

**A Harmony of the Events of Holy Week and  
the History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to the Four Evangelists  
with Readings Corresponding to the Events of Each Day**

harmonized by Rev. Paul A. Rydecki

**PALM SUNDAY READING**

**Jesus Anointed for His Burial**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard and poured it on Jesus' head as He sat at the table. She also anointed His feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always. Assuredly I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

**The Triumphal Entry**

The next day it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her, on which no one has ever sat. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing him?" And they said, "The Lord has need of him." Then they brought them to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on them, and they set Jesus on them. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then, as He was drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, they took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet Him, and the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He

had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. And when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## **HOLY MONDAY READING**

### **The Fig Tree Cursed, the Temple Cleansed**

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, “May no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.

So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?” And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. When evening had come, He went out of the city.

Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away. How did it wither away so soon?” So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

## HOLY TUESDAY READING

### PART 1

#### Jesus' Authority Questioned & Jesus' Response

Now when Jesus came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

Then He began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time. Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent a third; and they wounded him also and cast him out. "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.' But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others." And when they heard it they said, "Certainly not!" Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'? Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew He had spoken this parable against them.

[After speaking to them another parable concerning the great Wedding Banquet that a king held for his son, to which the invited guests refused to come, and after the Herodians had tested Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar,] the Sadducees, who say that there is no resurrection, came [and questioned Him concerning the resurrection...] Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

## PART 2

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" [After answering their question, Jesus asked them] saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" ' ? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples [concerning the scribes and Pharisees, warning them not to be imitators of their hypocrisy. And He spoke to the scribes and Pharisees eight times, saying,] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" [And He continued,] Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

### The Widow's Mite & the Coming of the Greeks

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness

overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed from the temple, and was hidden from them.

## **PART 3**

### **The Outcome of Jesus’ Earthly Ministry**

But although Jesus had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

### **Discourse about the Destruction of Jerusalem, the Last Times, and the Final Judgment**

After Jesus had left the temple and as He was going away, His disciples came up to point out to Him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” [And Jesus spoke to them of the destruction of Jerusalem and of the days and signs leading up to His return for judgment. He spoke to them the parable of the ten virgins, urging them always to watch and pray, that they might be ready for His coming. He also spoke to them the parable of the talents, urging them to be faithful in their apostolic calling in the days after His departure. And finally, the Lord spoke to His apostles the parable of the sheep and the goats, urging them to care for one another in His absence, and comforting them with the certainty of God’s final judgment in their favor and of the eternal punishment of the Lord’s enemies.]

### **Jesus Prophesies His Suffering and Death, and Judas Agrees to Betray Him**

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

## **HOLY THURSDAY READING**

### **PART 1**

#### **Preparations for the Passover**

Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover must be killed, the disciples came to Jesus and said to Him: “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” And He sent Peter and John and said: “Go into the city; behold, when you enter, a man will meet you, who is carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters and say to the owner of the house: The Master says to you: ‘My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house. Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ And he will show you a large furnished upper room; there make ready.” So they went and found it as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

#### **The Passover Supper and the Washing of the Disciples’ Feet**

When evening had come, Jesus sat down with the twelve. He knew that His hour had come, that He should depart out of this world to the Father. Having loved His own, who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

And when the supper had ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside His garments, took a towel and wrapped it around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dried them with the towel He had wrapped around Himself.

Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him: “Lord, are You washing my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him: “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” Peter said to Him: “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him: “If I do not wash you, then you have no part with Me.” Simon Peter said to Him: “Lord, not my feet only, then, but also my hands and my head.” Jesus said to him: “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said: “You are not all clean.”

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments and sat down again, He said to them: “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord and you say well, for so I am; I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly I say to you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me. Now I tell you before it comes, that when it comes to pass, you may believe that I am He. Most assuredly, I say to you: He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

## **The Common Supper and the Announcement of the Betrayal**

When Jesus had said these things, as they were eating, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. And they began to ask among themselves who it might be among them, who would do this, and they said to Him one after the other: "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said: "One of the Twelve, who dips with Me in the dish, will betray Me. The Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed, it would be better for him that that man had never been born."

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Judas answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" Then Jesus said to him, "You have said it. What you do, do quickly." But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

And Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and said: "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you: I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes on the day when I will drink again with you in My Father's kingdom."

## **PART 2**

### **The New Supper and the New Commandment**

And Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat, this is My Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." And they all drank from it.

Now there was also a dispute among them, which of them should be considered the greatest. But He said to them: "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors, but not so you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who is chief as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I appoint for you a kingdom, as My Father has appointed for Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Then Jesus said: "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews: Where I am going, you cannot come, so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to Him: "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him: "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." Peter said to Him: "Lord,

why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.” Jesus answered him: “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Simon, Simon, behold Satan has asked to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.” And he said to Him: “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” But He said: “Most assuredly I say to you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

And He said to them: “When I sent you without money bag, sack, and sandals, did you lack anything?” And they said: “Nothing.” Then He said to them: “But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise his sack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’ For the things concerning Me have an end.” And they said: “Lord, look, here are two swords.” And He said to them: “It is enough.”

### **Agony and Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane**

And when they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out, as He was accustomed, across the brook Kidron to the Mount of Olives. And His disciples followed Him. And He said to them: “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” But Peter said to Him: “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.” Jesus said to him: “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” But he spoke more vehemently: “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.

## **PART 3**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. And Jesus said to them: “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them: “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me, so that you do not fall into temptation.” And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down, fell on His face, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him, and He said: “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” And He came to His disciples and found them sleeping and said to Peter: “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” He went away again a second time and prayed, saying: “O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy and they did not know what to answer Him. And He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words: “Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.



## **The Betrayal and the Arrest**

And when He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, He said to them: "Sleep on now and take your rest. It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, he who betrays Me is at hand. But pray that you may not enter into temptation."

And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, having received a band of soldiers, and officers from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders, went before them, and came with lanterns, torches, with swords and with clubs. And the betrayer had given them a signal, saying: "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; take Him and lead Him away safely." Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them: "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them: "I am He." And Judas who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Then, as soon as He had said to them: "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again: "Whom are you seeking?" And they said: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered: "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," (that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke: "Of these whom You gave Me I have lost none)."

And Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him, and immediately he went up to Jesus and said: "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him: "Friend, why have you come? Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss, Judas?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him: "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

And He said to Peter: "Put your sword into the sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be thus?" Then Jesus answered and said: "Permit even this." And He touched the servant's ear and healed him.

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come out to Him: "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness, so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

## **PART 4**

### **The Trial Before the Jewish Courts and Peter's Denials**

Then the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. And with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. Now Caiaphas was he who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one Man should die for the people.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door

outside. Then that other disciple who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. And the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself, so that he could see the end. Then the servant girl who kept the door, seeing Peter in the light as he warmed himself, looked intently at him and said: "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied before all and said: "Woman, I was not; I do not know Him; I do not know what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him: "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who hear Me what I have said to them. Yes, they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying: "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him: "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

As Simon Peter stood and warmed himself, another girl saw him and again began to say to those who were there: "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." Then they said to him: "Aren't you one of His disciples?" And another said: "You are also one of them." And he denied again and swore to it and said: "Man, I am not. I do not know the Man." And after about the space of one hour another confidently affirmed, saying: "Surely you are also one of them, for you are a Galilean and your speech betrays you." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said: "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Then he began to curse and swear: "I do not know this Man of whom you speak." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed a second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered Jesus' word, how He had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly."

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none, even though many false witnesses came forward, for their testimony did not agree. But at last two false witnesses came forward and gave false testimony against Him and said: "We heard Him say: 'I can and will destroy the temple of God that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" And not even then did their testimony agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying: "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him: "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him: "It is as you said; I am. Hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying: "He has spoken blasphemy; what further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him and said: "He is guilty of death."

And the men, who held Jesus, mocked Him and spat in His face and beat Him; and others blindfolded Him and struck Him in the face, saying: "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is it that struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people came together and took counsel concerning Jesus to put Him to death, and they led Him into their council, saying: "If You are the Christ, tell us." And He said to them: "If I tell you, you will not believe Me. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the

right hand of the power of God.” Then they all said: “Are You then the Son of God?” And He said to them: “You rightly say that I am.” And they said: “What further testimony do we need? For we ourselves have heard it from His own mouth.”

## **GOOD FRIDAY READING**

### **PART 1**

#### **The Betrayer Dies in Despair**

Then the whole multitude of the chief priests and elders arose and bound Jesus and led Him from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying: “I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood.” And they said: “What is that to us? You see to that!” And he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, departed, and went and hanged himself, and he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

And the chief priests took the silver pieces and said: “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” And they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem, so to this day that field is called in their own language, “Akeldama,” that is the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet, saying: “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.”

#### **The Trial before Pilate Begins**

Now the Jews did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said: “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” They answered and said to him: “If He were not an evil doer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” Then Pilate said to them: “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him: “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

And the chief priests and elders began to accuse Him vehemently, saying: “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and asked Him, saying: “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus stood before him and answered: “Are you speaking for yourself, or did others tell you this about Me?” Pilate answered: “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” Jesus answered: “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him: “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered: “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him: “What is truth?”

And when he had said this he went out again to the Jews, and said to them: “I find no fault in Him at all.” And the chief priests and elders accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. And Pilate asked Him again, saying: “Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You! Do You not hear?” But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

But they were the more fierce, saying: "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. And he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. And Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod became mutual friends, for before they had been at enmity between themselves.

## **PART 2**

### **The Trial before Pilate Concludes**

And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them: "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and indeed nothing worthy of death has been done by Him. Therefore I will discipline Him and then release Him."

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And there was at that time a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. And the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. And when they gathered together, Pilate answered: "You have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Whom do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus, the king of the Jews, who is called Christ?" For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent to him, saying: "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and the elders stirred up the people and persuaded them that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" The whole crowd cried out, saying: "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas." Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, spoke again to them: "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him: "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" And he said to them the third time: "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. Therefore I will discipline Him and then release Him." And they cried out all the more: "Crucify Him!"

And Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole band of soldiers around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And when they had twisted a crown out of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him and began to salute Him, saying: "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him in the face and spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.

Pilate then went out again, and said to them: "Look, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them: "Behold! The Man!" Therefore when the chief priests and

officers saw Him, they cried out, saying: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them: “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” The Jews answered him: “We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus: “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him: “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus answered: “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying: “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgement seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews: “Behold! Your king!” But they cried out: “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them: “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered: “We have no king but Caesar.” And they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying: “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.” And all the people answered and said: “His blood be on us and on our children.”

So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them. And he delivered Jesus to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

### **PART 3**

#### **The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus**

Then the soldiers took Jesus, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him and He carried His cross. And as they came out, they found a man, who was coming out of the country, Simon of Cyrene by name, who was the father of Alexander and Rufus; they compelled him to carry the cross for Him, and laid the cross on him that he might bear it after Jesus.

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For, indeed, the days are coming in which they will say: ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”

And there were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And they brought Him to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. And they gave Him sour wine mingled with myrrh to drink. And when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

There they crucified Him, and the two criminals with Him, one on the right hand and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which says: “And He was numbered with the transgressors.” And it was the third hour, when they crucified Him.

And Jesus said: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

And Pilate wrote a title, the accusation against Him, the reason for His death, and they put it on the cross over His head. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate: "Do not write The King of the Jews, but He said: I am King of the Jews." Pilate answered: "What I have written, I have written."

The soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also His tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves: "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying: "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders along with the people, said: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the king of Israel, the chosen of God, let Him save Himself and now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said: I am the Son of God." And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, saying: "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

And one of the criminals who hung there blasphemed Him, saying: "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying: "Do you not fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." And he said to Jesus: "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him: "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother: "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple: "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

And it was about the sixth hour, and the sun was darkened. There was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said: "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: "I thirst." Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and immediately one of them ran, took a sponge and filled it with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth for Him to drink. But the others said: "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He cried out with a loud voice: "It is finished! Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." And when He had said that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

## PART 4

### The Burial of Jesus

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw that He cried out like this and saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly and praised God, saying: "Surely this was a righteous Man! Truly this was the Son of God!" And all the multitude who came together to that sight, seeing the things which were done, beat their breasts and returned.

And all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and Salome the mother of Zebedee's sons, who followed Him when He was in Galilee, ministering to Him, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who saw it bore witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says: "They will look on Him whom they pierced."

And now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a city of the Jews, a prominent council member, a good and just man, who had not consented to their counsel and deed, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, for he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked that he might take away the body of Jesus.

And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and calling the centurion to him, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, he commanded the body to be given to him. And Joseph bought fine linen. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came; and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, which had been taken down, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb which was Joseph's, which was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had ever been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, and the Sabbath drew near, for the tomb was nearby. And they rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and departed. And Mary Magdalene was there, and Mary the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the tomb, also other women, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, and they observed how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils, and rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

Now the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying: "Sir, we remember while He was alive, how that deceiver said:

‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, steal Him away, and say to the people: ‘He has risen from the dead.’” So the last deception will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them: “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone, and setting the guard.