

**SALVATION TODAY**  
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**Sequence**

- Handing on the faith today
- Redemption in the Western Tradition
- The Search for Alternatives
- The Teaching of the Fourth Gospel
- Putting it all together
- Can this speak to us today?

- Faith / Prayer
- Understanding
- What “happened” for us in Jesus?

**Handing on the faith**

- Information
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**Redemption**

- Anselm of Canterbury
- Satisfaction “theory”
- Became widespread in the West
- Present in our liturgy

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners  
and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty.  
His Death has washed away our sins,  
and his Resurrection has purchased our justification.

- Adam, a real person and “head”, sinned
- God was offended and required satisfaction
- No mere human could make up the offence
- The need for a God-Man (“Cur Deus Homo”)
- Jesus was punished for our sins
- God’s honour was restored
- God was then able to be merciful
  
- Depends on the historicity of Genesis 2-3
- Depends on a feudal idea of God (offence/honour)
- Redemption (buying back) requires a price (punishment)
- Redemption is complete with the death of Jesus
- The resurrection has no place (the best miracle etc.)
- It has no connection with the life and ministry of Jesus
- The picture of God who cannot be merciful until he receives legal satisfaction is unappealing and unconvincing

**Search for alternative**

- Taking seriously evil, sin and death
- Joining up the incarnation, ministry, teaching and the events of salvation
- Offering a consistent picture of God acting on our behalf
- Uniting the death and the resurrection as “constitutive” of salvation
- Rooted in the teaching of the New Testament
- Rooted in Jesus’ own understanding of his destiny
  
- Historical Jesus
- Paul’s letters
- The Gospel of John
- The Letter to the Hebrews

**The Fourth Gospel**

- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Liberation
- Service

**Healing**

**Jn 3:13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

**John 3:16** For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him.

The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live." (Num 21:5–9)

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**. (John 3:14)

"And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32)  
Then the crowd responded, "We have heard from the law that the Christ will remain forever. How can you say, 'The Son of Man must be **lifted up**'? Who is this Son of Man?" (John 12:34)

Then Jesus said, "When you **lift up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak just what the Father taught me." (John 8:28)

### Love

**John 13:1** Just before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now loved them to the very end.

**John 14:31** but I am doing just what the Father commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

**Jn 20:6** He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed.

**John 11:35** Jesus wept. **36** Thus the people who had come to mourn said, "Look how much he loved him!"

### New creation

So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! (2Corinthians 5:17)

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that matters is a **new creation**! (Galatians 6:15)

**John 1:1** **In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God.

**John 19:30** When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "**It is completed!**" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**John 20:1** Now very early on the **first day of the week**, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance.

**John 20:19** On the evening of that day, **the first day of the week**, the disciples had gathered together and locked the doors of the place because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

**John 20:22** And after he said this, **he breathed on them** and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- Passover - a feast of liberation
- Three Passovers in this Gospel
- Matthew / Mark / Luke: Passover was Thursday night
- John: Passover was Friday night

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

**John 2:13** The **Passover** of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

**John 2:23** When he was in Jerusalem during the **Passover** festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.

**John 6:4** Now the **Passover**, the festival of the Jews, was near.

**John 11:55** Now the **Passover** of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the **Passover** to purify themselves.

**John 12:1** Six days before the **Passover** Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

**John 13:1** Now before the festival of the **Passover**, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**John 18:28** Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the **Passover**.

**John 18:39** But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the **Passover**. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

**John 19:14** Now it was the day of Preparation for the **Passover**; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

**John 19:13** When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. **14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.** He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" **15** They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." **16** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

**John 19:28** After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty." **29** A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**John 19:31** Since it was the **day of Preparation**, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. **32** Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, **they did not break his legs.** **34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

#### Service

**John 13:1** Just before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now loved them to the very end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, that he should betray Jesus.

**3** Because Jesus knew that the Father had handed all things over to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, **4** he got up from the meal, removed his outer clothes, took a towel and tied it around himself. **5** He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel he had wrapped around himself.

**John 13:6** Then he came to Simon Peter. Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand after these things."

**8** Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus replied, "The one who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not every one of you." **11** (For Jesus knew the one who was going to betray him. For this reason he said, "Not every one of you is clean.")

**John 13:12** So when Jesus had washed their feet and put his outer clothing back on, he took his place at the table again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? **13** You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and do so correctly, for that is what I am.

**14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you too ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example—you should do just as I have done for you. **16** I tell you the solemn truth, the slave is not greater than his master, nor is the one who is sent as a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you understand these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- No Lord's Supper at the Last Supper
- John 6
- Foot washing replaces the bread and wine
- **Rose** 13 times, almost always in reference to the resurrection of Jesus.
- **Took off** 18 times, usually in reference to Jesus' laying down his life.
- **Wrapped** only 3 times, but the links are fascinating (Peter in John 21)
- **Water** 21 times, but the contexts are also illuminating

- **Washing** 13 times. (The man born blind in John 9)
- **Wipe** 3 times only. (Mary in John 11-12)
- **Feet** an apparently “innocent” word 14 times (Lazarus in John 11; Mary in John 11-12; Jesus in John 20)
- **“Never”** lit. “into eternity” 12 times, with a special meaning
- Tupos / hupotoposis
- Hupogrammos
- Hupodeigma
- Eikōn
- Charaktēr

### ***hupodeigma***

An example of behaviour used for purposes of moral instruction, example, model, pattern  
An indication of something that appears at a subsequent time, outline, sketch, symbol

**2 Macc 6:27** Therefore, by bravely giving up my life now, I will show myself worthy of my old age **28** and leave to the young a noble **example** of how to die a good death willingly and nobly for the revered and holy laws. When he had said this, he went at once to the rack.

**2 Macc 6:31** So in this way he died, leaving in his death an **example** of nobility and a memorial of courage, not only to the young but to the great body of his nation.

**4 Macc 17:23** For the tyrant Antiochus, when he saw the courage of their virtue and their endurance under the tortures, proclaimed them to his soldiers as an **example** for their own endurance, **24** and this made them brave and courageous for infantry battle and siege, and he ravaged and conquered all his enemies.

### **Putting it all together**

- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Passover
- Service

The creator God has healed humanity of death by sending his Son in an act of self-emptying and loving service. God’s loving therapy is a new creation and a liberation from the power of sin and death.

- **Healing** (in many stories)
- **Love** (= compassion, in many passages: Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Lk 7:31; 10:33; 15:20)
- **New creation** (an early interpretation)
- **Service**: Mark 10:35-45 = Matthew 20:20-28; Luke 12:37; 17:7-8; Luke 22:24-27
- **Passover**: the words over the cup
- Jesus’ gift was not up to God to offset his anger but down from God to reveal his love
- Revelation / disclosure of love is the key
- Jesus’ lifting up heals humanity of the “disease” of death
- The core is God’s breath-taking love, indicated by the washing of feet—so incredible is it hardly believable
- Rooted in the historical Jesus
- Death and resurrection are joined
- Jesus’ costly obedience, death and resurrection show God reaching out to humanity
- Contemporary models: service, love, healing

### **Can this speak to us today?**

- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Liberation
- Service
- Fundamental frame: disclosure of God’s love

### **Good Friday Prayer**

From the throne of grace, O God of mercy, hear the devout prayer of your people.

As your Son is lifted high upon the cross, draw into his exalted life all who are reborn in the blood and water flowing from his opened side.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Passover and our peace, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.