

Psalm 22
Feilding Baptist
5th April 2026 - Easter Sunday

Call to Worship

Welcome to worship with Feilding Baptist Church!

Matthew 28:1-10 New International Version - UK
Jesus has risen

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.'

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Like this;

Watch - Risen with Power

<https://worshiphousemedia.com/products/mini-movies-mm-mow-00000176-risen-with-power>

Lord Jesus, it is with grateful thanks that we gather today, in awe of what you have achieved for us. Thank you for breaking the power of death. Thank you for breaking the power of the devil, thank you for breaking the power of sin. Thank you for life, for hope, for your concern for us.

Holy Spirit, please give us confidence in what Jesus has done for us, for what this weekend means for us. Please help us to be assured of your presence, and your favour.

Father God, we gather to worship, to honour you. Please bless this time, this space, and us, this morning, Amen.

Message - He has done it!

Because of what Jesus achieved on the cross, we can have confidence and hope going into the future.

Since the 1st March, when Barabbas was freed, we have had Good Friday. The brutal treatment of Jesus, the carrying of the cross, the nailing, the lifting. It's gory, and it's not beautiful. It would have been far from silent. The pain being inflicted on Jesus and the others being crucified with Him would have had them crying out in real agony. I'm sure the Romans would not have been silent in respect of those they were crucifying. More ridicule. And we know the crowd wasn't silent.

We know, that in the midst of this tortuous death, Jesus does speak. More than once. Think about what Jesus says on the cross. What comes to mind? What do you remember? See what you can remember with a person beside you.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

John 19:26-27

'Woman, here is your son,' 27 and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

John 19:28

'I am thirsty.'

John 19:30

'It is finished.'

Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'

How many times is Jesus recorded as speaking? Which one is in the middle?

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Firstly, to be forsaken means to be left, or to be abandoned (NIDNTTE). We think of God as Father, Son, Spirit. We sing about the Trinity, three in one. So we must ask, can God abandon God? More to the point, is God now doing what Peter has just done in denying Jesus? What do you think?

We believe that Jesus was 100% human, and 100% God. So can God forsake God? There are two schools of thought. The gravity and weight of sin caused the Spirit and the Father to turn their back on the Son. I'm not so sure? Because abandonment is more to do with us when we consciously choose to reject or turn our back on Jesus, and continue in the ways of sin. It is us who abandon God.

The other way of looking at this, is that Jesus felt abandoned. And that we can appreciate. For sometimes we just don't feel God's presence. It's not that God is absent, God has promised to be with us, but we just don't feel the presence of God. And that's surely the case here with Jesus, Jesus certainly felt alone, felt abandoned. But was He?

What do we do with this verse? Could there be more to it.

Well, imagine being there. At the cross. But not too close. You have to be wary of the unpredictable Romans. Imagine the pain in your heart of seeing Jesus, who you had so much love for, and so much hope in, now on the cross, breathing His last. You hear Jesus say some words about forgiving them. You see Jesus saying something to the guys either side of Him. You hear Him say something to His mother. And then you hear those words.

Think about Jesus, high and lifted up, able to see as if on a ladder the faces in the crowd. Jesus whose compassion for the broken had seen Him heal on the Sabbath, touch lepers, stand up to injustice. How must He have felt seeing the pain in the eyes of those watching? His heart surely would have gone out to them.

You hear the words, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' But your brain is numb. You have brain fog. But there is something familiar about these words. We know that people in Jesus' time didn't have Bibles, that they memorised Scripture, the Old Testament. These words would have been like me saying to you Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi - o wae, or 'God of Nations at they feet' - what comes next comes straight into our minds.

To the people standing there grieving it would have been like a thunderbolt, a flashback, at least like a light being switched on, and it was dark. Why? Because they knew these words. Because these words are the first verse of Psalm 22 that they would have known so well.

It is a very revealing Psalm, a Psalm of David. Even in the trauma of what Jesus was enduring, it is possible that He was wanting to give those He loved some hope.

Look at this incredible Psalm

Psalm 22[a]

For the director of music. To the tune of 'The Doe of the Morning'. A psalm of David.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?
2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.[b]
3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.[c]
4 In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.
5 To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
7 All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
8 'He trusts in the Lord,' they say,
'let the Lord rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.'

16 Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce[e] my hands and my feet.
17 All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
18 They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

Which was exactly what was happening! Yet, these are the verses of Psalm 22! Jaws would surely have been dropping as the people looked around. What prophecy is this! And then as the people continue to whisper or say the words of the psalm in their heads, they come to verse 22... David continues

22 I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you.
23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
24 For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.

This sounds to me like Jesus HAD felt the presence of God in His most desperate time of need!

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord will praise him -
may your hearts live for ever!
30 Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.
31 They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!

I imagine the heads of the people starting to rise, eyes opening wide, lips mouthing the words, dark faces lightening, as they see their Jesus dying, but have the words of this Psalm going through their hearts and minds, suggesting that, well, perhaps there is more?

And indeed these is! For this is a Psalm of victory, this is a Psalm of a positive future, this is a Psalm of a God who has all things worked out, who definitely doesn't turn His back, who knows that in Jesus dying, dies for us, in coming back to life smashes death's power, gives us hope for the future, removes that guilt of sin. PAUSE

I believe Jesus deliberately said these words, knowing what they meant, knowing the hope that they possessed.

It's not so much the first verse that we're to notice here, but the last! Jesus has done it! We live because of what Jesus has done, breaking the power of death, of sin, of evil. Because Jesus has done these things we can live boldly, loving the unlovely, going into deep dark places. We not only proclaim His righteousness, we live out His righteousness, putting right what evil has made wrong. We continue the righteousness of Jesus in the world.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us purpose for life. And part of that purpose for life is individually and collectively, being the hands and feet of Jesus now. We are to bring hope, share grace, help people to be free from sin and fear and oppression. We can help with healing, and we certainly should be keen on seeking justice where that is missing.

Because of what Jesus has achieved, of what we are reminded of at Easter, we have much to be thankful of, and many reasons to live in confidence and hope. Psalm 22 is a wonderful reminder of victory, an encouragement in the darkest of times. It is a reminder that God is faithful, that we are not alone, that we can go into this week with much confidence! Praise be to God!

Father God, it is with much joy that we come to this time of communion now, but yes, recognising the cost to Jesus in bringing about Your purposes. But that horrible cost has brought us now so much. Thank you for the privilege of being part of your family, part of your church, a family of hope. Thank you for the assurance we have.

As we come to this time when we pause to look back, please give us the courage to put things right, to seek forgiveness. And in this time when we look up, and look out, please help us to see you, sense you, see your guiding hand. Please help us to see others, and see where we can be as Jesus.