

PASSION SUNDAY

Gospel

MATTHEW 21:1-11

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew

Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. They went to a town, Bethphage, on the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to two disciples, “Go to the village and you will see a donkey tied up with a colt. Untie them and bring them here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you taking the donkeys? Tell that person that the Master needs them.’ He will let them go.”

This happened to show what the prophet had said was true:

“Tell the city of Zion. Your king is coming to you. He is humble and rides on a donkey, born from a work animal.”

So the disciples went into the village and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them. Then Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road. Other people cut branches from the trees and put them on the road.

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Some people walked in front of Jesus and some behind Jesus. They all shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and all the people were excited. They asked each other, “Who is that man?” Some people said, “This man is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Good News of the Lord

A Reading from the Scroll of Isaiah

The Lord God taught me what to say so I can speak to inspire the people. Every morning he makes me eager to hear what he is going to tell me.

The Lord opened my mind. I did not rebel or ignore him. I let people whip me on my back. They insulted me and I did not stop them. They pulled the hairs of my beard and spit in my face but I did not stop them.

They cannot hurt me because the Lord God is with me. I made myself strong so I can accept their insults. I know that I will not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSE: My God, my God, Why you have forsaken me.

People look at me and mock me.
They stick out their tongues and say,
“Ask the Lord to save you!”
Maybe he will save you.
If he likes you so much, he will save you.

RESPONSE:

People around me are like dogs.
My enemies tied me up.
They pierced my hands and feet.
I can see my bones.

RESPONSE:

They took my clothes and gambled for them.
They are throwing dices for my robe.
Lord, don't leave me!
Hurry and help me!

RESPONSE:

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the
Philippians

Paul said, “Christ was truly God. But he did not make himself equal with God. He gave up everything and became slave. He was like one of us.

Christ was humble. He obeyed God and died on a cross. Then God gave him the highest place and honored his name above all other names. So everyone will bow down at the name of Jesus and those in heaven, on earth and under earth.

To the glory of God the Father everyone will agree, “Jesus Christ is the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honor to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christ was humble and accepted death on a cross.
God raised him and gave him the name that is
above all other names.

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel

MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

Narrator-----Jesus Christ-----People

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Holy
Gospel of Matthew

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, decided to betray Jesus. So he went to the chief priests and asked them how much they will give him if he helps them arrest Jesus. The chief priests gave Judas thirty silver coins. Then Judas began to plan on how to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples asked Jesus where he wants to have a Passover meal. Jesus replied,

“Go into the city and tell the man that the master wants to use his house to eat the Passover meal with his disciples.”

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The disciples went into the city and told the man. Then they prepared the Passover meal. In the evening Jesus sat down to eat with the twelve apostles. He said,

“I tell you the truth that one of you will betray me.”

The apostles were upset and began to ask him,

“Lord, do you mean me?”

Jesus said,

“The man that dips his hand into the same bowl with me is the person that will betray me. It will be terrible for that man to betray the Son of Man. It would be better off if he is never born.”

Judas, the man that would betray Jesus, said to Jesus,

“Not me?”

Jesus answered,

“You said it.”

Jesus took some bread. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave the bread to his disciples and said,

“Take this bread and eat it. This is my body.”

Then Jesus took a cup of wine, thanked God and gave it to his disciples saying,

“Drink, all of you. This is my blood, the blood of the covenant. This blood will be poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you the truth that I will not drink this wine again until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.”

Then they all sang the psalm and went to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to his disciples,

“Tonight you will lose faith in me.”

Peter said,

“Not me! I will never lose faith.”

Jesus answered,

“I tell the truth. Three times tonight you will say you don't know me. This will happen before the cock crows.”

Peter said to Jesus,

“I will never betray you. I will die with you.

Then Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane and said to his disciples,

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“Stay here. I am going there and pray.”

Jesus became very sad and said to Peter and the two brothers, John and James,

“My soul is full of sorrow. Stay awake with me.”

Jesus went up a little further and fell on the ground and prayed,

“Father, is it possible for you to take away the cup of suffering from me. But do what you want; not what I want.”

Jesus came back to the three disciples and saw them sleeping. Jesus said to Peter,

“Can’t you stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you will not be tempted. Your Spirit is eager but your body is weak.”

Second time Jesus went back to pray,

“My Father, if the cup of suffering cannot be taken away before I drink it. Then do what you want.”

Jesus came back and saw the disciples asleep. He said to them,

“Now is the time for the Son of Man to be betrayed. Get up! Let us go! The man betraying me is here.”

Judas, one of the twelve apostles, arrived with a large crowd of men with swords and clubs. Judas said to the men,

“The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest him!”

Judas went to Jesus and kissed him. Jesus said to Judas,

“My friend, do what you came here for.”

The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of the disciples pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Jesus said,

“Put back your sword. Anyone using a sword will be killed by the sword.”

Then Jesus said to the men,

“Am I a thief? You came to arrest me with swords and clubs. Every day I taught in the temple and you never arrested me.”

All the disciples ran away leaving Jesus alone. Then the men brought Jesus to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. Peter followed Jesus from the distance and went into the yard. The chief priests tried to find something against Jesus so they could kill him. Many people came and told lies against Jesus. Then two men said,

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“This man, Jesus, said that he has power to destroy the temple and build it up again in three days.”

The high priest stood up and said to Jesus,

“These men said that. What do you have to say?”

Jesus said nothing. Again the high priest said to him,

“Tell us the truth. Are you the Christ, the Son of God?”

Jesus answered,

“You say that I am or did someone tell you?”

The high priest heard that and he became angry. So he tore off his robe and said,

That is blasphemy. We heard what Jesus said. What do you think?

They all said,

“He is guilty. He must die.”

Then they spat at the face of Jesus and hit him with their fists. Others slapped him and said,

“Tell us who hit you”

Peter was sitting in the yard. A servant girl went to Peter and said,

“You were with Jesus, the man from Galilee.”

But Peter denied and said, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

Another servant girl saw Peter and said,

“This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again Peter denied and said, “I do not know the man.”

Later some people saw Peter and said to him,

“You are one of the disciples of Jesus. We know by your voice.”

Peter became angry and swore I do not know this man, Jesus. At once the cock crowed. Peter heard and remembered what Jesus told him that before the cock crowed, he will say three times that he does not know Jesus. Peter went out and cried.

Early the next morning the chief priests brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Judas heard that Jesus was to be killed he was filled with sorrow. He went to the chief priests to give back the thirty silver coins and said,

“I have sinned. I have betrayed a good man.”

The chief priests replied,

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“We don’t care. That is your problem.”

Judas threw the money into the temple, ran out and hanged himself.

Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate. Pilate asked him if he is the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered,

“You say so.”

The chief priests accused Jesus but he said nothing. Pilate said to Jesus, “You hear all these people accusing you.” But Jesus still said nothing. Pilate was surprised.

Every year during Passover the governor always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus because they were jealous of him. That time was a killer named Barabbas. The chief priests persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas. Pilate asked the people, “Which one do you want me to free: Barabbas or Jesus the Christ?” The people shouted,

“Barabbas! Barabbas!”

Pilate asked the people what he should do with Jesus. The people shouted,

“Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate asked them why? Jesus has done nothing wrong. But the people shouted louder,

“Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate realized that he can't do anything. He became worried that the people would make trouble. So he washed his hands in front of the people.

Then Pilate freed Barabbas. He ordered Jesus to be whipped. The soldiers gathered around Jesus, took off his clothes and put on a red robe. They made a crown of thorns and put it on his head. Then they bowed before Jesus and mocked him,

“Hail, king of the Jews!”

The soldiers spat at Jesus and hit his head with a stick. Then they took off the red robe and took him away to be killed on a cross.

On the way the soldiers forced a man named Simon from Cyrene to carry the cross for Jesus. They got to a place called Golgotha which means “Place of the Skull”.

The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall to drink. Jesus tasted it but refused to drink it. Then the soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They gambled for his clothes with dice. On the top of the cross was a sign saying “Jesus, the king of the Jews.”

At the same time two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on the right and the other on the left. People were shaking their fists at Jesus and mocked him saying,

“You said that you would destroy the temple and build it up again in three days! So save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

The chief priests and other people also mocked Jesus saying,

“He saved other people but he can’t save himself! If he is the king of Israel, he should come down from the cross. Then we will believe him.”

At noon the sky became dark for three hours. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“Eli, Eli, Iema sabachthani?”

That means,

My God, my God, Why are you forsaking me?

Some people heard Jesus and said,

“He is shouting to Elijah!”

Someone got a sponge, dipped it in cheap wine and put it on a stick. Then he gave it to Jesus to drink from it. Other people said,

“Wait! See if Elijah will come to save Jesus.”

Again Jesus shouted in a loud voice and died.

SILENCE

The curtain in the temple was torn into two from top to bottom. Then the earth shook. The rocks cracked and the tombs opened. Bodies of many holy men and women rose from the dead. The Roman officer guarding Jesus saw what all had happened and he became afraid and said,

“This man is truly the Son of God!”

Many women near the cross were watching. The women were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the wife of Zebedee.

In the evening a rich man named Joseph from Arimathaea, a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered the soldiers to give the body of Jesus to Joseph.

Joseph took the body, wrapped in a new cloth and put his body in the tomb, the new one that was never used before. Then he closed the tomb with a large heavy stone. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sitting near the tomb were watching where Joseph buried Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

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