

## Our Vicarious Victor

**A**fter Jesus and His disciples finished eating the Passover meal, commonly known as the Last Supper, they walked to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:17–30). This area, a ridge east of Jerusalem, was a familiar place to them, and named for its abundance of olive trees. Jesus often spoke there. At the base of the Mount of Olives was the Garden of Gethsemane. Gethsemane means “oil press” and was probably also where olives were crushed between heavy slabs of stone, squeezing out their precious golden oil used for food, lamps and medicine.

Today there are still ancient olives trees in the area. Historians say the Romans cut down all the trees around Jerusalem before they captured the city in AD 70. So present-day trees are probably not the same trees that shaded the garden as Jesus prayed. When DNA testing was done on several of the trees it was found that they date back to the mid-12th century and all come from the same “parent” tree. Since shoots come up from roots to create a new tree, perhaps the gnarled parent trees witnessed Jesus’ excruciating time of prayer.

As Jesus prayed, He was so weighted down with the coming agony of His death that He sweat great drops of blood—today known as hematomidrosis, caused by extreme emotional suffering (Luke 22:44). It is an incredible word picture. In the garden of olive pressing, the olives gave their all. In this same garden Jesus agonized, was betrayed by Judas, then led away to be mocked, beaten, spit upon and crucified. Jesus gave His all for us. Then . . . as our resurrection song proclaims, up from the grave He arose! Victorious over death! As we, too, will be some day!

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Hallelujah!

*Lucinda J. Rollings*



Easter still life ©Ron Thomas, courtesy iStock · Printed in USA

*I know that my  
redeemer liveth*

Job 19:25

# Happy Easter!

April 4, 2021

**Call to Worship**

*Sounds of Hope Part 2*

**Scriptural Call to Worship**

**Leader:** He is Risen

**Congregation:** He is risen indeed!

**Hymn of Praise**

# 367 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**Morning Prayer**

*Ron Marks*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Recognition of Guests**

**Mission Moment**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried:  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.  
From there he shall come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy 'catholic' Church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.  
Amen

**Worship in Song**

Hymn# 357 Christ Arose

*Tina Pinkoson*

**Offertory Prayer**

*Joe Morgan*

**Offertory**

*Rose Morgan*

**Special Music**

*Sounds of Hope Part 2*

**Biblical Narrative**

Matthew 27:62-28:15

**Sermon**

"It's Not the Crime, It's the Cover Up"

*Pastor Don Mason*

**Hymn of Response**

Hymn# 368 He Lives

*Tina Pinkoson*

**Benediction**

