

## History's Most Popular Thief

Can people living today be saved like the thief on the cross?"

Consider three facts in answering this question.

**Fact #1:** The thief lived under a different law than we live under today.

**Fact #2:** While on earth, Jesus had the power to personally forgive sins.

In Mark 2:3–12, a paralyzed man was brought to Jesus. Jesus said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (2:5). The Jewish leaders believed Jesus to be a blasphemer, for they reasoned (and rightfully so), that only God can forgive sin (2:7).

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Whether is it easier to say . . . Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise . . . and walk. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins . . . I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way" (Mark 2:9–11). In healing the man, Jesus proved His authority to forgive sins.

Jesus was still on earth when He forgave the thief. No one today can be saved like the thief because Jesus is no longer on this earth to personally forgive sins.

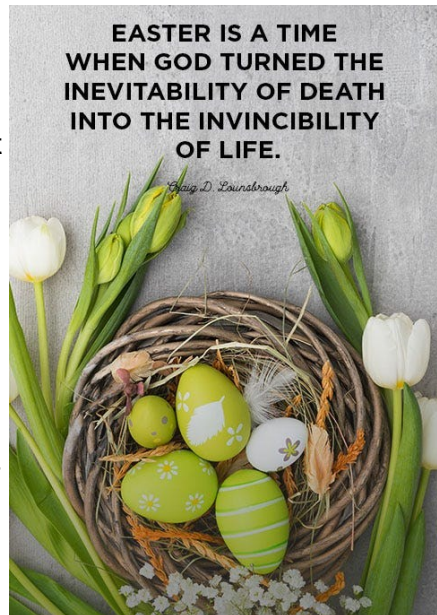
**Facts #3:** The thief died before Jesus said, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

It was after His resurrection that Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus would not utter, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16), until 43 days after this conversation with the thief.

It would be 50 days before Peter, having received the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:18–19) would say, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

The thief on the cross could hardly be expected to obey commands not even given until after he was in paradise!

If the thief on the cross were here today, he would doubtless tell us, **"Whatsoever he says unto you, do it" (John 2:5).** — Allen Webster



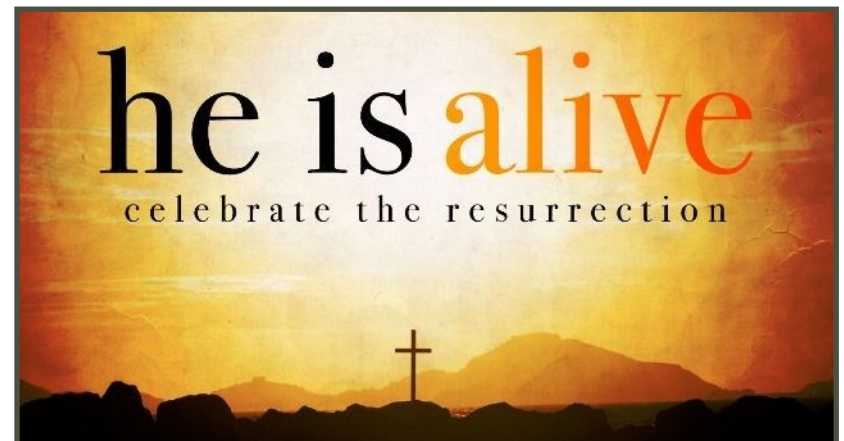
## Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Casey Hambelton had successful surgery on her right foot Wednesday. She has one foot in a boot and the other in a cast. For two weeks she can only walk to the bathroom.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox (Dora), Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

## Blessings

- ◆ Tiffany Pleasant will have her final chemo treatment this week!
- ◆ Congratulations to Bryce Hambelton who will graduate from College of the Ozarks on May 10th after only three years with a Bachelor's degree in exercise science and a minor in coaching.

Thank you to all who donated candy, the dozen or more who helped fill eggs and inflate balloons, and the ones who helped yesterday for our Community Easter Egg Hunt.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-4	Nichole Lane	4-7	Jim and Pat Kirkland
4-6	Barbara James	Birthdays	
4-11	Vicki Smith	4-26	Mark Lane
4-14	Sailor Anderson	4-28	Rebecca Hambelton
4-18	Lana Cockrum	4-27	Barbara Stevens
4-19	Logan Hillhouse	4-29	Harold Reynolds

Nichole Lane will be serving sloppy joes, sides and dessert for our fellowship supper Wednesday night. Please join us.

Date	Event	Details
Friday, April 25 9:30 a.m.	Prepare for Ladies' Prayer Brunch	Come help prep brunch food and decorate.
Saturday, April 26 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch—food list on bulletin board.	We Host! Karin Reynolds will be the speaker. See Barbara Luna if you can help.
April 27-30	Spring Gospel Meeting—Thayer	Ben Wright from Jasper, Arkansas
May 2nd, 7:30 p.m.	Bonfire Devo behind the church	Gather around the bonfire and make smores.
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified!	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

Great news for our Wednesday night cooks. We replaced the 42-year old wall ovens with two new ranges and a new microwave. Thanks to David, Halbert, and Titus for the installation.

### April Worship Assignments

#### Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

4-20 David Stevens  
4-27 Don Luna

#### Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp  
John Abraham

**Song Leader: Titus Smith**  
**Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna**

## The Family News

April 20, 2025

### Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

[www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org)

### A Place to Call Home

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Crucified, Buried, and Raised***

#### Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

#### Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.*

#### Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835  
Don Luna 417-712-1945  
David Stevens 417-679-4700  
John Abraham 870-421-5632

#### Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604  
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090  
James Langston 870-315-4355

#### Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

**Ministers:** Every Member—Each One of Us