

Litany of Links to Jesus' Life
by Gerrit Dawson

Lord Jesus Christ, we adore in wonder that you took up residence in the Virgin's womb.
Prepare a place in our innermost rooms for you.

By your presence you sanctified the straw of an animal manger.
Enter and cleanse the detritus and trash of our daily lives.

We marvel that you knew the Temple to be your Father's house
as you were at ease there discussing his Word.
*Implant your Word in our hearts and minds
and so consecrate us ever to be about your Father's business.*

We bow to see you take a sinner's baptism as your own,
as you declare, "I have come to do your will."
Receive our bodies a living sacrifice that we might know and do your will.

We gasp to hear you call Levi the tax collector to yourself.
Oh call us amidst all our compromised entanglements to rise and follow you.

We fear to see you step among the tombs and the howling self-harmer,
but long to hear you speak peace to our madness.
Now let us be clothed, in our right minds, and listening at your feet.

We are amazed that in the weary wilderness your heart reached
toward a crowd that was intrusive, needy, and unprepared;
we tremble to hear you tell your disciples, "You give them something to eat."
*Multiply what little we have in your Spirit's power
to be enough for every person to whom you send us.*

We rejoice that you stretched forth your arms and called the children to yourself,
welcoming them joyfully with your blessing words and touch.
Awaken childlike faith in us and return youthful joy as we run to you.

We fall on our heads to behold you transfigured,
your heavenly glory unveiled and the great end of salvation history revealed.
*Set our hearts free to worship you, the End of the Law,
the Lamb Who Was Slain, the Joy of All Our Desiring.*

We admire your courage to own your identity as the Christ, the Son of God,
and to set your face to Jerusalem where you would suffer and die.
*Save us from hindering your work with our fear of suffering;
send us boldly where you go, taking up our cross with you.*

We weep to see you stand alone with the woman in the circle of condemnation.
Side with us when accusations fly, though we have no defense but your love.

We freeze with shock as you stop a funeral,
and fear that you speak too rashly to the loss of the widowed mother, "Do not cry!"
We marvel as beyond hope you raise the son and return him to his mother.
Oh return lost sons and daughters so that the world may know that you make all things new.

We laugh with incredulity that you ask a blind man what he wants.
*But we pray that you would call us from our begging mats
to find fulfillment of our deepest longings.*

We adore your peace that passes understanding as the lies assail you.
Anchor us with your truth in the hour of testing.

We rejoice that you made the good confession before Pilate, saving us though not yourself.
Encourage us with a fire of passion to own your name on our lips.

We adore you entering a plea of ignorance for those who crucify you.
Forgive us, oh forgive us, even when we do know what we do to you.

We clasp our hands over our mouths as you cry out your forsakenness.
*Be our companion in the hours of dereliction
when it seems the world has gone dark and the Father has become only wrath toward us.*

We can scarcely believe that in your agony
you had a word of consolation for the thief dying next to you.
*We ache to know that we will not be forgotten in your glory,
though our faith has been so frail and so late in coming.*

We release in relief that at last your suffering ends as you commit your spirit to your Father.
Enable us in faith to release our lives, our souls, our hearts and minds into your care.

We rejoice as we long to clasp your risen life to ourselves,
and receive the news that your Father is now *our* Father, your God *is* our God.
*Set our hearts burning like those with you on the Emmaus Road.
Cry within us like Peter, "It is the Lord!"
Breathe faith through us like Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"*

We lift our hearts and heads to receive your ascension blessing.
*Send us on your mission in the world with joy
that you are as near as our next breath until the end of the age.*