

Holy Eucharist

Rite II



Palm Sunday March 29, 2026

The Rev. Robert Odom, Celebrant

The Liturgy of the Palms

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
People *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Luke 19:28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

 The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant then says

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
People *Hosanna in the highest.*

The Procession

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.
People *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung, such as the hymn "All glory, laud, and honor" and Psalm 118:19-29.

Opening Hymn

All glory, laud and honor 154

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

After the reading, the lector says

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

After the reading, the lector says

 The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Refer to Passion Narrative at the end of the bulletin.

The Sermon

Prayers of the People, Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Jeff, Kay, Hector, and Brian, our Bishops; for our supply priests; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who have commended themselves to our prayer. I ask your
thanksgiving for the birthdays of [_____], and the anniversaries of
[_____]. Please add your own prayers and petitions.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored
[especially _____ whom we remember today].

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

****Holy Week****

Sunday, 3/29	Palm Sunday – 2 services with Eucharist 9:45a Adult Lectionary Discussion Children’s Sunday School on request
Wednesday, 4/1	12:00p Lenten Healing Service 12:30p Lenten Luncheon – Soup by DOK No Bible Study during Lent 7:00p Choir Practice
Thursday, 4/2	2:00p Grief Support Group – Moved for Lent 5:30p No Handbell Practice 6:00p Maundy Thursday with Eucharist
Friday, 4/3	9:00a Setup/Stage Easter Egg Hunt 12:00p Stations of the Cross 6:00p Good Friday – Lay-Led (NO Eucharist)
Saturday, 4/4	NO Breakfast for All/Men’s Group Meeting 8:00a Egg Hunt Setup

10:00a **Easter Egg Hunt**

12:00p CUB Lunch Prep

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 4/5 Undesignated Offering to Discretionary Fund

****One Service** 10:45a **Easter Day** **One Service****

9:45a No Adult Lectionary Discussion

No Children's Sunday School

Monday, 4/6 6:30a **Book Club**

Wednesday, 4/8 12:00p Morning Prayer Service

12:30p Bible Study

2:00p Grief Support Group

7:00p Choir Practice

Thursday, 4/9 5:30p Handbell Practice

Saturday, 4/11 9:00a **DOK Meeting followed by Discernment**

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, 4/12 12:00p Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives

Saturday, 4/18 6:00p Thrive

Prayer for a New Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on St. Francis and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for your ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer 51. For a Birthday

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever he may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer for St. Francis

Heavenly Father, we come to you at this time, seeking your perfect plan for St. Francis. We seek your wisdom, discernment, and guidance as to how we may serve you best and to your glory. Make us a church where your Son, Jesus, is lifted up as Lord and Savior and where the healing power and presence of the Holy Spirit is known. Even as your people trusted in you to bring them to the Promised Land, we look to you as God and Father to lead us in all things. We trust you to bring to us the people and resources to help us accomplish your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

 The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Hymnal S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

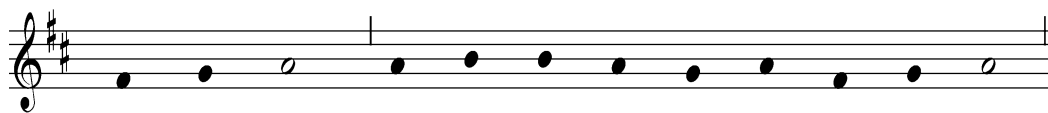
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

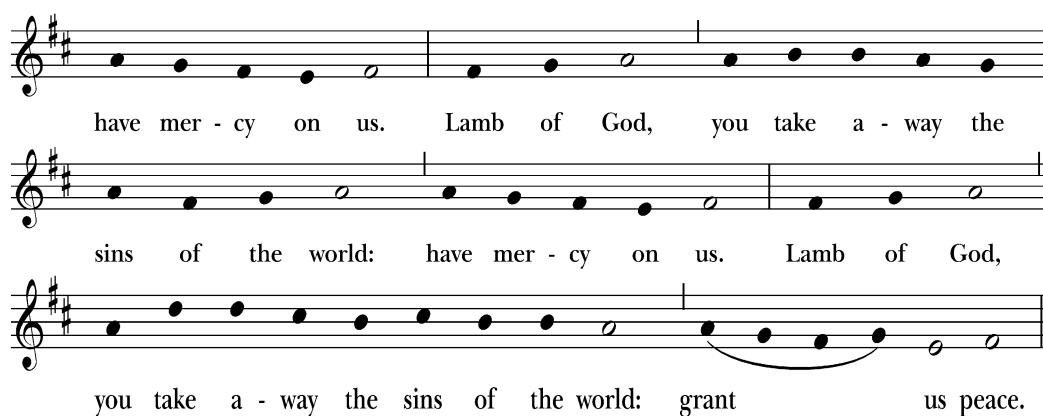
[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

The Fraction

S-161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

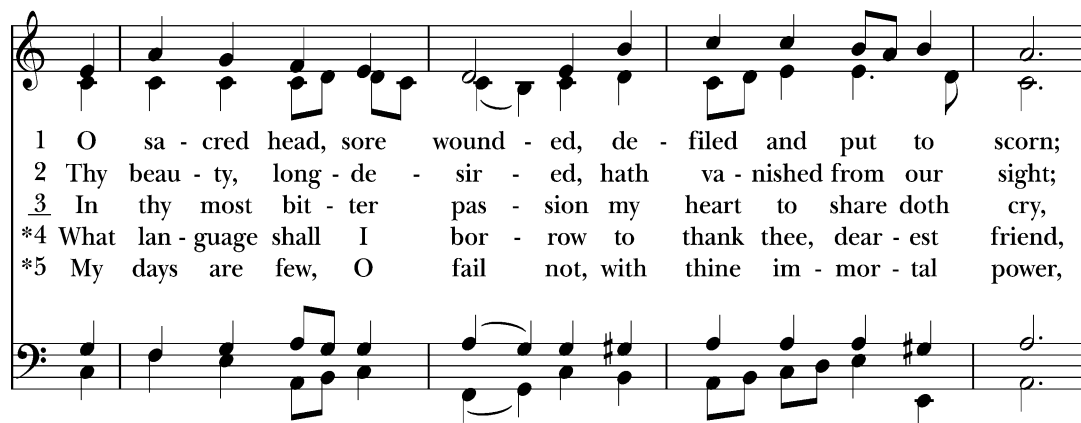
The ministers receive the Sacrament and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

Communion Hymns

I surrender all Handbell Choir

O sacred head, sore wounded 168



1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); sts. 1-3, 5, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); st. 4, tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859), alt. Music: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* [*Passion Chorale*], Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612); adapt. And harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.
Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest may bless the people:

Closing Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross 474

1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross where the young
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Rockingham, from *Second Supplement to Psalmsody in Miniature*, ca. 1970; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807).

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

People Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66
(or Matthew 27:11-54)**

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

PETER: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

PETER: Surely not I, Lord?

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: Surely not I, Rabbi?

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: You have said so.

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: Take, eat; this is my body.

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said them,

JESUS: You will all become deserters 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 am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples. Then he went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

NARRATOR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

NARRATOR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

NARRATOR: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: Greetings, Rabbi!

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: Friend, do what you are here to do.

NARRATOR: They came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

FALSE WITNESS: This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and build it in three days."

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are Messiah, the Son of God.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

NARRATOR: They answered,

SCRIBE: He deserves death.

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him saying,

ELDER: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT 1: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: I do not know what you are talking about.

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: I do not know the man.

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

BYSTANDER 1: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: I do not know the man!

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

NARRATOR: But they said,

CHIEF PRIEST: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CHIEF PRIEST: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

[Matthew 27:11-54]

NARRATOR: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: You say so.

NARRATOR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

NARRATOR: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

WIFE: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

NARRATOR: And they said,

CROWD: Barabbas.

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CROWD: Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CROWD: His blood be on us and on our children!

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

SOLDIER: Hail, King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. (A stand.) And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

PASSERBY 1: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!

PASSERBY 2: If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

CHIEF PRIEST: He saved others; he cannot save himself.

SCRIBE: He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

ELDER: He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

NARRATOR: that is,

JESUS: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDER 1: This man is calling for Elijah.

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

BYSTANDER 2: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. (*Silence may be kept.*) At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

CENTURION: Truly this man was God's Son!

The shorter form of the Passion ends here. The longer form concludes with the following

[Matthew 27:55-66]

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CHIEF PRIEST: Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive,

PHARISEE: He said, "After three days I will rise again."

CHIEF PRIEST: Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people,

PHARISEE: "He has been raised from the dead,"

CHIEF PRIEST: "And the last deception would be worse than the first."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

NARRATOR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.