

The Passion Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Evangelist Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus
before Pilate. They began to accuse him.

Priests **We found this man perverting our nation,
forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and
saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.**

Pilate Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Pilate *(to the priests)* I find no basis for an accusation against this
man.

Priests *(urgently)* **He stirs up the people by teaching
throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he
began even to this place.**

Evangelist When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a
Galilean. And when he learned that he was under
Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was
himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus,
he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for
a long time, because he had heard about him and was
hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him
at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief
priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing

him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

Pilate You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

Evangelist Then they all shouted out together,

Priests **Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!**

Evangelist This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Priests **Crucify, crucify him!**

Evangelist A third time he said to them,

Pilate Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

Evangelist But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Evangelist As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid

the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Evangelist Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

Jesus Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Evangelist And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him.

Priests **He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!**

Evangelist The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine.

Soldiers **If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**

Evangelist There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him.

Robber I **Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!**

Evangelist But the other rebuked him.

Robber2 **Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Jesus Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Evangelist It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Evangelist Having said this, he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

Centurion **Certainly this man was innocent.**

Evangelist And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Evangelist When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

Jesus I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Evangelist Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

Jesus Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Evangelist Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Evangelist And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!

Evangelist Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

Jesus The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Evangelist Jesus said to Simon Peter,

Jesus Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Peter **Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!**

Jesus I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.

When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

Disciples **No, not a thing.**

Jesus But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

Disciples **Lord, look, here are two swords.**

Jesus It is enough.

Evangelist He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Evangelist Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

Evangelist Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Evangelist While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

Evangelist When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

Disciples **Lord, should we strike with the sword?**

Evangelist Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus No more of this!

Evangelist And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

Jesus Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

Evangelist Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Servant girl **This man also was with him.**

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter **Woman, I do not know him.**

Evangelist A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Bystander I **You also are one of them.**

Peter **Man, I am not!**

Evangelist Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting,

Bystander2 Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

Evangelist At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Men Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?

Evangelist They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Priests If you are the Messiah, tell us.

Jesus If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Priests Are you, then, the Son of God?

Jesus You say that I am.

Priests What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

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Evangelist Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Evangelist This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**