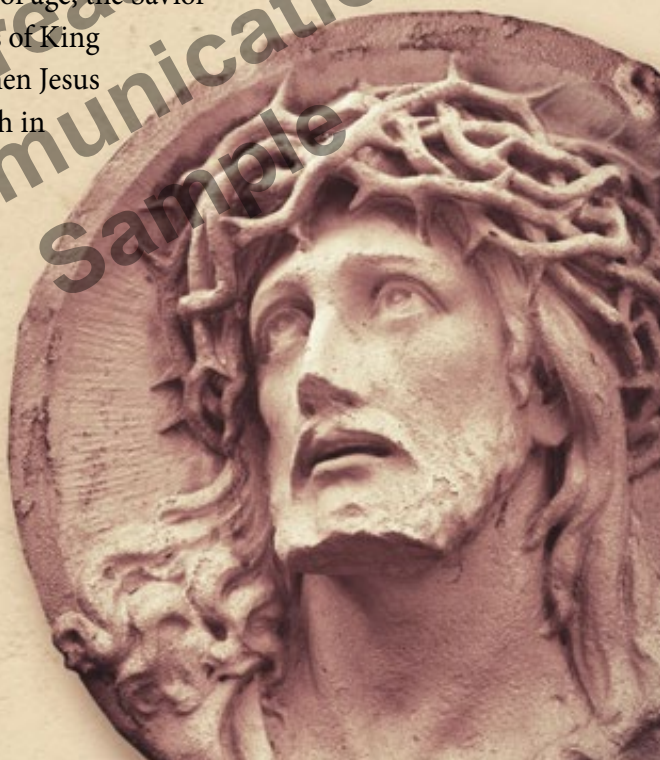


# THE *Hour* HAS *Come*

## FAILED ATTEMPTS

Jesus told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, where he would be killed and on the third day rise. There had been previous attempts on his life. At less than two years of age, the Savior escaped death at the hands of King Herod (Matthew 2:13). When Jesus revealed himself as Messiah in Nazareth, the townspeople tried unsuccessfully to destroy him (Luke 4:29-30). As Jesus' popularity increased, the religious leaders plotted all the more seriously to put him to death. "So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come" (John 7:30).



HOLY WEEK

## THE FINAL WEEK

Finally, the appointed time arrived. Jesus rode into Jerusalem as crowds waved palm branches and welcomed him as king. When people who had come for the Passover requested to see Jesus, the Savior replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23). The time had come. They would see Jesus—lifted up on a cross. Jesus continued, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour” (John 12:27). The hour had come.



## HOURS OF DARKNESS

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, giving them—and us—his own body and blood to eat and drink. After praying in Gethsemane, Jesus said to his disciples, “See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Matthew 26:45). The Savior told those who had come to arrest him, “This is your hour, and the power of darkness” (Luke 22:53). Jesus is the light no darkness could overcome, but for a little while now, the dark powers of evil would eclipse that shining light. On the following day, on Good Friday, Jesus was nailed to the cross as darkness shut out the sun. Jesus cried out, “It is finished,” and bowed his head and died.

The hour had come—and gone.



## THE LIGHT DAWNS

Jesus was buried, and after the Sabbath—on Sunday morning—women went to the tomb to anoint his body, arriving “while it was still dark” (John 20:1). The dawning light revealed an empty tomb. Jesus Christ had risen from the dead! Now and into eternity, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).