

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,  
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

### PALM SUNDAY:

#### Later today...

6.30pm **Solemn Evensong & Benediction** *St Francis'*

### HOLY MONDAY:

8.00pm Holy Communion & Reflection *St John's*

### HOLY TUESDAY:

8.00pm Holy Communion & Reflection *St John's*

### HOLY WEDNESDAY:

9.00am Service of Prayers for Healing *St John's*

10.00am Holy Communion & Reflection *St John's*

8.00pm Stations of the Cross *St Francis'*

### MAUNDY THURSDAY:

8.00pm **Parish Eucharist with the washing of feet †** *St John's*

*followed by The Watch of the Passion until 10.30pm*

### GOOD FRIDAY:

10.00am **All Age Stations of the Cross**  
*(Starts at St Mary and St Joseph's Church, Boxmoor and processes via the Moor to St John's)*

2.00pm **An Hour at the Cross †** *St John's*  
*(Devotional Service of Hymns, Readings, and Prayers before the Cross)*

### EASTER EVE:

8.00pm **The Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter** *St Francis'*  
*Service begins outside with the lighting of the Easter Candle*

### EASTER SUNDAY:

8.00am BCP Holy Communion—Traditional Language *St John's*

**10.00am Parish Easter Eucharist †** *St John's*  
*with Easter Ceremonies*  
*Service begins outside*

10.00am Sung Mass of Easter *St Francis'*

11.30am Holy Communion with Hymns *St Stephen's*

*Services marked † will be streamed on our website:  
<https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/live-streamed-services>*



**THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
PALM SUNDAY 2023**

## Welcome to St John's for this Service.

The Service begins in Boxmoor Playhouse with the Liturgy of the Palms as we commemorate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. We shall process into church, mirroring Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and the Service will continue with the Liturgy of the Passion, and the Liturgy of the Sacrament.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type. Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we begin this most Holy Week.

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. A collection is received during the service. UK tax payers are asked to complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of their giving.

Children aged 3-11yrs are invited to take part in **Junior Church** during the Service. The Children's Room is available throughout the Service which parents are invited to use if they wish.

## Explanatory Note:

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it – incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter.

Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Today, the procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated.

*All stand for*

## The Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All remain standing to sing*

## The Final Hymn

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
when all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;

and that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote  
in Man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo;

and in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

*Gerontius 117 AMNS*

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

♪ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## The Voluntary

*Please remain standing until the choir and ministers have departed.*

***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.  
Thanks be to God!***

Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.  
O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu, fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.

*Give us now, and at the time of our death, yourself to be our food. Gentle, holy Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on me. Amen.*  
*William Byrd (c 1540–1623)*  
*St Thomas Aquinas (1225–74)*  
*Gradualia 1605*

*During Communion we sing (seated)*

**Communion Hymn**

And now, O Father, mindful of the love that bought us, once for all, on Calvary’s tree, and having with us him that pleads above, we here present, we here spread forth to thee that only offering perfect in thine eyes, the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.  
Look, Father, look on his anointed face, and only look on us as found in him; look not on our misusings of thy grace, our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim: for lo, between our sins and their reward we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.  
And so we come: O draw us to thy feet, most patient Saviour, who canst love us still; and by this food, so awful and so sweet, deliver us from every touch of ill: in thine own service make us glad and free, and grant us never more to part with thee.

*Song 1 260 AMNS*

*All remain seated or kneeling to say*

**The Prayer after Communion**

**Faithful God, may we who share this banquet glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, our salvation, life, and hope, who reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

**The Notices**

*Please sit for the Parish Notices, Banns of Marriage, and any other announcements.*

**Junior Church**

*The children share with the main congregation what they have been doing in Junior Church.*

*All stand as the Procession enters the Playhouse.*

**The Introit**

Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the King of Israel. Blessed be the Kingdom that cometh in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places. Hosanna in the highest heavens.

*Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

**The Greeting**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**  
The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

**The Liturgy of the Palms**

*The president introduces the celebration.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

**The Blessing of Palms**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; Bless these palms, and let them be for us a sign of his victory. 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 is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**



*Palm crosses are distributed during*

### **The Hymn**

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry.  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments  
strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

*Winchester New 61ii AMNS*

*All remain standing for*

### **The Palm Gospel**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

#### ♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying: 'Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

*St Matthew 21: 1–11*

#### ♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All sit or kneel to say*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

### **The Giving of Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All remain kneeling or seated to sing twice*

### **Agnus Dei**

♪ **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*All are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not usually receive Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive a Blessing. To indicate this, please bring this booklet with you. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.*

*We listen to*

### **The Anthem**

Ave verum Corpus,  
natum de Maria Virgine  
vere passum, immolatum, in cruce pro  
homine.  
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit  
sanguine.

*Hail, true Body,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
who truly suffered upon the cross for  
mankind.  
From whose pierced side came forth  
water and blood.*

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

♪ **Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

♪ **Amen.**



## The Procession

*We process to church, following the choir and clergy, waving our palms. Please be mindful of others and traffic when crossing the road.*

*On arrival at St John's, please fill up from the front, and sing:*

### The Hymn

*All glory, laud and honour  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and blessed one:

The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went:  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present:

To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise:  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise:

Thou didst accept their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King:

Thy sorrow and thy triumph  
grant us, O Christ, to share,  
that to the holy city  
together we may fare:

*St Theodolph 328 (i) AMNS*

## The Liturgy of the Passion

*All remain standing for*

### The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross.  
Grant that we may follow the example  
of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### Junior Church

*All sit as Junior Church children go to the Hall for their time together.*

*All remain seated for*

### **The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Philippians 2: 5–11*

**Thanks be to God.**

*All remain seated for*

### **The Lent Prose**

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.*

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:

bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:

Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

*Mode v 507 NEH*

### **The Passion Reading**

*Since the Gospel reading is very long, you are invited to be seated until indicated to STAND.*

*Evangelist* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
*(No response is made)*

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.'

### **The Preparation of the Table**

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,  
ever giving yourself that the world might live,  
let us share your death and passion:  
make us perfect in your love.

**Amen.**

*All remain standing for*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near  
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.  
The power of the life-giving cross  
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world  
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,  
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,  
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,  
for ever praising you and singing:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

At the end:

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand for

### The Peace

Once we were far off,  
but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near  
through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

All may offer one another a sign of peace.

All remain standing to sing,

### The Offertory Hymn

during which the bread and wine are brought to the Altar table.

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*Refrain: This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said. *Refrain:*

Come, see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered. *Refrain:*

So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving. *Refrain:*

*Servant King 489 AM*

*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

*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.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*(No response is made)*

*A moment of silence follows the Passion Reading.*

*All kneel or sit for*

### **The Prayers**

*One of the following biddings and responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy.

Lord, hear us.

**Hear our prayer.**

**Lord, graciously hear us**



*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.**

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* 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* 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:

*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!