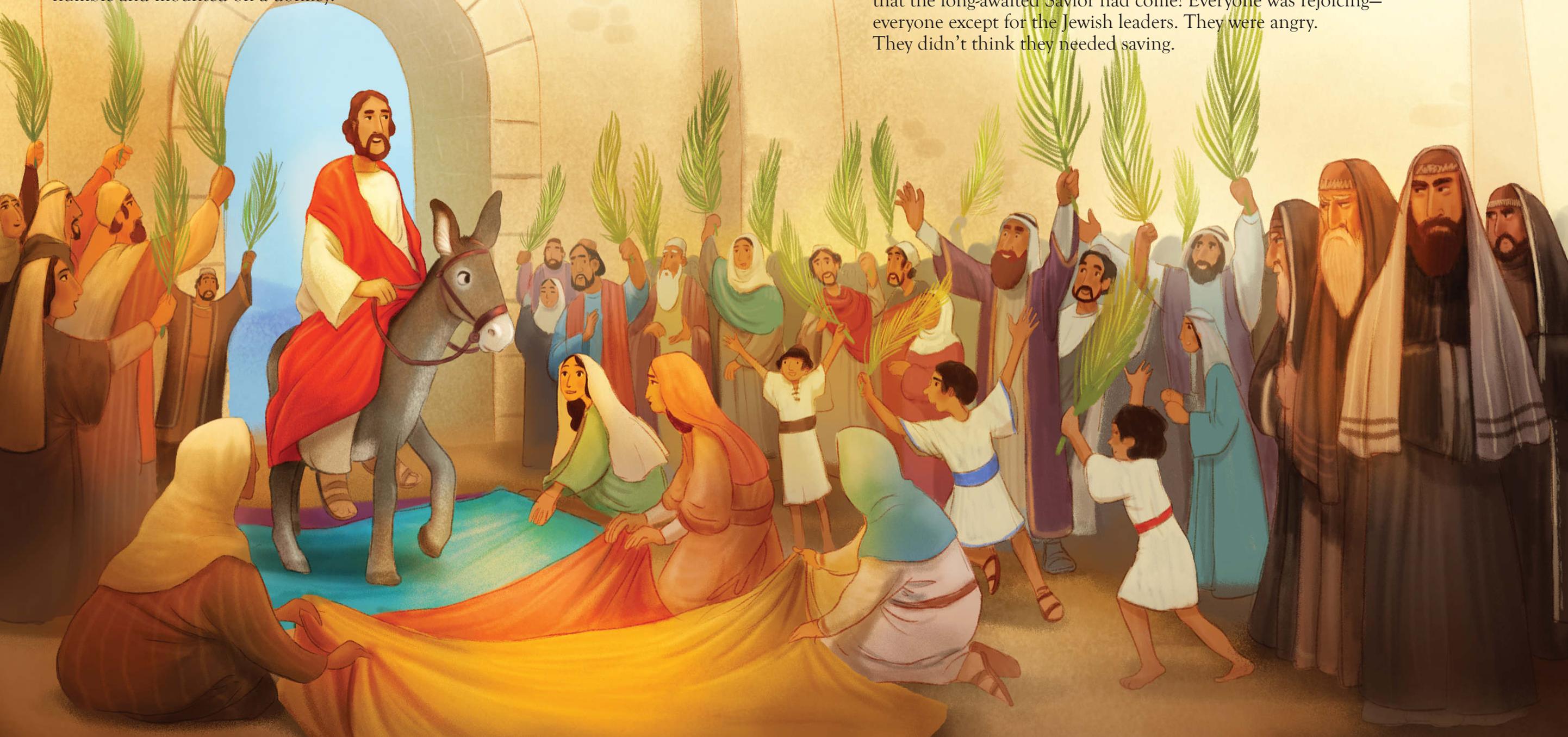


After three years of ministry, Jesus came into Jerusalem and made his triumphal entry! He didn't enter on a royal horse, or in kingly robes. Instead he came riding on a donkey. This fulfilled a prophecy made about the promised King: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey.'"

Many people placed their cloaks on the road. Others waved palm branches. The crowd followed him and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

The word *Hosanna* means, "Please saves us!" The people knew that the long-awaited Savior had come! Everyone was rejoicing—everyone except for the Jewish leaders. They were angry. They didn't think they needed saving.



Later that week, on Passover night, Jesus met with his disciples in an upper room. Because the city streets were full of dirt, and everyone's feet got dirty, it was normal for the lowest servant to wash the feet of guests. But which of the disciples would take this lowly role?

To their surprise, Jesus laid aside his robes and began washing the feet of his disciples! He was teaching them about his kingdom. He said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, then you also should wash one another's feet."



This humble King had come down from heaven. He laid aside his glory and came to serve his people. No king in all of history had ever stooped this low.

But those disciples' feet weren't the only thing that needed washing. Their hearts were full of sin. Jesus would stoop even lower to make a way for their hearts to be cleaned as well.

That night, Jesus wanted to share the Passover meal with his disciples, and he would do it in a surprising new way. The Jews celebrated Passover every year—to remember the day when God saved Israel from slavery and brought them out of Egypt.

As the disciples ate this meal, Jesus broke bread and passed it to them, and he said, “Take and eat this bread. This is my body.” Then he took a cup, and gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. I will not drink of this cup again until I drink it with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

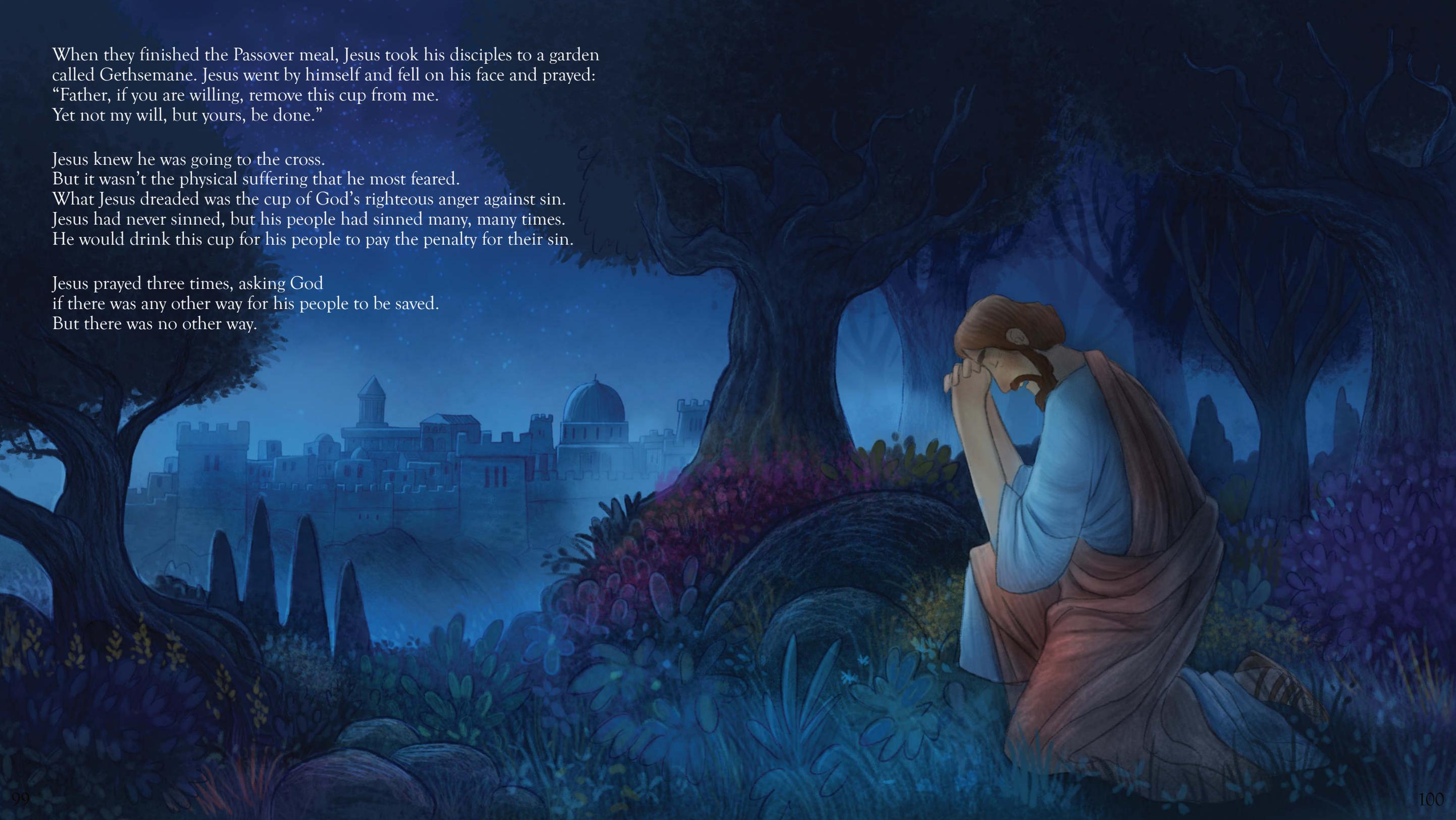
Jesus was teaching them that he would become the Passover lamb. Just as the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites from death, Jesus would die to save his people from their sins.



When they finished the Passover meal, Jesus took his disciples to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus went by himself and fell on his face and prayed: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Yet not my will, but yours, be done.”

Jesus knew he was going to the cross. But it wasn't the physical suffering that he most feared. What Jesus dreaded was the cup of God's righteous anger against sin. Jesus had never sinned, but his people had sinned many, many times. He would drink this cup for his people to pay the penalty for their sin.

Jesus prayed three times, asking God if there was any other way for his people to be saved. But there was no other way.



When Jesus finished praying, he found his disciples sleeping. He told them, "Rise and pray, that you may not enter into temptation." Just then, some Jewish leaders brought soldiers to arrest Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Am I a robber, that you have come out with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not arrest me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Jesus was the light of the world. He was the Savior who had been promised for thousands of years, but the leaders of Israel were so blind they couldn't see that he was the true light. They hated his light, because it revealed their sin. They didn't want God's kingdom to come; they wanted to build their own kingdom.

