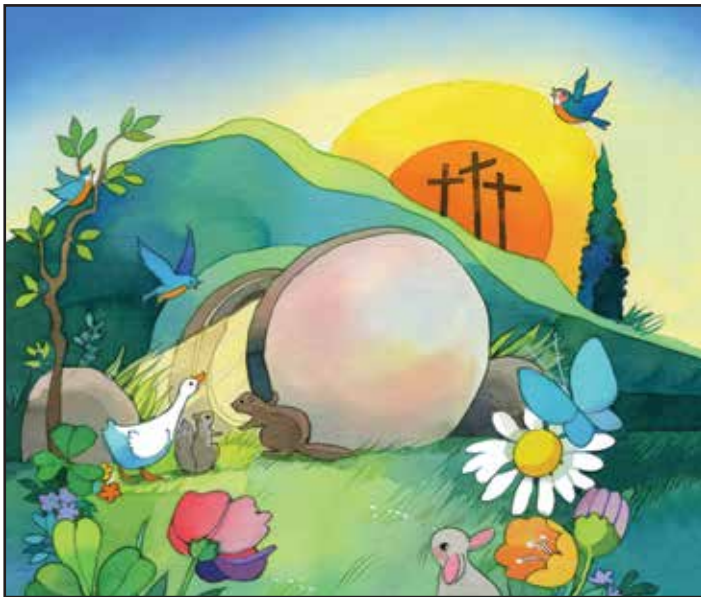


Best-Loved
Easter
Stories



CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS



Arch® Books

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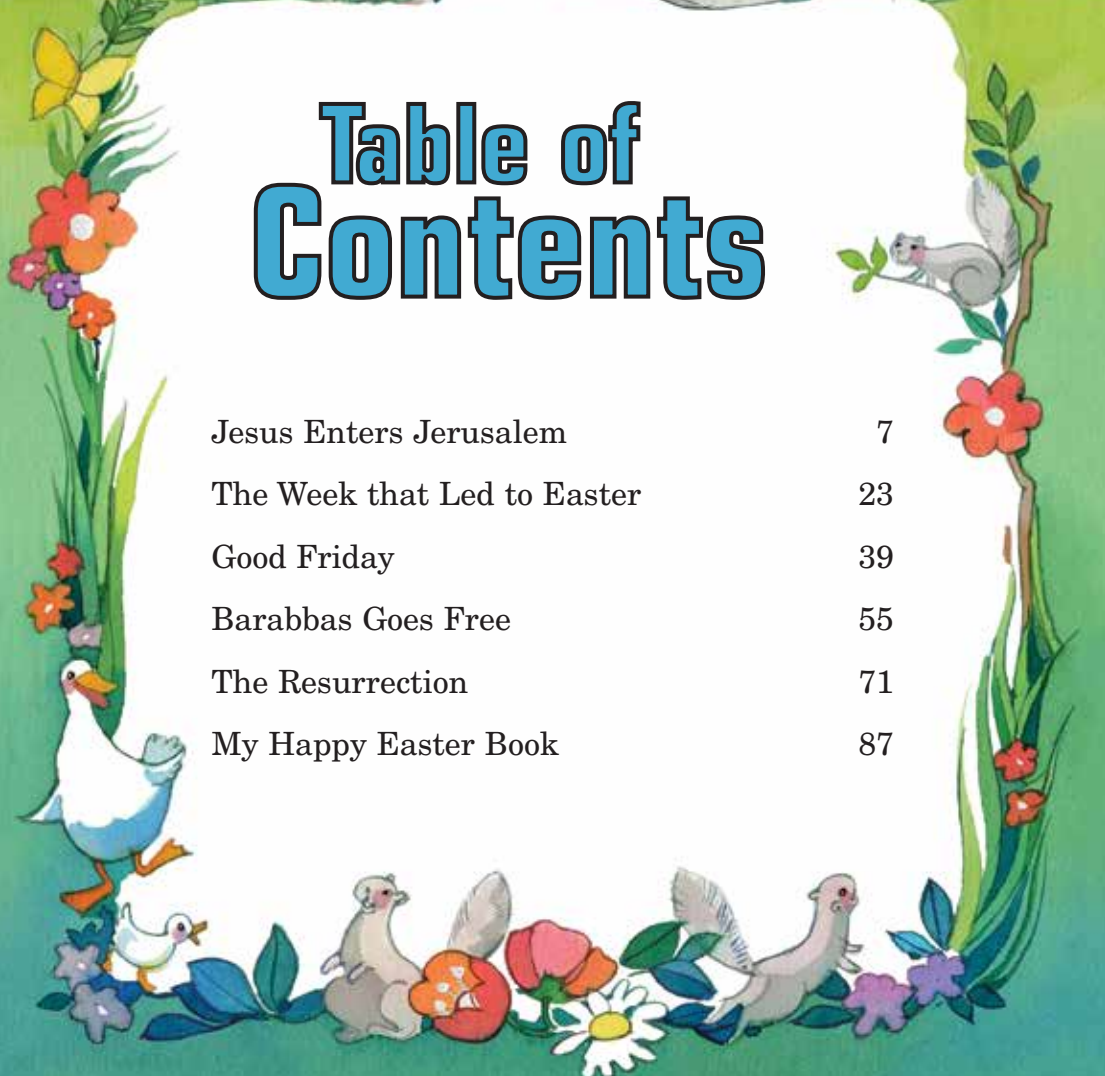
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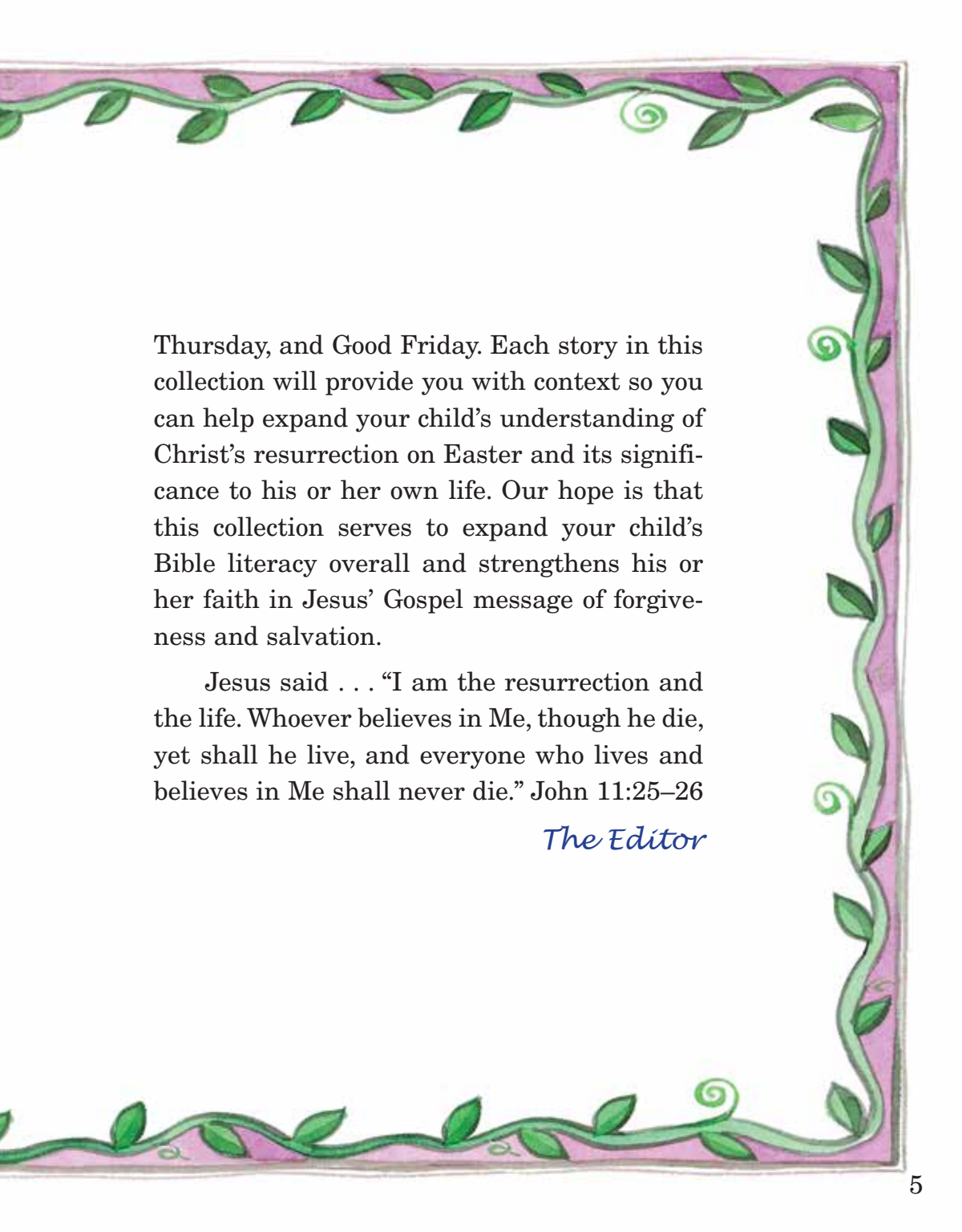


Dear Parents,

Is there a more joyful time than Easter?

Our joy at this time comes from more than winter giving way to spring, more than candy-filled baskets and Easter egg hunts. Our Easter joy comes from the wonderful, miraculous resurrection of our Savior. On this day, we are reminded that because Jesus died, our sins are forgiven and death is defeated. We rejoice because Jesus rose from the grave, therefore the promise of salvation and eternal life in heaven is ours.

This collection of Arch Books was chosen to teach today's children about the events leading up to Easter, including Palm Sunday, Maundy



Thursday, and Good Friday. Each story in this collection will provide you with context so you can help expand your child's understanding of Christ's resurrection on Easter and its significance to his or her own life. Our hope is that this collection serves to expand your child's Bible literacy overall and strengthens his or her faith in Jesus' Gospel message of forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus said . . . "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25–26

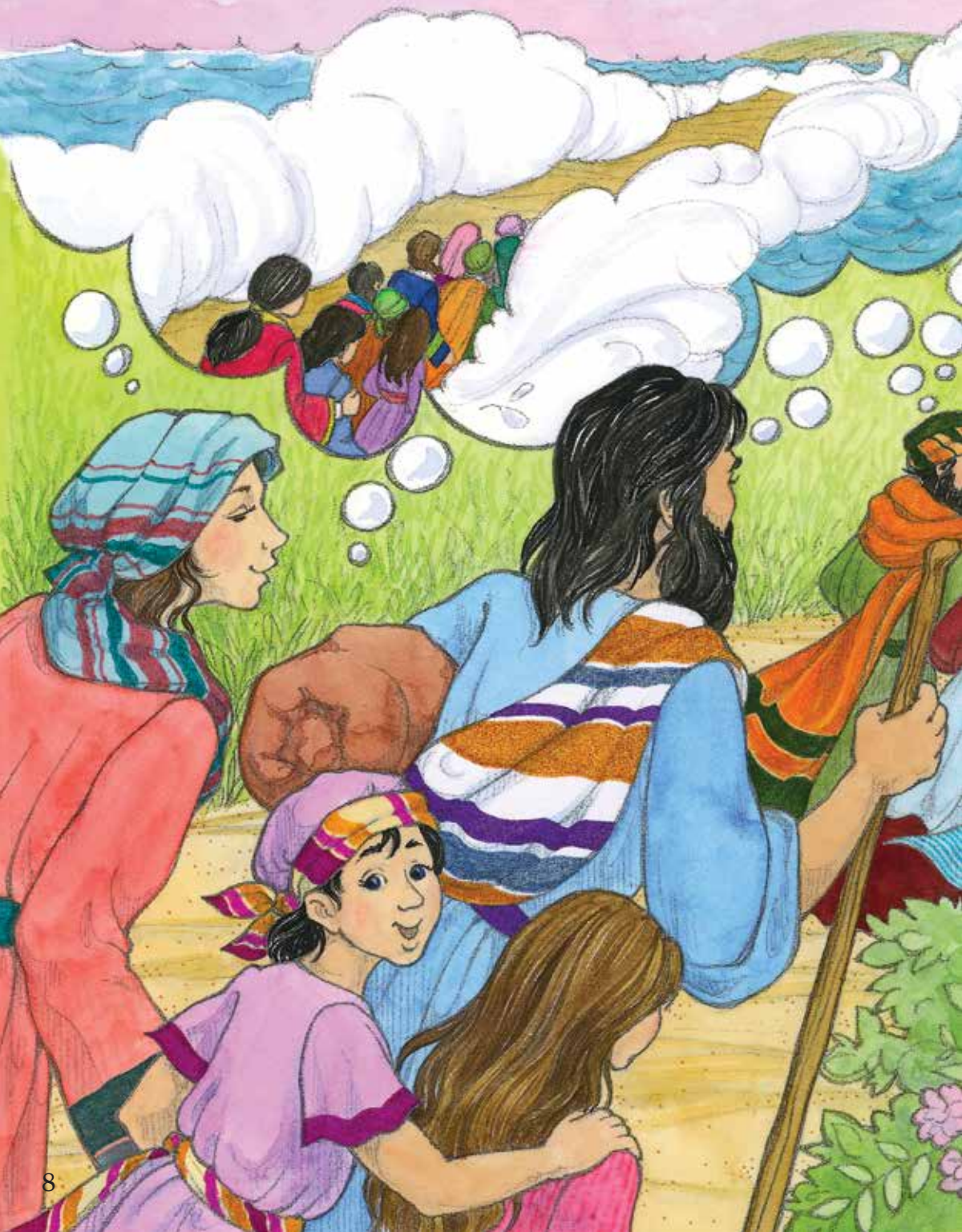
The Editor

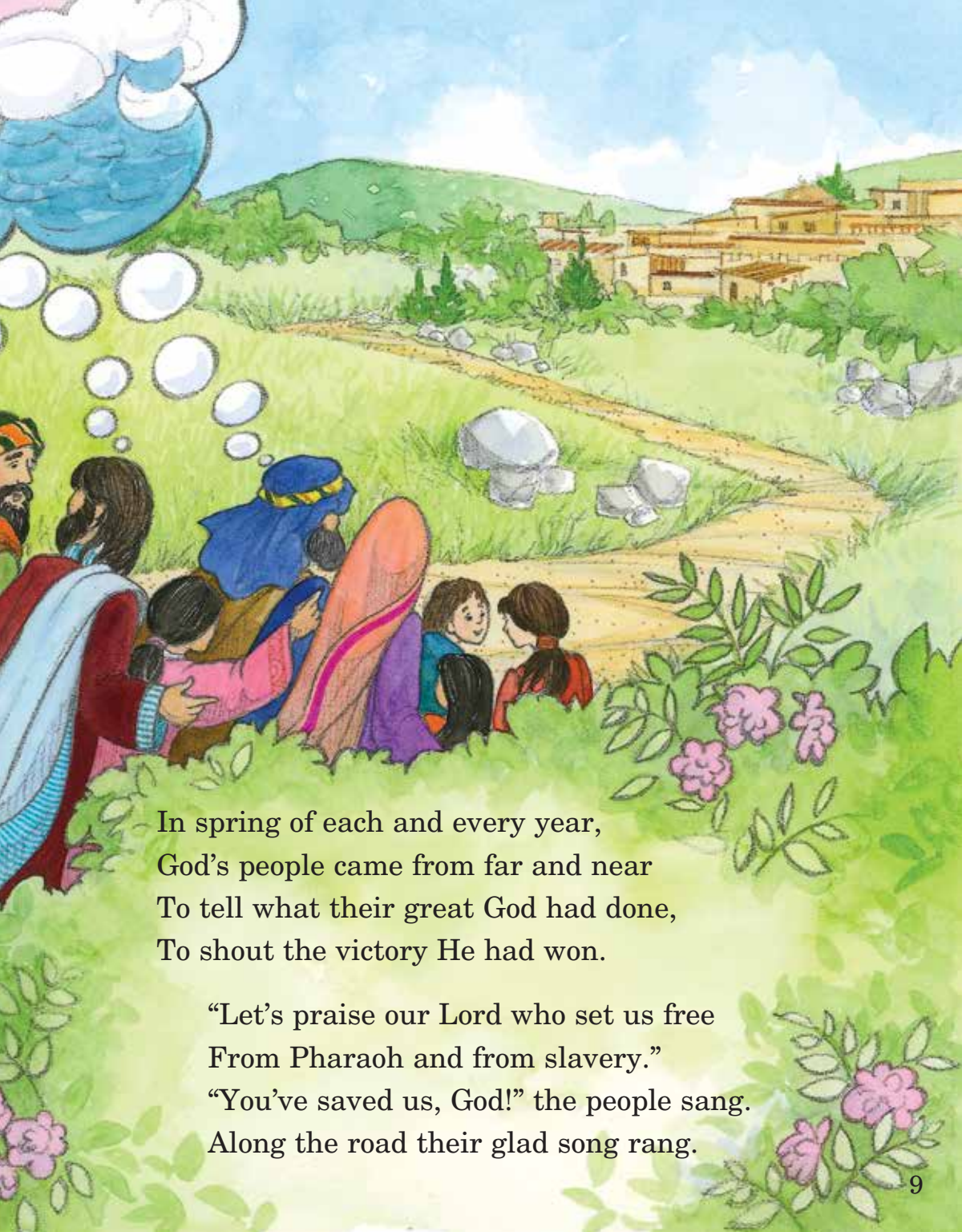


Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11,
Luke 19:28–38, John 12:12–19
for children

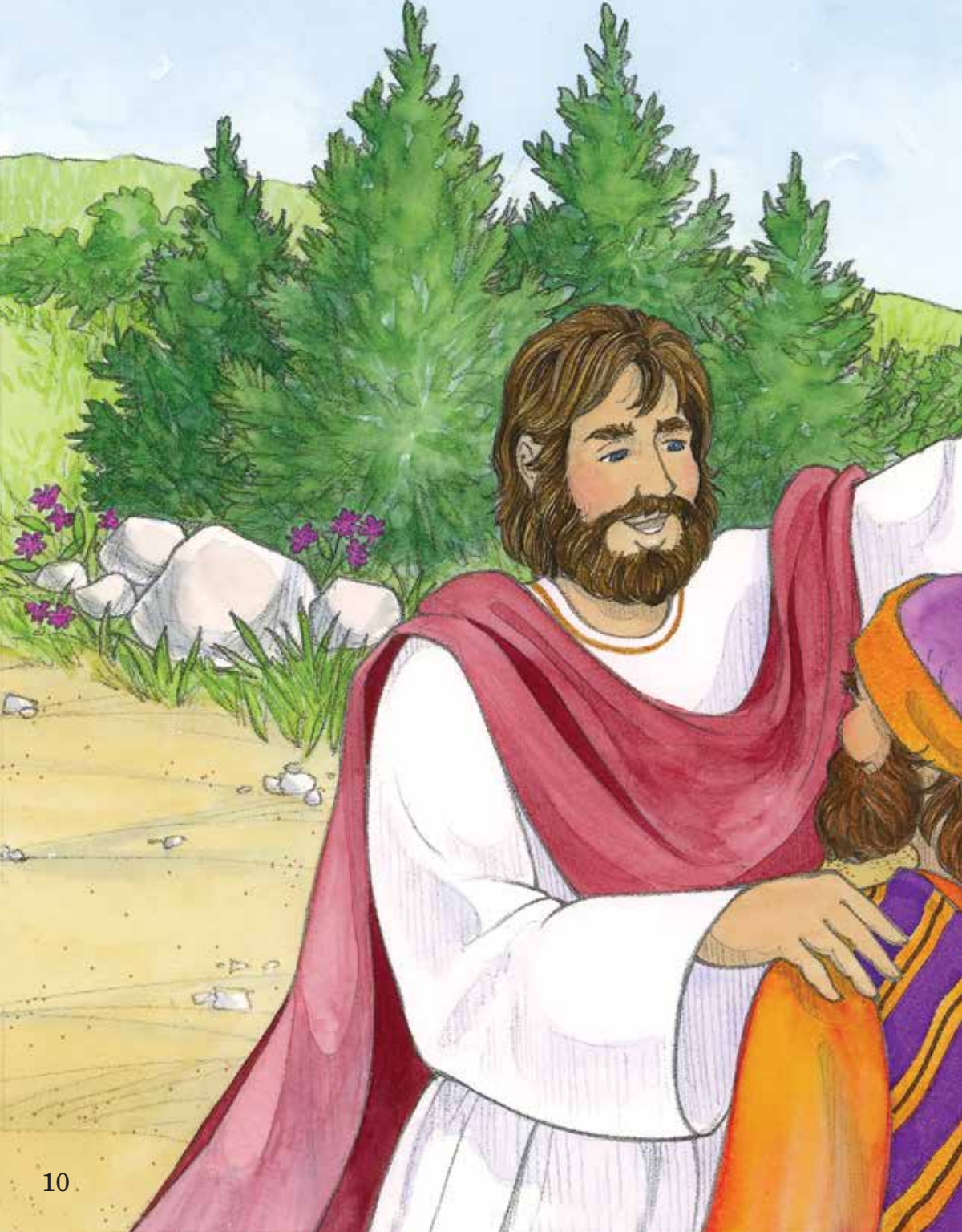
Written by Jane L. Fryar
Illustrated by Michelle Dorenkamp

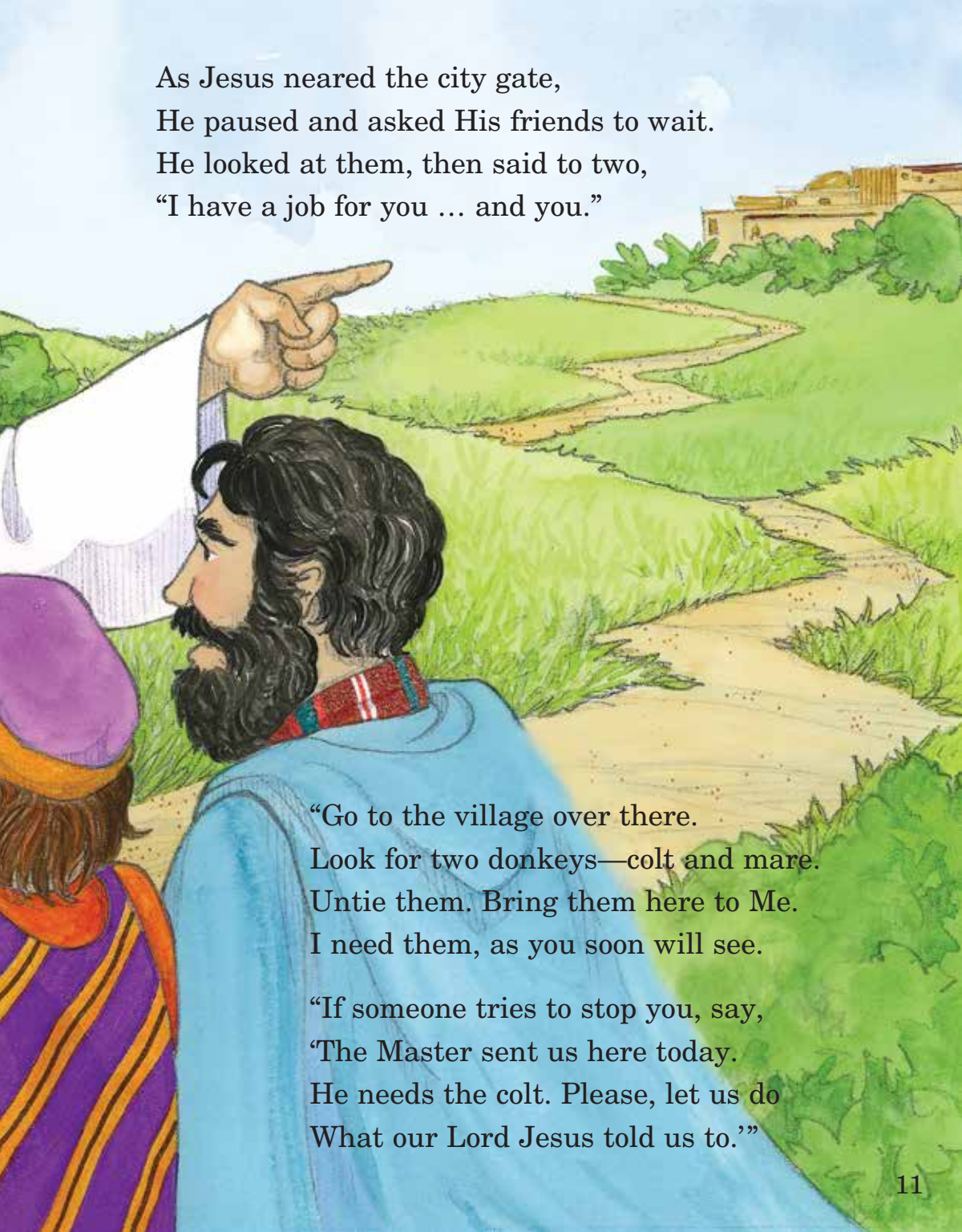




In spring of each and every year,
God's people came from far and near
To tell what their great God had done,
To shout the victory He had won.

“Let's praise our Lord who set us free
From Pharaoh and from slavery.”
“You've saved us, God!” the people sang.
Along the road their glad song rang.





As Jesus neared the city gate,
He paused and asked His friends to wait.
He looked at them, then said to two,
“I have a job for you ... and you.”

“Go to the village over there.
Look for two donkeys—colt and mare.
Untie them. Bring them here to Me.
I need them, as you soon will see.

“If someone tries to stop you, say,
‘The Master sent us here today.
He needs the colt. Please, let us do
What our Lord Jesus told us to.’”



THE WEEK THAT LED TO EASTER

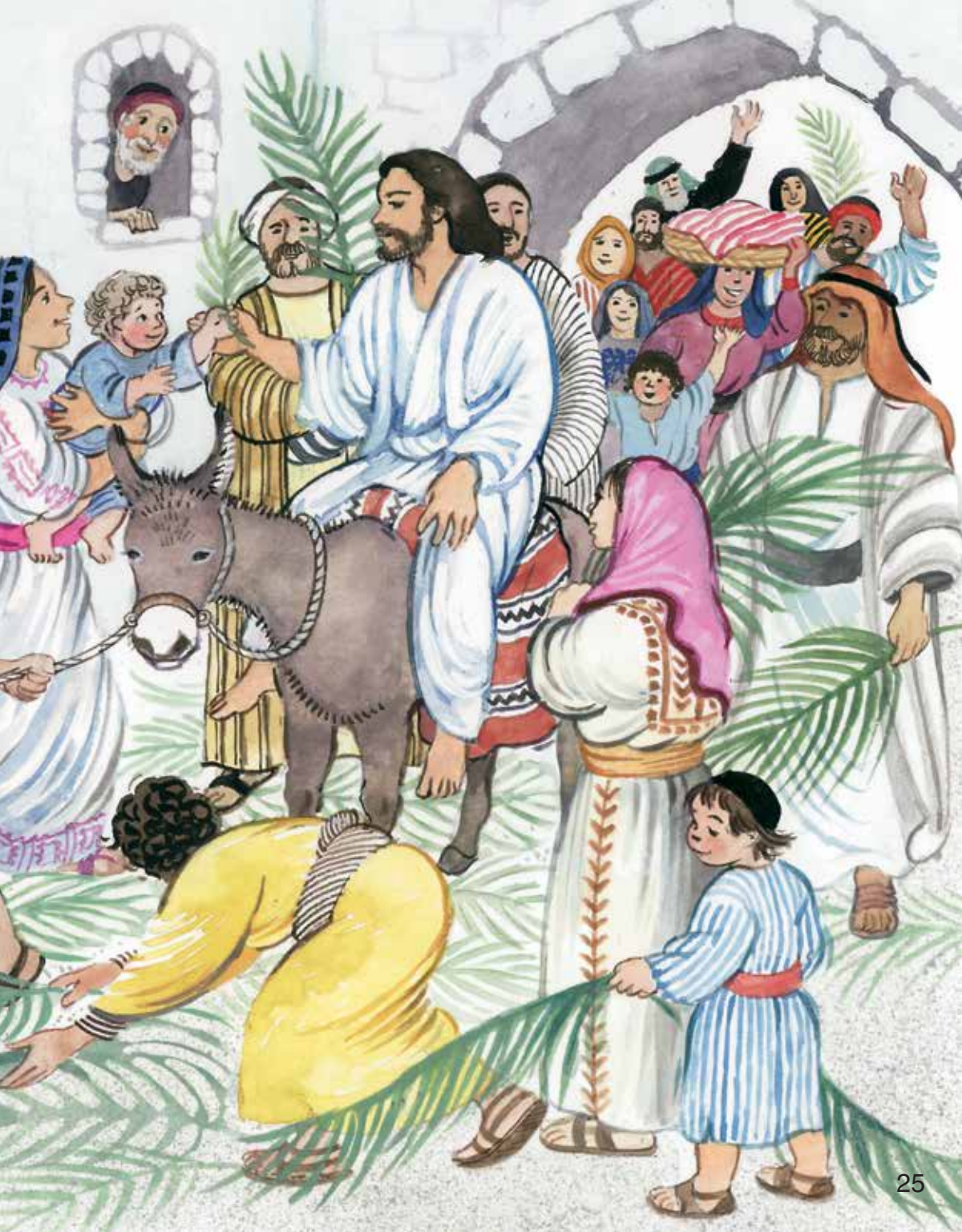
The Story of Holy Week Matthew 21:1–28:10; Mark 11:1–16:8;
Luke 19:29–24:12; and John 12:12–20:10 for children

Written by Joanne Larrison
Illustrated by Jenny Williams

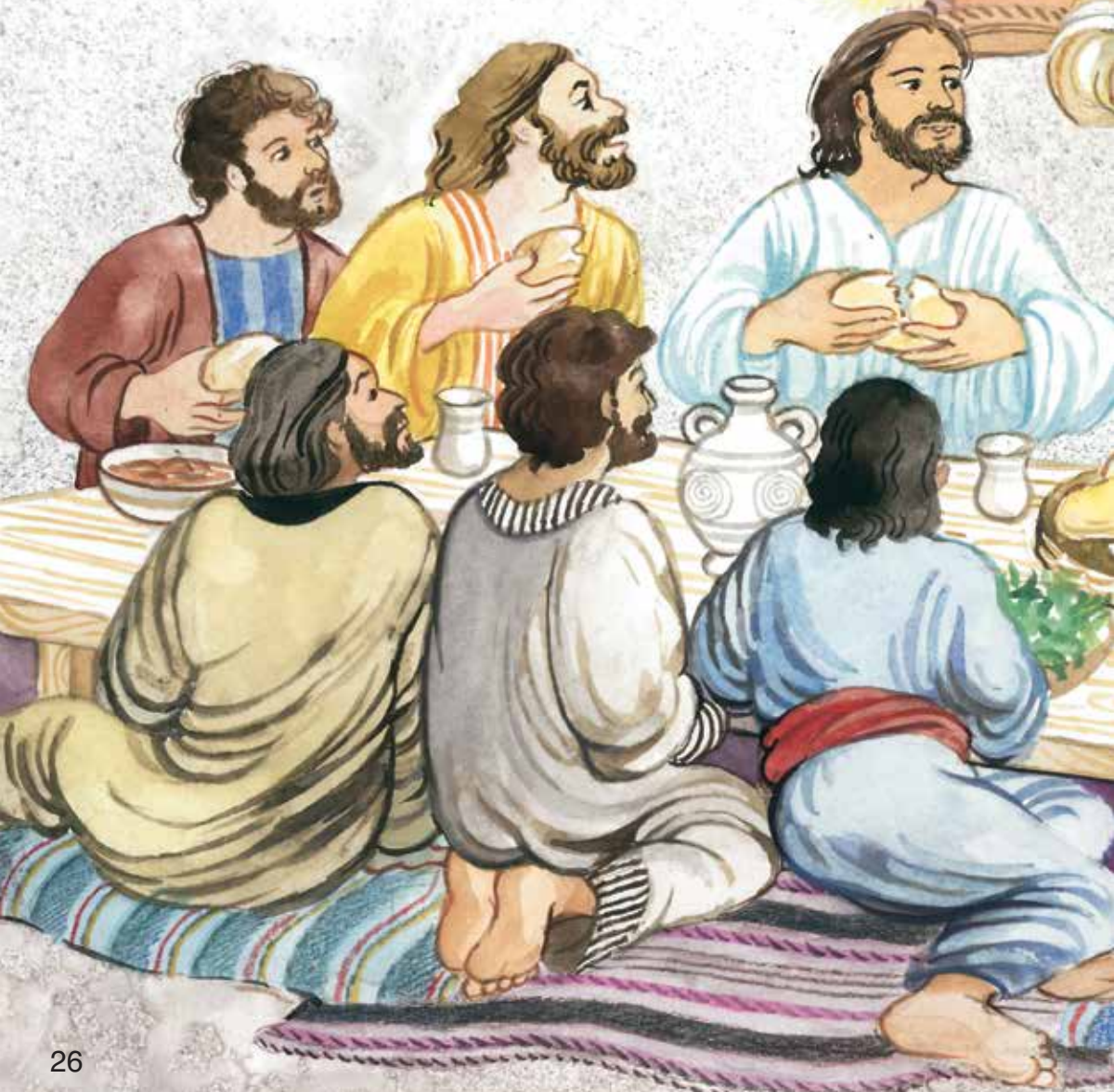


“Hosanna! Sing to Christ the King,”
Crowds shouted as He came.
They had heard the many stories—
How He healed the sick and lame.

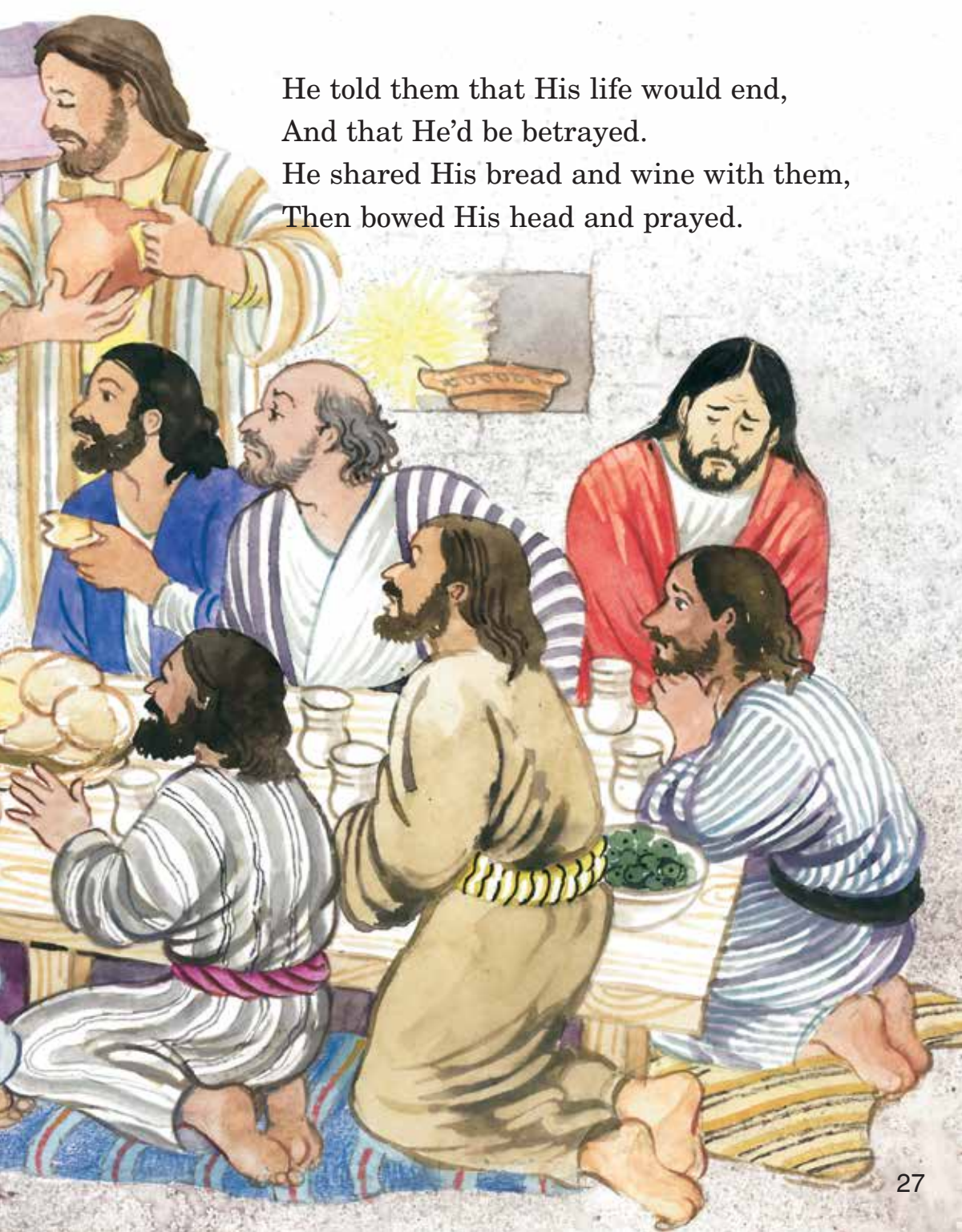
Jerusalem was crowded.
The Passover had begun—
A time to remember Egypt,
And to have a little fun.



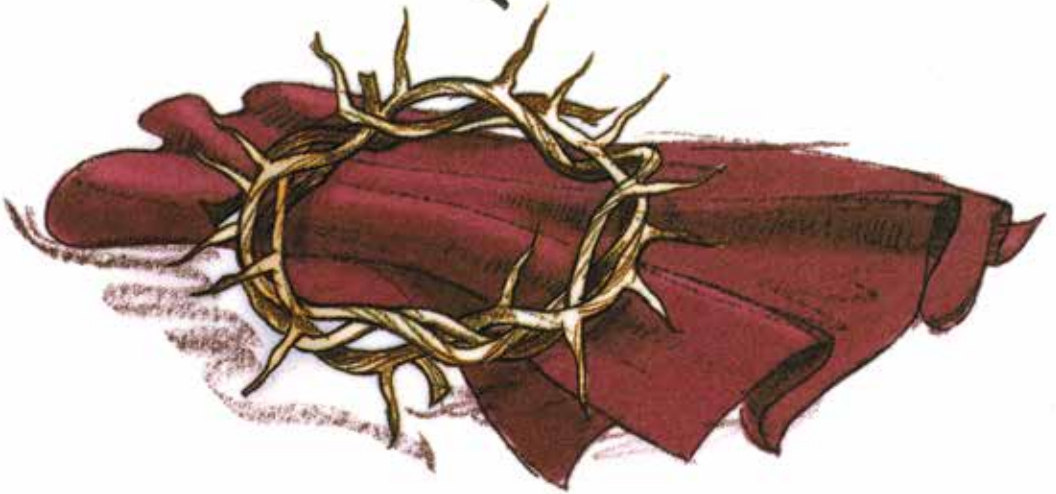
The 12 disciples led the way
To the upper room
Where Jesus shared His final meal—
He knew His life was doomed.



He told them that His life would end,
And that He'd be betrayed.
He shared His bread and wine with them,
Then bowed His head and prayed.



GOOD FRIDAY



Matthew 21:1–27:61

Mark 11:1–15:47

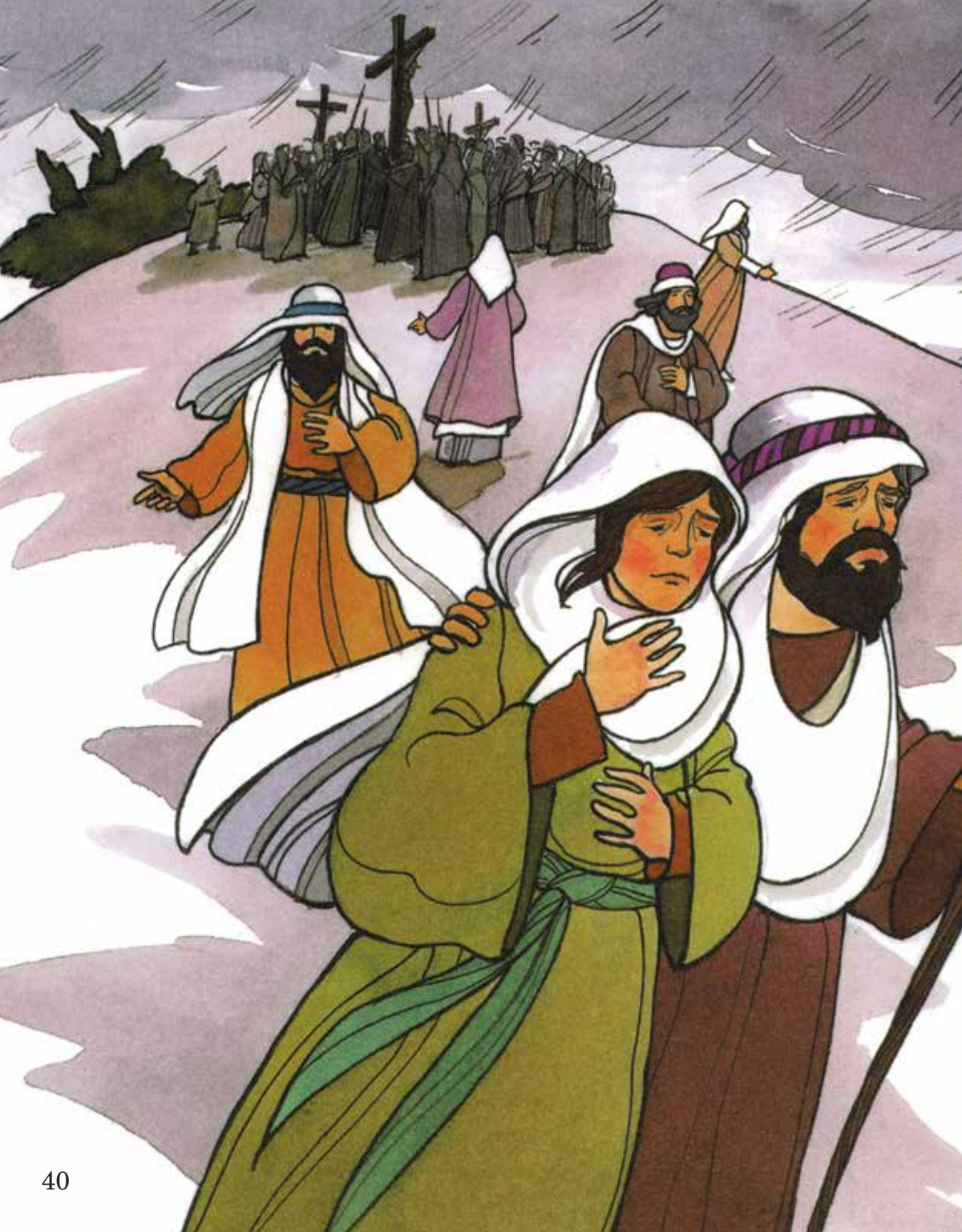
Luke 19:28–23:56

John 12:12–19:42

for children

Written by Louise Ulmer

Illustrated by Reg Sandland



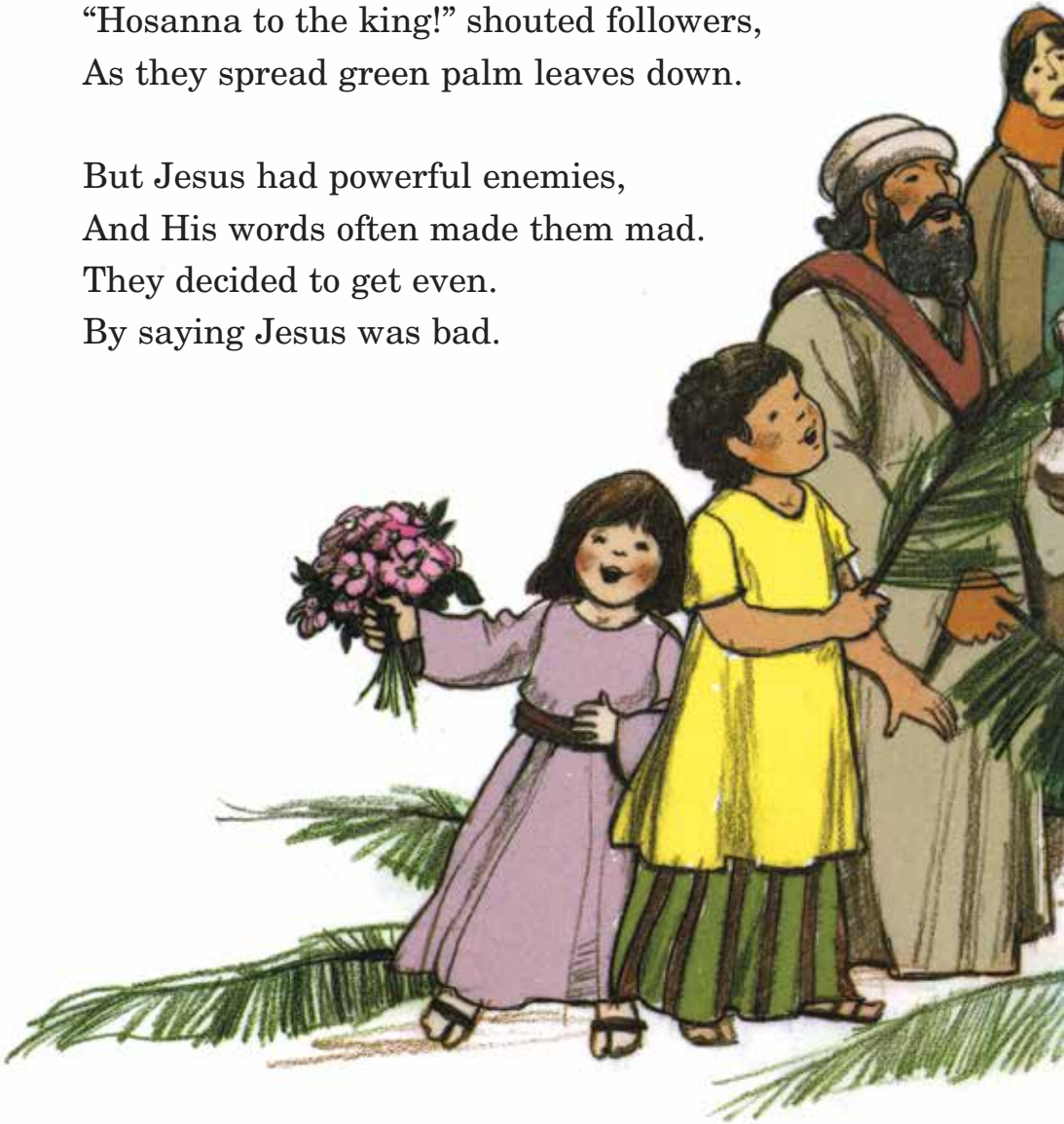


Why do we say, “*Good Friday*”
When we speak of the day Jesus died?
Wasn’t it a most terrible day,
A day all believers cried?

Although it seemed like a hopeless day
When Jesus laid down His life,
It was part of the plan God had for His world
To make all the wrong things right.

The story on Palm Sunday,
When Jesus rode into town.
“Hosanna to the king!” shouted followers,
As they spread green palm leaves down.

But Jesus had powerful enemies,
And His words often made them mad.
They decided to get even.
By saying Jesus was bad.





Barabbas Goes Free

The Story of the Release of Barabbas

Matthew 27:15–26, Mark 15:6–15, Luke 23:13–25,
and John 18:39–40 for children

Erik J. Rottmann

Illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel

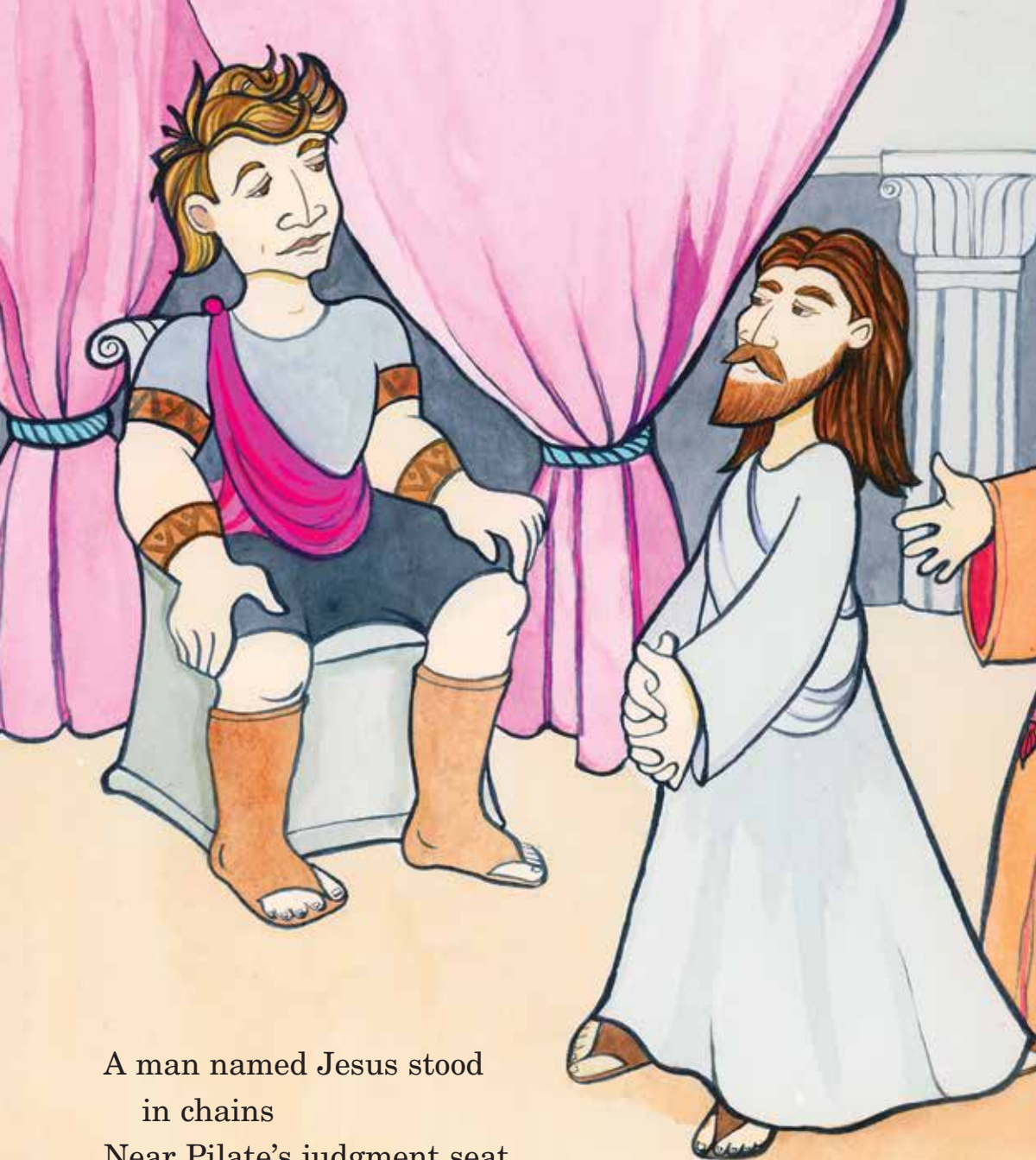


At Passover in Israel,
The greatest and the least
All gathered in Jerusalem
To celebrate the feast.

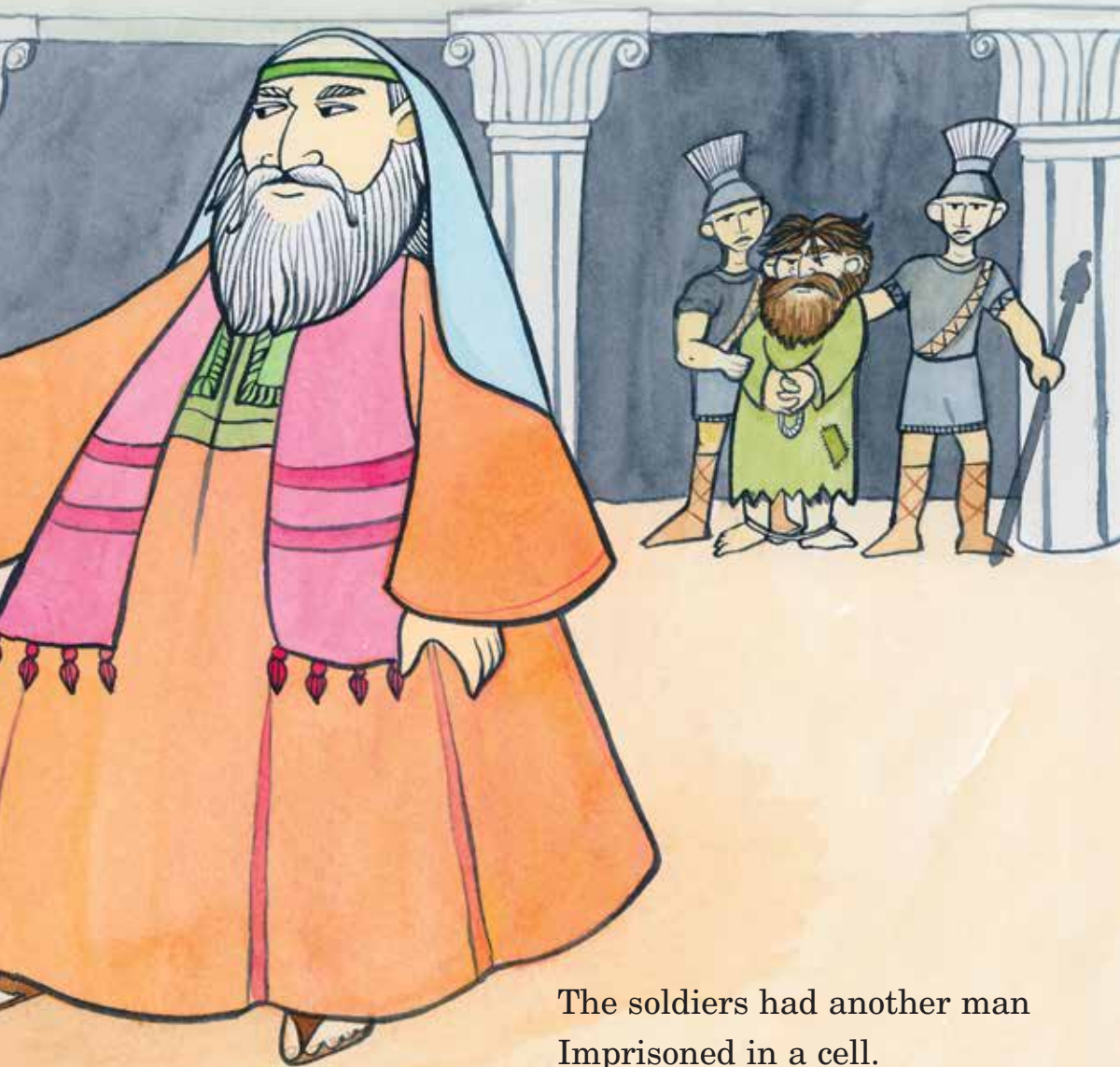




Now Pontius Pilate had a way
To make the people glad.
At Passover he would set free
A prisoner he had.



A man named Jesus stood
in chains
Near Pilate's judgment seat.
Some people said, "He broke the law!"
Then bound His hands and feet.



The soldiers had another man
Imprisoned in a cell.
Barabbas broke so many laws
The people knew him well.

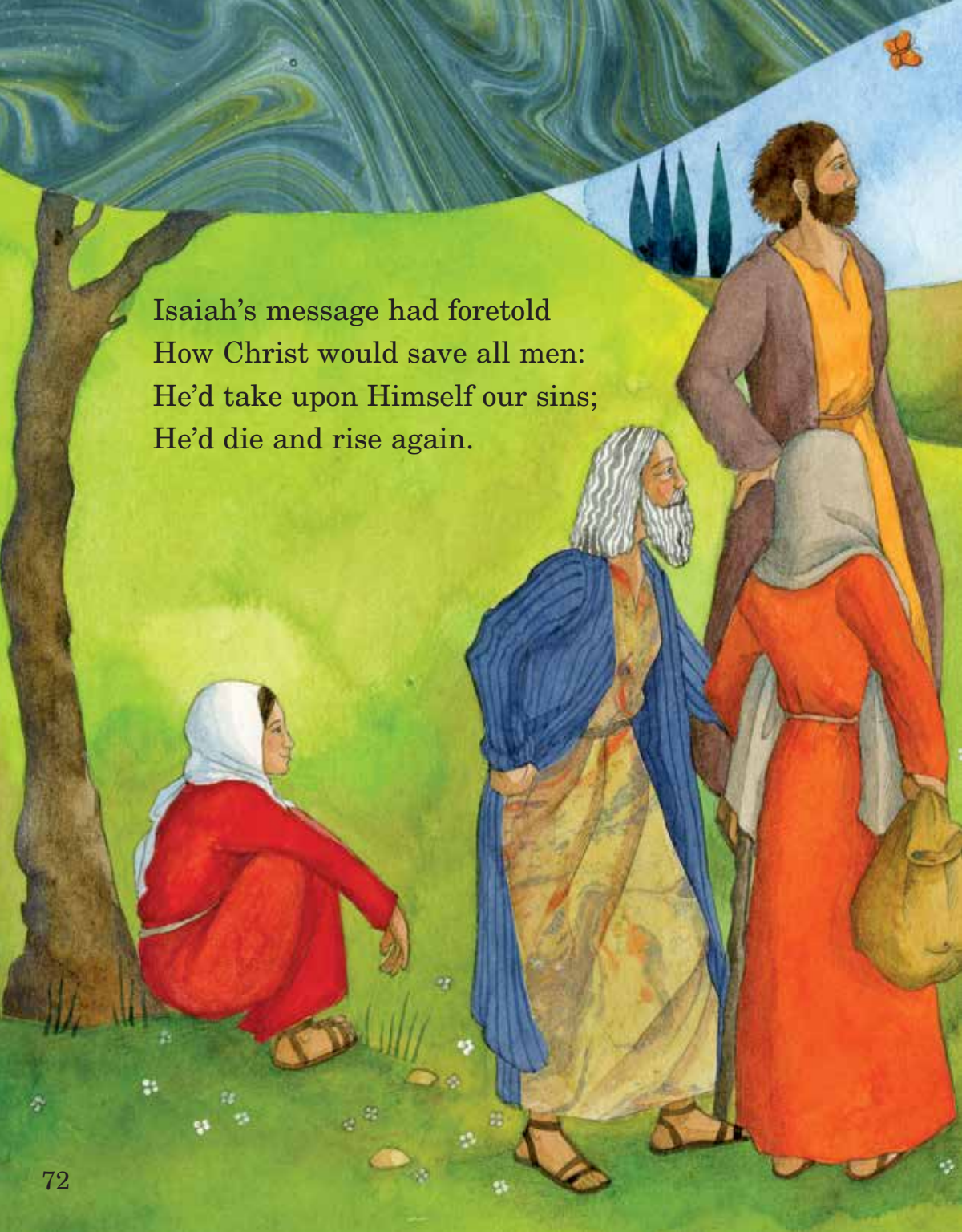


THE
Resurrection

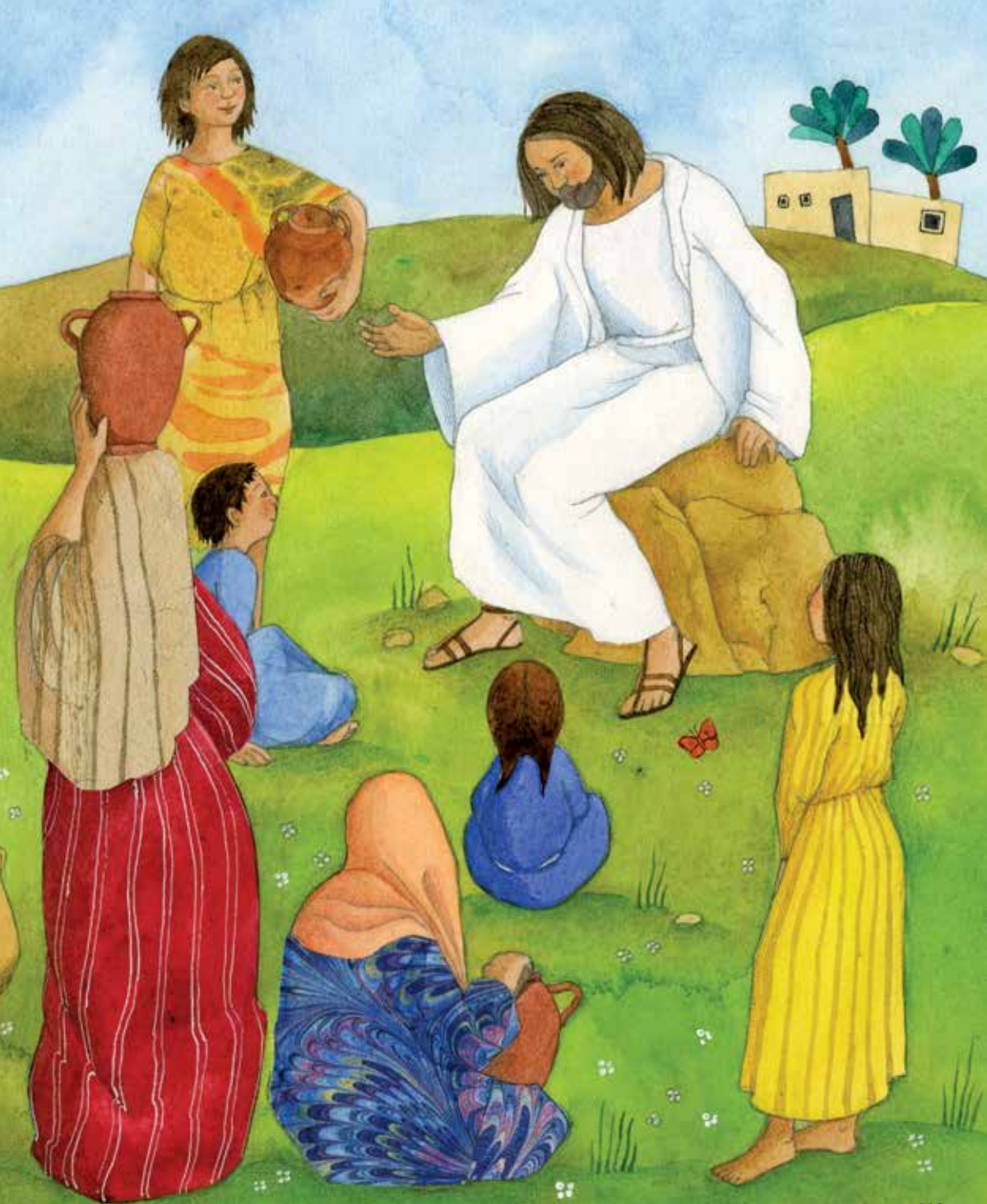
Isaiah 53:4–6 and Matthew 21:1–11; 26;
27:27–66; 28:1–10 for children

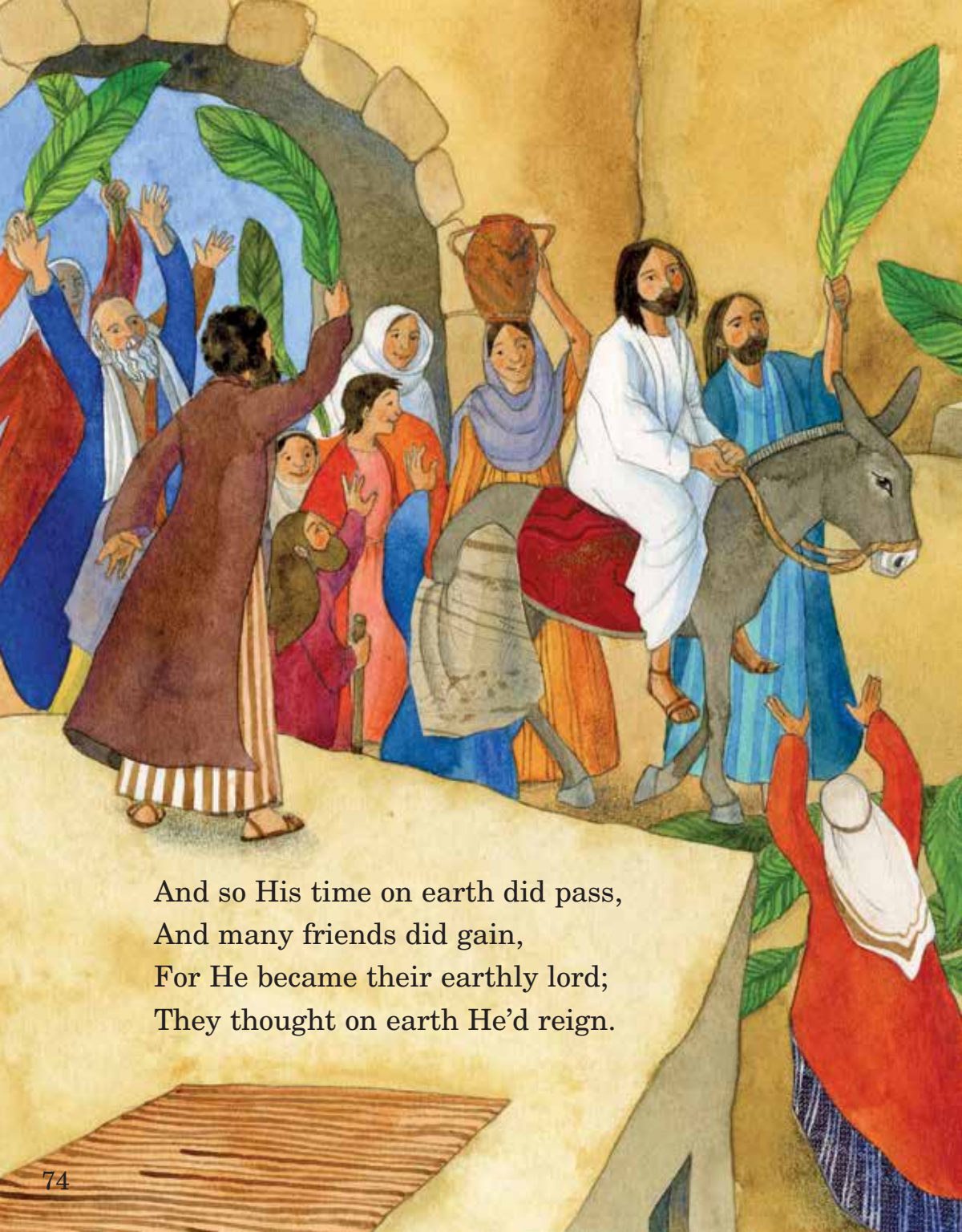


Written by Cynda Strong
Illustrated by Helen Cann

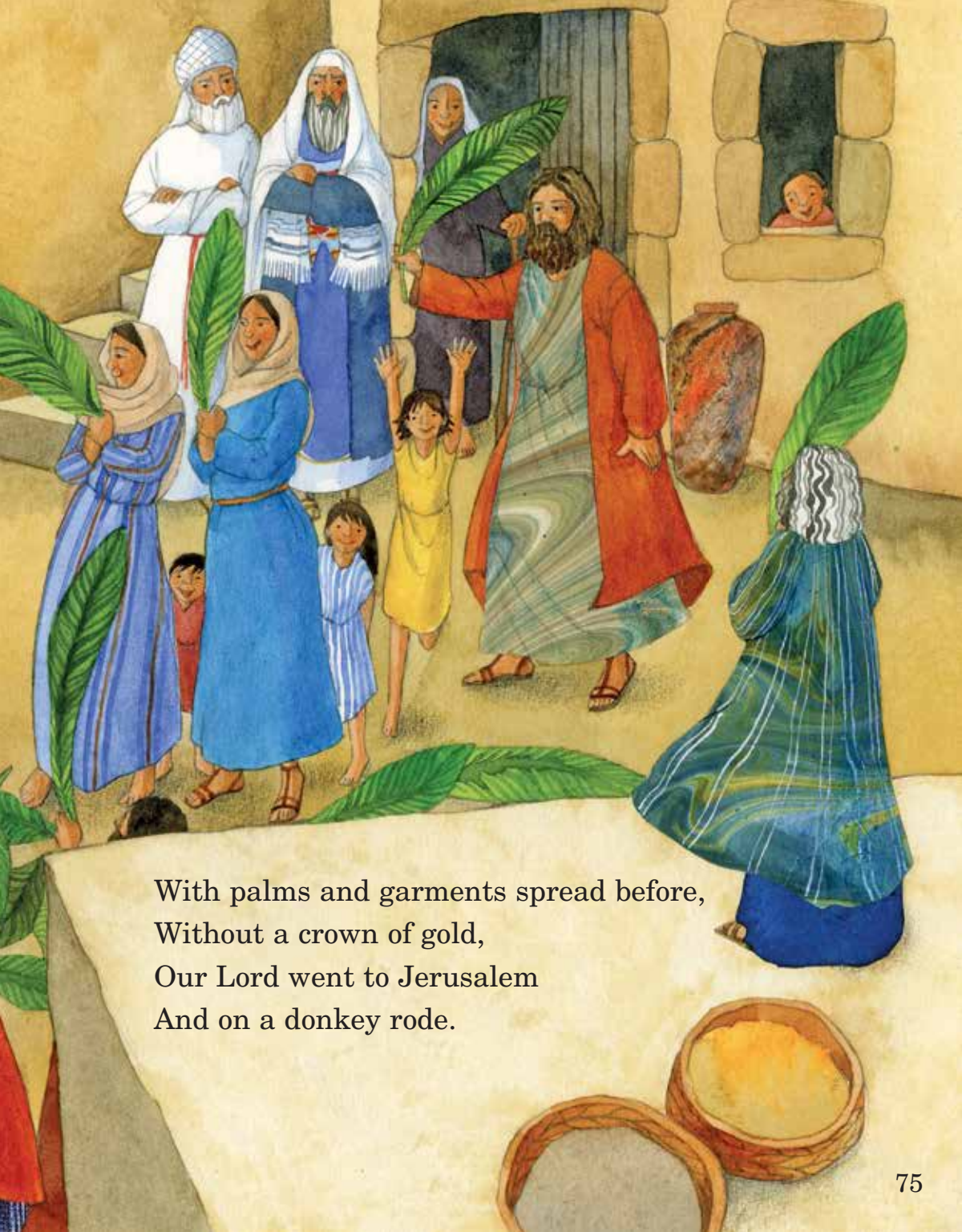


Isaiah's message had foretold
How Christ would save all men:
He'd take upon Himself our sins;
He'd die and rise again.





And so His time on earth did pass,
And many friends did gain,
For He became their earthly lord;
They thought on earth He'd reign.



With palms and garments spread before,
Without a crown of gold,
Our Lord went to Jerusalem
And on a donkey rode.

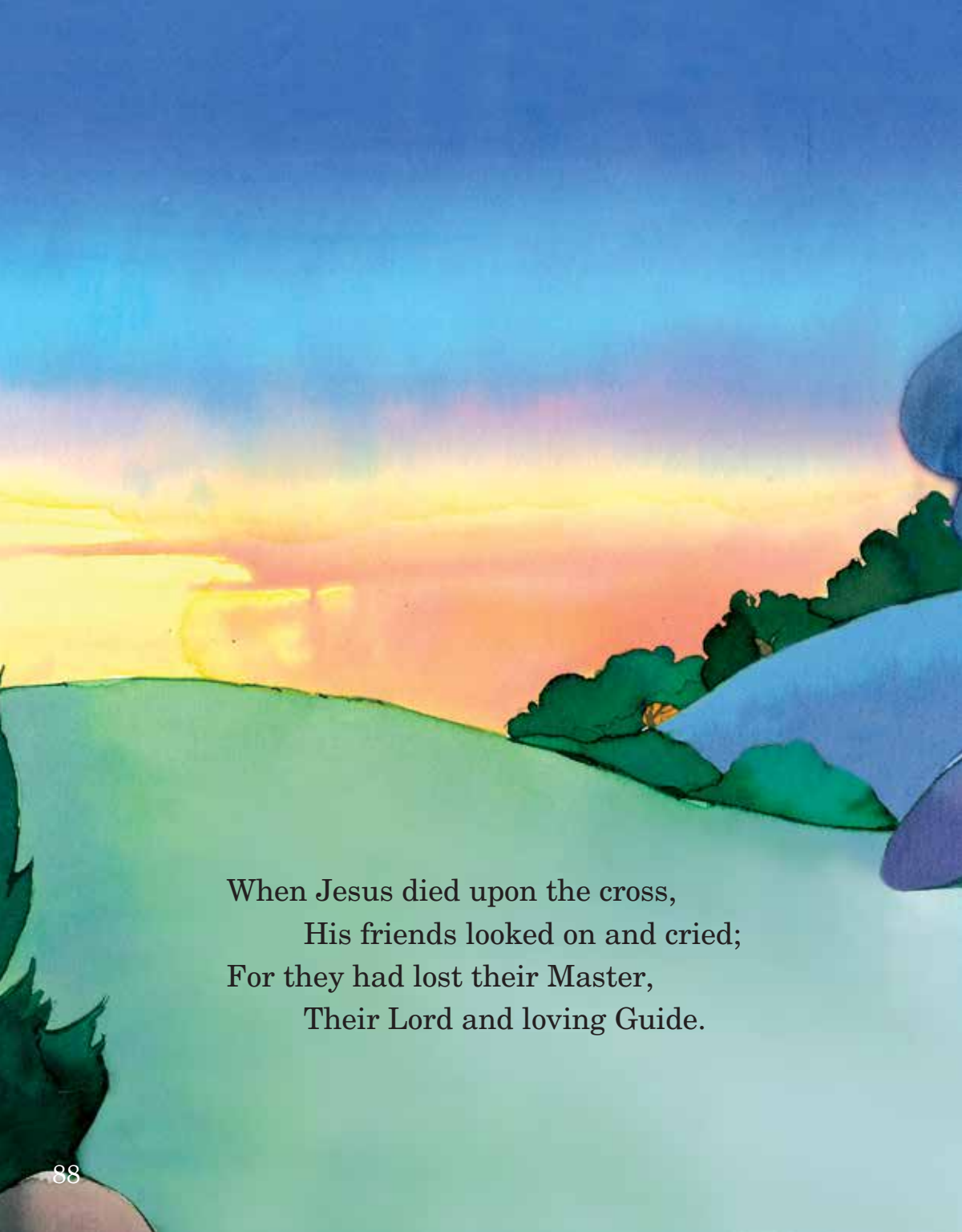
My Happy Easter Book



Matthew 27:57–28:10 for children

Written by Gloria A. Truitt

Illustrated by Len Ebert



When Jesus died upon the cross,
His friends looked on and cried;
For they had lost their Master,
Their Lord and loving Guide.





A friend wrapped Jesus' body in
Fine linens; then he laid
Our Lord within his family tomb—
A cave that he had made.



To make sure no one could go in,
He rolled a giant stone
Across the entrance; closing it.
Now Jesus was alone.