



# Imagining Salvation

HT 655  
UDTS | Spring 2025

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At the center of the Christian faith is a holy mystery: because of God's saving work in Jesus Christ, *everything is different*. But what, exactly, has God done in Jesus? What earthly difference does it make? In the midst of the concrete sufferings and ambiguities of creaturely life—from personal tragedies to systemic violence and ecological collapse—what does it mean to profess a God of mending mercy who reconciles, redeems, and creates anew?

*The Dead Shall be Raised*, Jae-Im Kim, Japan

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores questions of soteriology—the meaning and mystery of God's saving work in Jesus Christ. Students interpret soteriological language and imagery found in Scripture, popular culture, and liturgical methods, and engage classic and contemporary theologies of salvation critically and constructively. Students come away able to do theology as a communal practice, to articulate what is at stake theologically and pastorally in diverse accounts of salvation, and to communicate the soteriological significance of Jesus Christ in theologically-grounded, contextually appropriate, and pastorally sensitive ways.

3 Credits. Letter grade or Pass/Fail. Prerequisites: Christian Doctrine I and by permission.

**COURSE TEXTS** (Subject to change before Dec 20, 2024. Please confirm before purchasing.)

1. David A. Brondos, *Fortress Introduction to Salvation and the Cross* (Fortress Press, 2007)
2. Nancy Pineda-Madrid, *Suffering and Salvation in Ciudad Juárez* (Fortress Press, 2011).
3. Elizabeth Johnson, *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril* (Orbis, 2018).
4. Serene Jones, *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World* (WJK, 2009).
5. A study Bible. You are free to use the Bible of your choice. If you don't own an academic study Bible, I recommend *The New Oxford Annotated Bible (2018)* or *The Westminster Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition* (WJK, 2024).
6. Additional readings will be made available for download on Moodle.