

Look, the Lamb of God!

by
Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

Summary: An Easter liturgy that celebrates Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Women are invited to understand what happened to the Lamb. Through a biblical narrative spanning the Old and New Testaments, they will see that Jesus' blood was smeared on the doorposts of our lives and opened the door for us to live with God. Though the Lamb died, he rose victorious from the grave, and is preparing the eternal feast of the Lamb for his children. For Coffee Break use only. Copyright belongs to the author. Scripture from the NIV translation. Songs from the CRC Psalter Hymnal. (Duration: 20 minutes)

Leader: When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he exclaimed, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1: 29).

Sing: *O Christ, the Lamb of God #257*

O Christ, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us, God! “We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Reader 1: “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth” (Isaiah 53:7-9).

Reader 2: “Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him” (Matt 27:27-31).

Sing: *Man of Sorrows* #482 (Stanza 3)

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Leader: Look and understand what happened to the Lamb! Jesus' blood was smeared on the doorposts of our lives, and opened the door for us to live with God.

Reader 1: "Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe . . . When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down'" (Exodus 12:21-23).

Reader 2: "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (I Peter 1:18-19).

Reader 1: "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (I Corinthians 5:7b).

Reader 2: "It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last" (Luke 23:44-46).

Sing: *As Moses Raised the Serpent Up* #219 (Stanzas 1-3)

As Moses raised the serpent up,
so must God's Son be lifted high,
that whosoever will believe
in him may live eternally.
For God so loved the world he made,
he gave his own beloved Son;
all who believe in him will live-
not die, but live forevermore.
God did not send Christ to the world
that he might then condemn us all,
but that the world by Christ's own death
might then be ransomed from the fall.

Leader: The Lamb died, but that wasn't the end of His story! Look! See what happened to him!

Reader 1: “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:14).

Reader 2: “After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 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 . . . The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay’” (Matt. 28:1-2,5-6).

Sing: *Jesus Lives, and So Do We* #399 (Stanzas 1,2)

Jesus lives, and so do we:

Death, where is your sting so threatening?

Jesus lives and cares for me,
turns the grave to life unending.

God shall raise me from the dust:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives, his kingdom comes
over earth as well as heaven.

I shall rule with God’s own Son
through the grace that shall be given.

God shall raise me from the dust:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God, you deserve all glory and praise!

“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

All: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and
wisdom and strength
and honour and glory and praise!’

Leader: “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

All: ‘To him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
be praise and honour and glory
and power
forever and ever’” (Revelation 5:11-13).

Sing: *Alleluia* #234 (Stanzas 1-3)

John saw the angels and the saints in glory;

he heard the song they sing to praise the Lamb.
Thousands are praying, millions are singing;
aloud they raise their voice to praise the Lamb.

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia;
we join in song to praise the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia;
we sing new songs to praise the Lord.

They sing together a new song of heaven
to praise the Lamb who gave his life for us:
power and glory, wisdom and honour
be to the Lamb who gave his life for us. **Refrain:**

Then all the creatures of the earth and heaven
repeat the chorus, praising God in song:
blessing and honour, glory and power
be to the Lord forevermore, Amen! **Refrain:**

Leader: Join me in saying the *Song of the Lamb*.

All: “Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.
Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed” (Rev.15:3-4).

Leader: Let us pray:
Lamb of God, inspire us
to look up to you for salvation,
to look for you in the events of our lives,
to look into your Word for guidance,
and to look forward to your second coming.
Draw us nearer to yourself.

Sing: *Oh, for a Closer Walk with God* #551 (Stanza 1)
Oh, for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

If you are interested in obtaining other Easter programs for Coffee Break use (see summaries below), please contact Sonya VanderVeen Feddema at 905-937-6203 or sonyavf55@hotmail.com. If you e-mail her, please type Coffee Break in the subject line. Cost per item is \$15.00 US.

Summaries of Easter Programs

**by
Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**

Crowned

An Easter drama that shows women that Jesus wore the crown of thorns so that they might receive the crown of life. While an actress weaves a crown of thorns, the narrator reflects on Jesus' suffering for humanity. When the crown is completed, the actress weaves flowers into it to symbolize Jesus' resurrection. Then three women receive the crown, while the narrator relates how God crowns his children with salvation, love and compassion, and glory and honor. (Duration 20-30 minutes)

A Home, At Last!

An Easter liturgy that proclaims the good news that Jesus came to earth to make his home with us and that, through his death and resurrection, he has made it possible for us to come home to God. He was willing to face rejection from people so that we would never have to be rejected by God -- so that we would never be spiritually homeless. (Duration 15 minutes)

They Have Pierced My Hands

An Easter drama that uses black paper hands and white paper hands to tell the story of salvation. The audience follows a path of white paper hands with Isaiah's message -- "Surely I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" -- into the auditorium, and discovers where that path led Jesus. Black hands, attached to a cross at significant times during the narration of Jesus' last hours, are dramatically disengaged during the singing of "Not What My Hands Have Done." (Duration: 25-30 minutes)

Easter Ears and Eyes

An Easter drama in which two women, Ramona and Sarah, sit in a bus station and talk about all the bad news in the newspaper Sarah is reading. As a loudspeaker intermittently makes announcements -- consisting of Scripture readings and a song -- Ramona urges Sarah to listen with Easter ears and watch with Easter eyes. When Sarah despairs of ever hearing any good news, Ramona points her to Jesus and the amazing news of salvation. (Duration: 15-20 minutes)

Robes of Righteousness

An Easter drama that celebrates God's desire to clothe people with garments of salvation and to array them in robes of righteousness (Isa. 61:10). Using a white bed sheet which is unfolded and then cut into different sections -- Jesus' manger cloth, his clothes and burial linens, and the temple curtain -- actresses portray the redemption story. The audience is urged to clothe themselves with the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14a). (Duration: 30 minutes)

Jesus, Our Lifeline!

An Easter drama that relates how all of humanity got roped in by Satan's lies and entered areas that God had roped off. An actress, whose hands are tied at the beginning of the play, dramatizes the proverb: "The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast" (Proverbs 5:22). As Scripture is read, she watches a tug of war between God and Satan. She is freed from her cords when she understands that Jesus is her lifeline. The drama ends with meaningful audience participation as the rope used for the tug of war is woven through the assembly. (Duration 25-30 minutes)

Who Do You Say I Am?

An Easter liturgy which explores the responses that Jesus encountered on his way to the cross: the stumbling, yet growing faith of the disciples; the murderous rejection of the Jewish religious leaders; the cowardly, political maneuvering of Pilate; and the tearful, resurrection joy of Mary Magdalene. The audience is encouraged to respond in faith to the question Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Duration: 20 minutes)

By His Wounds We Are Healed

An Easter drama which makes use of large rocks dropped into a wheelbarrow to dramatize Jesus' suffering: arrested, deserted, accused, disowned, condemned, ridiculed, beaten, and crucified. In a moving resurrection scene when the wheelbarrow filled with rocks is rolled away, the audience celebrates the fact that because of Jesus' wounds we are healed.
(Duration: 20-25 minutes)
