

weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, 'Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?" Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him, saying

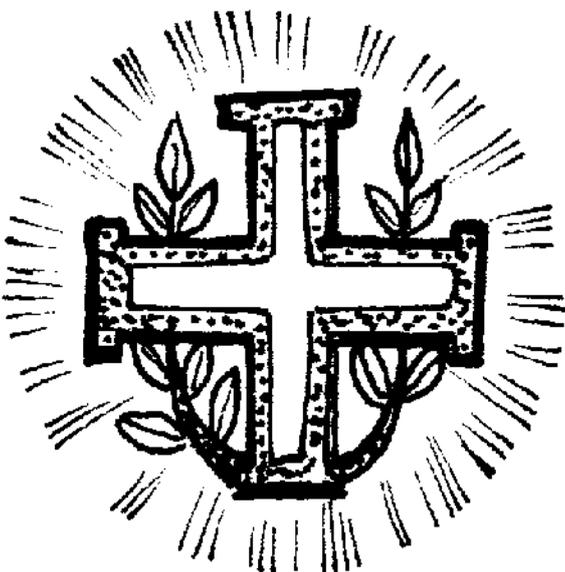
**"He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."**

The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said,

**"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself."**

Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' ...

*The story continues with the death of Jesus and his burial. All kneel for a few moments when the Lord dies on the cross.*



## The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke



Luke 22:14 - 23:56

*The Congregation are invited to read the Crowd parts in bold type.*

*If the longer version is read, the story follows Jesus from the Last Supper into the Garden of Gethsemane where he is arrested: he is led to the house of the High Priest, where Peter is challenged and denies that he knows Jesus.*

... At that instant, while he was still speaking, the cock crew, and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will have disowned me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Meanwhile the men who guarded Jesus were mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,

**"Play the prophet. Who hit you then?"**

And they continued heaping insults on him. When day broke there was a meeting of the elders of the people, attended

by the chief priests and scribes. He was brought before their council, and they said to him,

**“If you are the Christ, tell us!”**

He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.” Then they all said,

**“So you are the Son of God then?”**

He answered, “It is you who say I am.” They said,

**“What need of witnesses have we now? We have heard it for ourselves from his own lips.”**

*(If the shorter form of the Passion is read, it begins here)*

The whole assembly then rose, and they brought him before Pilate. They began their accusation by saying,

**“We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.”**

Pilate put to him this question, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He replied, “It is you who say it.” Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no case against this man,” But they persisted,

**“He is inflaming the people with this teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.”**

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod’s jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracles worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply.

Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their

accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. He said, “You brought this man before me as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.” But as one man they howled,

**“Away with him! Give us Barrabas!”**

This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder. Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back,

**“Crucify him! Crucify him!”**

And for the third time he spoke to them, “Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.” But they kept on shouting at the tops of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder. Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus.

Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented to him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not