

How did we get here?

Last week was Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on his donkey. The crowds had lined the streets, shouting Hosannah, Hosannah, Set us free. The Romans ruled the promised land, and Herod was the king. But the people cried, Hosannah to the Son of David, the true king is here – set us free.

But Jesus did not do what was expected of him, and many of the people were disappointed, and even angry with him. He had spent a few days in Jerusalem, arguing with the authorities, and upsetting lots of people. And then comes the day of the Passover meal. The great day, when all Israel would share a meal that reminded them who they were. A meal when they remembered how God had saved the people from slavery in Egypt, rescued them from the Pharaoh's army, by parting the waters of the Red Sea.

Jesus, and his 12 disciples did the same. They prepared a Passover meal, and Jesus uses this occasion to talk about a new occasion when God would save his people from slavery. A new event, soon to take place, where Jesus himself would lead the people to freedom. This is the meal that we call the Last Supper.

Soon afterwards, Jesus takes his disciples to the Mount of Olives, overlooking the great city. They'd all enjoyed the red wine, and struggled now to stay awake. But Jesus was terrified about what was about to happen – so much that he was sweating, sweating drops of blood. Then a detachment of Jewish soldiers arrives to arrest Jesus, and the disciples scatter, leaving him alone, arrested, and about to face a horrible ordeal. So much for the one who would liberate Israel – like everyone else who'd thought they were God's Messiah, he looks destined for a sticky end.

That is the state of the world on Maunday Thursday.