘Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.’”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus then asked:

—Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? <sup>37</sup>The teacher of the Law answered:

—The one who had mercy on him.

And Jesus said:

—Go then and do the same.

## Parable of the banquet's guests

**14** <sup>15</sup>Upon hearing these words, one of those at the table said to Jesus:

—Happy are those who eat at the banquet in the kingdom of God!

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied:

—A man once gave a feast and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>When it was time for the feast he sent his servant to tell those he had invited to come, for everything was ready. <sup>18</sup>But all alike began to

make excuses. The first said: 'Please excuse me. I must go and see the piece of land I have just bought.' <sup>19</sup>Another said: 'I am sorry, but I am on my way to try out the five yoke of oxen I have just bought.' <sup>20</sup>Still another said, 'How can I come when I have just married?'

<sup>21</sup>—The servant returned alone and reported this to his master. Upon hearing the account, the master of the house flew into a rage and ordered his servant: 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

<sup>22</sup>—The servant reported after a while: 'Sir, your orders have been carried out, but there is still room.' <sup>23</sup>The master said: 'Go out to the highways and country lanes and force people to come in, to make sure my house is full. <sup>24</sup>I tell you, none of those invited will have a morsel of my feast.'

## **The lost sheep and the lost coin**

**15** <sup>1</sup>Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the scribes frowned at this, muttering:

—This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.

<sup>3</sup>So Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>4</sup>—Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his shoulders? <sup>6</sup>Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup>I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent.

## **The prodigal son**

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued:

—There was a man with two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger said to his father: 'Give me my share of the estate.' So the father divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>—Some days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings and started off for a distant land where he squandered his wealth in loose living. <sup>14</sup>Having spent everything, he was hard pressed when a severe famine broke out in that land. <sup>15</sup>So he hired himself out to a well-to-do citizen of that place and was sent to work on a pig farm. <sup>16</sup>So famished was he that he longed to fill his stomach even with the food given to the pigs, but no one offered him anything.

<sup>17</sup>—Finally coming to his senses, he said: 'How many of my father's hired workers have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and before you. <sup>19</sup>I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me then as one of your hired servants.' With that thought in mind he set off for his father's house.

<sup>20</sup>—He was still a long way off when his father caught sight of him. His father was so deeply moved with compassion that he ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

22—But the father turned to his servants: ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Take the fattened calf and kill it. We shall celebrate and have a feast, 24for this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.’ And the celebration began.

25—Meanwhile, the elder son had been working in the fields. As he returned and was near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. 26He called one of the servants and asked what it was all about. 27The servant answered: ‘Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father is so happy about it that he has ordered this celebration and killed the fattened calf.’

28—The elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and pleaded with him. 29The indignant son said: ‘Look, I have slaved for you all these years. Never have I disobeyed your orders. Yet you have never given me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends. 30Then when this son of yours returns after squandering your property with loose women, you kill the fattened calf for him.’

31—The father said: ‘My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But this brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and is found. And for that we had to rejoice and be glad.’

## **The coming of the kingdom of God**

**17** 20The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered:

—The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe 21and say of it: ‘Look, here it is! There it is!’ See, the kingdom of God is among you.

## **The Pharisee and the tax collector**

**18** 9Jesus told another parable to some persons fully convinced of their own righteousness, who looked down on others:

10—Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood by himself and said: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people, grasping, crooked, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week and give the tenth of all my income to the Temple.’

13—In the meantime the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying: ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’

14—I tell you, when this man went down to his house, he had been set right with God, but not the other. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised.

## **Jesus and Zaccheus**

**19** 1When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, 2a man named Zaccheus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. 3He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. 4So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. 5When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him:

—Zaccheus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today.

<sup>6</sup>So Zaccheus hurried down and received him joyfully.

<sup>7</sup>All the people who saw it began to grumble and said:

—He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest.

<sup>8</sup>But Zaccheus spoke to Jesus:

—The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much.

<sup>9</sup>Looking at him Jesus said:

—Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.

## Prayer in the garden

**22** <sup>39</sup>After this Jesus left to go as usual to Mount Olives and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>When he came to the place, he told them:

—Pray that you may not be put to the test.

<sup>41</sup>Then he went a little further, about a stone's throw, and kneeling down he prayed:

<sup>42</sup>—Father, if it is your will, remove this cup from me; still not my will but yours be done.

<sup>43</sup>And an angel from heaven appeared to give him strength.

<sup>44</sup>As he was in agony, he prayed even more earnestly and great drops of blood formed like sweat and fell to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he rose from prayer, he went to his disciples but found them worn out with grief, and asleep. <sup>46</sup>And he said to them:

—Why do you sleep? Get up and pray, so that you may not be put to the test.

## The seize

<sup>47</sup>Jesus was still speaking when a group appeared and the man named Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup>and Jesus said to him:

—Did you need this kiss to betray the Son of Man?

<sup>49</sup>Those with Jesus seeing what would happen, said to him:

—Master, shall we use the sword?

<sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the High Priest's servant and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus stopped him:

—No more of this.

He touched the man's ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup>Then Jesus spoke to those coming against him, the chief priests, officers of the Temple and elders and he said to them:

—Did you really set out against a robber? Do you need swords and clubs to arrest me? <sup>53</sup>Day after day I was among you teaching in the Temple and you did not arrest me. But this is the hour of the power of darkness; this is your hour.

## Peter's denial

<sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and took him away, bringing him to the High Priest's house. Peter followed at a distance.

<sup>55</sup>A fire was kindled in the middle of the courtyard where people gathered, and Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup>A maidservant noticed him. Looking at him intently in the light of the fire, she exclaimed:

—This man also was with him!

<sup>57</sup>But he denied it, saying:

—Woman, I do not know him.

<sup>58</sup>A little later someone who saw him said:

—You are also one of them!

Peter replied:

—My friend, I am not!

<sup>59</sup>After about an hour another asserted:

—Surely this man was with him, for he is a Galilean.

<sup>60</sup>Again Peter denied:

—My friend, I don't know what you are talking about.

He had not finished saying this when a cock crowed. <sup>61</sup>The Lord turned around and looked at Peter and he remembered the word that the Lord had spoken: 'Before the cock crows today you will have denied me three times.' <sup>62</sup>Peter went outside, weeping bitterly.

## Crucifixion

**23** <sup>33</sup>There at the place called The Skull he was crucified together with the criminals—one on his right and another on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said:

—Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him:

—So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well! <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying:

—Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? <sup>41</sup>For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong.

<sup>42</sup>And he said:

—Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. <sup>43</sup>Jesus replied:

—Truly, you will be with me today in paradise.

## Death of Jesus

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon. <sup>45</sup>The sun was hidden and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon; and at that time the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry:

—Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

And saying that, he gave up his spirit.

## The road to Emmaus

**24** <sup>13</sup>That same day, two of them were going to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they talked about what had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were held and they did not recognize him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked:

—What is this you are talking about?

The two stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one named Cleophas answered:

—Why, it seems you are the only traveler in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there these past few days.

<sup>19</sup>And he asked:

—What is it?

They replied:

—It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. <sup>20</sup>But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. <sup>21</sup>We had hoped that he would redeem Israel. It is now the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>It is true that some women of our group have disturbed us. When they went to the tomb at dawn, <sup>23</sup>they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see him.

<sup>25</sup>He said to them:

—How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. <sup>26</sup>Is it not written that the Christ should suffer all this and then enter his glory?

<sup>27</sup>Then, starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. <sup>29</sup>But they prevailed upon him:

—Stay with us, for night comes quickly. The day is now almost over.

So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece.

<sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he vanished out of their sight. <sup>32</sup>And they said to each other:

—Were not our hearts filled with ardent yearning when he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures?

<sup>33</sup>They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were greeted by these words:

—Yes, it is true, the Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon!

<sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

#### Apparition to the disciples

<sup>50</sup>Jesus led them almost as far as Bethany; then he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>And as he blessed them, he withdrew (and was taken to heaven. They worshiped him). <sup>52</sup>They returned to Jerusalem full of joy and <sup>53</sup>were continually in the Temple praising God.

