



READINGS FOR THE LITURGY ON PALM SUNDAY

Old Testament Reading	Page 3
New Testament Reading	Page 4
St Matthew Passion (Year A)	Page 5
St Mark Passion (Year B)	Page 13
St Luke Passion (Year C)	Page 21

Old Testament Reading

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 backwards.

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?

Isaiah 50.4-9a

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

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.

Philippians 2.5-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Passion Gospel

Year A - St Matthew

<i>Characters</i>	
Evangelist Jesus Peter	Pilate High Priest Servant Girl Pilate's Wife

Please sit until indicated.

The congregation should join in with the bold text.

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist 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:

Disciples **Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?**

Evangelist 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.'

Evangelist 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.

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

Disciples **Surely not I, Lord?**

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist Judas, who betrayed him, said:

Judas Surely not I, Rabbi?

Evangelist He replied:

✠ *Jesus* You have said so.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

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

Evangelist Peter said to him:

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

Evangelist Jesus said to him:

✠ *Jesus* Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Evangelist Peter said to him:

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

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

✠ *Jesus* Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist At once he came up to Jesus and said:

Judas Greetings, Rabbi!

Evangelist and kissed him. Jesus said to him:

✠ *Jesus* Friend, do what you are here to do.

Evangelist Then 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?

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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:

Accusers: **This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'**

Evangelist The high priest stood up and said:

High Priest Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Evangelist 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 the Messiah, the Son of God.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist They answered:

Priests **He deserves death.**

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

Priests **Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?**

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

Servant Girl You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

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

Peter I do not know what you are talking about.

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

Servant Girl This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Evangelist Again he denied it with an oath:

Peter I do not know the man.

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

Bystanders **Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.**

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

Peter I do not know the man!

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

✠ *Jesus* Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist But they said:

Priests **What is that to us? See to it yourself.**

Evangelist 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:

Priests **It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.**

Evangelist 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." Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him:

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist Jesus said:

✠ *Jesus* You say so.

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist For he realised 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:

Pilate's wife Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist And they said:

Crowd **Barabbas.**

Evangelist Pilate said to them:

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

Evangelist All of them said:

Crowd **Let him be crucified!**

Evangelist Then he asked:

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Evangelist But they shouted all the more:

Crowd *(louder)* **Let him be crucified!**

Evangelist 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.

Evangelist Then the people as a whole answered:

Crowd His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist 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:

Soldiers **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Evangelist 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.

Please STAND.

Evangelist As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 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:

Bystanders **You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

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

Priests **He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'**

Evangelist 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?

Evangelist that is:

✠ *Jesus* My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

Bystanders **This man is calling for Elijah.**

Evangelist 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:

Bystanders **Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.**

Evangelist Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Here all bow and pause for a short time.

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!

Evangelist 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:

Priests **Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' 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, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first.**

Evangelist Pilate said to them:

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

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

The Passion Gospel

Year B – St Mark

<i>Characters</i>	
Evangelist Jesus Peter	Pilate High Priest Maid

Please sit until indicated.

The congregation should join in with the bold text.

- Evangelist* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.
- Evangelist* It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest Jesus by stealth, and kill him; for they said:
- Crowd* **Not during the feast, lest there be a tumult of the people.**
- Evangelist* And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of ointment of pure nard, very costly; and she broke the jar and poured it over his head. But there were some who said to themselves indignantly:
- Crowd* **Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.**
- Evangelist* And they reproached her. But Jesus said:
- ✠ *Jesus* Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burying. And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.
- Evangelist* Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought opportunity to betray him. And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the passover lamb, his disciples said to him:
- Disciples* **Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?**
- Evangelist* And he sent two of his disciples and said to them:
- ✠ *Jesus* Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the householder, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?”’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.
- Evangelist* And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover. And when it was evening he came with the twelve. And as they were at table eating, Jesus said:
- ✠ *Jesus* Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Evangelist They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another:

Disciples **Is it I?**

✠ *Jesus* It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread in the same dish with me. For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

Evangelist And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

✠ *Jesus* Take; this is my body.

Evangelist And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.

✠ *Jesus* This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Evangelist And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them:

✠ *Jesus* You will all fall away; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered'. But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Evangelist Peter said to him:

Peter Even though they all fall away, I will not.

✠ *Jesus* Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Peter (*vehemently*) If I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist And they all said the same. And they went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples:

✠ *Jesus* Sit here, while I pray.

Evangelist And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them:

✠ *Jesus* My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch.

Evangelist And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him:

✠ *Jesus* Abba, Father, all things are possible to you; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will.

Evangelist And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:

✠ *Jesus* Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time, and said to them:

✠ *Jesus* Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign:

Judas The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away safely.

Evangelist And when he came, he went up to him at once, and said:

Judas Master!

Evangelist And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them:

✠ *Jesus* Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the Temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.

Evangelist And they all forsook him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. And they led Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the scribes and the elders were assembled.

And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, and their witness did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him:

Crowd **We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands'.**

Evangelist Yet not even so did their testimony agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus:

High Priest Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?

Evangelist But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him:

High Priest Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

✠ *Jesus* I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.

Evangelist And the high priest tore his mantle, and said:

High Priest Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?

Evangelist And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to strike him, saying to him:

Crowd **Prophecy!**

Evangelist And the guards received him with blows. And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said:

Maid You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter I neither know nor understand what you mean.

Evangelist And he went out into the gateway. And the maid saw him, and began again to say to the bystanders:

Maid This man is one of them.

Evangelist But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter:

Crowd **Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.**

Evangelist But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear:

Peter I do not know this man of whom you speak.

Evangelist And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times'. And he broke down and wept. And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate, and Pilate asked him:

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

✠ *Jesus* You have said so.

Evangelist And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him:

Pilate Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.

Evangelist But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered. Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was wont to do for them. And he answered them:

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them:

Pilate Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?

Crowd **Crucify him, crucify him.**

Pilate Why? What evil has he done?

Crowd *(louder)* **Crucify him, crucify him.**

Evangelist So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. And they began to salute him:

Crowd **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Evangelist And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Please STAND.

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to Golgotha (which means 'the place of a skull'). And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour, when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews'. And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads:

Crowd **Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!**

Evangelist So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes:

Crowd **He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.**

Evangelist Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice:

✠ *Jesus* Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

Evangelist Which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders hearing it said:

Crowd **Behold, he is calling Elijah.**

Evangelist And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, the rest said:

Crowd **Wait; let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.**

Evangelist And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last.

Here all bow and pause for a short time.

And the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said:

Crowd **Truly this man was God's Son!**

Evangelist There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, who when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; and also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

The Passion Gospel

Year C – St Luke

<i>Characters</i>	
Evangelist	Pilate
Jesus	Maid
Peter	1 st Robber
Bystander	2 nd Robber
Centurion	

Please sit until indicated.

The congregation should join in with the bold text.

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

Evangelist Now the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put Jesus to death; for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and captains how he might betray him to them. And they were glad and engaged to give him money. So he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them, in the absence of the multitude. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying:

✠ *Jesus* Go and prepare the passover for us, that we may eat it.

Peter Where will you have us prepare it?

✠ *Jesus* Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the householder, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?"' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.

Evangelist And they went, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover. And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them:

- ✠ *Jesus* I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.
- Evangelist* And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said:
- ✠ *Jesus* Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.
- Evangelist* And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
- ✠ *Jesus* This is my body. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed.
- Evangelist* And they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this. A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.
- ✠ *Jesus* The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Evangelist* Jesus said to Simon Peter:
- ✠ *Jesus* Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.
- Peter* Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.
- ✠ *Jesus* I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me. When I sent you out with no purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?
- Disciples* **Nothing.**

✠ *Jesus* But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one. For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was reckoned with transgressors'; for what is written about me has its fulfilment.

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

✠ *Jesus* It is enough.

Evangelist And he came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said:

✠ *Jesus* Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

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

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

Evangelist And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them:

✠ *Jesus* Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

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

✠ *Jesus* Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?

Evangelist And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said:

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

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

✠ *Jesus* No more of this!

Evangelist And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and captains of the Temple and elders who had come out against him:

✠ *Jesus* Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the Temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Evangelist Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said:

Maid This man also was with him.

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter Woman, I do not know him.

Evangelist And a little later some one else saw him and said:

Bystander You also are one of them.

Peter Man, I am not.

Evangelist And after an interval of about an hour, still another insisted:

Bystander Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter Man, I do not know what you are saying.

Evangelist And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times'. And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and asked him:

Crowd **Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?**

Evangelist And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said:

Priests **If you are the Christ, tell us.**

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

Priests **Are you the Son of God, then?**

✠ *Jesus* You say that I am.

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

Evangelist Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him:

Priests **We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king.**

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

✠ *Jesus* You have said so.

Pilate (to the priests) I find no crime in this man.

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

Evangelist When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at length, but Jesus made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them:

Pilate You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Evangelist But they all cried out together:

Priests **Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.**

Evangelist A man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out:

Priests **Crucify him, crucify him!**

Evangelist A third time he spoke to them:

Pilate Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Evangelist But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

Please STAND.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said:

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

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

✠ *Jesus* Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

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

Priests **He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!**

Evangelist The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar:

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

Evangelist There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews'. One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him:

2nd Robber Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

Evangelist But the other rebuked him:

1st Robber Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power.

✠ *Jesus* Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Evangelist It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice:

✠ *Jesus* Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

Evangelist And having said this he breathed his last.

Here all bow and pause for a short time.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God:

Centurion Certainly this man was innocent!

Evangelist And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things. Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.