

### The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

♪ In the name of Christ. Amen.

### The Voluntary



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

### PALM SUNDAY: Later today...

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

### HOLY MONDAY & 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 of Boxmoor

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



## THE PARISH EUCHARIST with Procession of Palms

### PALM SUNDAY 2024

*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**

**Junior Church**

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

*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.	and that a higher gift than grace should flesh and blood refine, God's presence and his very self, and essence all-divine.
O loving wisdom of our God! when all was sin and shame, a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.	O generous love! that he, who smote in Man for man the foe, the double agony in Man for man should undergo;
O wisest love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail, should strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail;	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 439 NEH*

*During Communion we sing (seated)*

### Communion Hymn

How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life -  
I know that 'it is finished.'

I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart,  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

*How deep 144 AM*

*If needed, we sing:*

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.

*Unde et Memores 273 NEH*

### 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 then 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.

---

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,*  
material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishops' Council 2000.  
CCL Licence number 74516.

## The Gathering

*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 then 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.**



## 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

O sacrum convivium  
in quo Christus sumitur,  
recolitur memoria passionis ejus,  
mens impletur gratia,  
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus  
datur.

*O sacred banquet  
in which Christ is received,  
the memory of his Passion is renewed,  
the mind filled with grace,  
and a pledge of future glory is given to  
us.*

*Thomas Tallis (c 1505–85)  
Magnificat Antiphon, Corpus Christi*



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.**

*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.**

*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!  
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.

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 511 NEH*

*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 John.

♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*St John 12: 12–16*



## 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. We 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 509 NEH*

## 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 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

*Servant King 489 AM*

### 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 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, please remain seated until indicated to STAND.

Please join in all the parts in **bold**.

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

It was 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:

*Chief Priest* 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:

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 Jesus saw where the body was laid.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*(No response is made)*

*All kneel or sit for*

### **The Prayers**

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

Lord, in your mercy.

Lord, hear us.

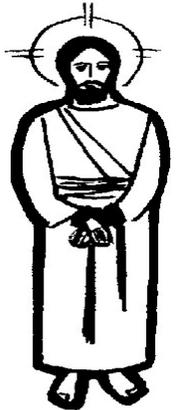
**Hear our prayer.**

**Lord, graciously hear us**

*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.*

### **The Notices**

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

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

*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.

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