

Gospel for Palm Sunday - Matthew 27: 11-54

Narrator:	Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. Jesus stood before the Roman governor, Pilate, who asked him,
(VOICE #1) Pilate:	"Are you the King of the Jews?"
Narrator:	Jesus answered,
(VOICE #2) Jesus:	"So you say,"
Narrator:	But he said nothing in response to the accusations of the chief priests and elders. So Pilate said to him,
(#1) Pilate:	"Don't you hear all these things they accuse you of?"
Narrator:	But Jesus refused to answer a single word, with the result that the Governor was greatly surprised. At every Passover Festival the Roman governor was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the crowd asked for. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them,
(#1) Pilate:	"Which one do you want me to set free for you? Jesus Barabbas or Jesus called the Messiah?"
Narrator:	He knew very well that the Jewish authorities had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. While Pilate was sitting in the judgement hall, his wife sent him a message:
(#2) Pilate's wife:	"Have nothing to do with that innocent man, because in a dream last night I suffered much on account of him."
Narrator:	The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask Pilate to set Barabbas free and have Jesus put to death. But Pilate asked the crowd,
(#1) Pilate:	"Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?"
Narrator:	They answered,
(#2) Crowd:	"Barabbas!"
Narrator:	Pilate asked them,
(#1) Pilate:	"What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?"
Narrator:	They all answered,
(#2) Crowd:	"Crucify him!"
Narrator:	But Pilate asked,
(#1) Pilate:	"What crime has he committed?"
Narrator:	Then they started shouting at the top of their voices:
(#2) Crowd:	"Crucify him!"
Narrator:	When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said,
(#1) Pilate:	"I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!"
Narrator:	The whole crowd answered,
(#2) Crowd:	"Let the responsibility for his death fall on us and our children!"
Narrator:	Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified.

	Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered round him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and mocked him.
(#1) Soldiers:	"Long live the King of the Jews!"
Narrator:	They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished mocking him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They came to a place called Golgotha, which means, "The Place of the Skull".
	(ALL STAND)
Narrator:	There they offered Jesus wine mixed with a bitter substance; but after tasting it, he would not drink it. They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus:
(#2) Crowd:	"You were going to tear down the Temple and build it up again in three days! Save yourself if you are God's Son! Come on down from the cross!"
Narrator:	In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and the elders jeered at him:
(#1) Crowd:	"He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Isn't he the king of Israel? If he comes down off the cross now, we will believe in him! He trusts in God and claims to be God's Son. Well, then, let us see if God wants to save him now!"
Narrator:	Even the bandits who had been crucified with him insulted him in the same way. At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout,
(#2) Jesus:	"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"
Narrator:	which means,
(#2) Jesus:	"My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"
Narrator:	Some of the people standing there heard him and said,
(#1) Crowd:	"He is calling for Elijah!"
Narrator:	One of them ran up at once, took a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, put it on the end of a stick, and tried to make him drink it. But the others said,
(#1) Crowd:	"Wait, let us see if Elijah is coming to save him!"
Narrator:	Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
	(ALL KEEP A BRIEF SILENCE)
Narrator:	Then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split apart, the graves broke open, and many of God's people who had died were raised to life. They left the graves, and after Jesus rose from death, they went into the Holy City, where many people saw them. When the army officer and the soldiers with him who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and everything else that happened, they were terrified and said,
(#2) Centurion:	"He really was the Son of God!"

马太福音 27

11 耶稣站在巡抚面前；巡抚问他说：「你是犹太人的王吗？」
耶稣说：「你说的是。」12 他被祭司长和长老控告的时候，什么都不回答。13 彼拉多就对他说：「他们作见证告你这么多的事，你没有听见吗？」14 耶稣仍不回答，连一句话也不说，以致巡抚甚觉希奇。

15 巡抚有一个常例，每逢这节期，随众人所要的释放一个囚犯给他们。16 当时有一个出名的囚犯叫巴拉巴。17 众人聚集的时候，彼拉多就对他们说：「你们要我释放哪一个给你们？是巴拉巴呢？是称为基督的耶稣呢？」18 巡抚原知道他们是因为嫉妒才把他解了来。19 正坐堂的时候，他的夫人打发人来说：

「这义人的事，你一点不可管，因为我今天在梦中为他受了许多的苦。」20 祭司长和长老挑唆众人，求释放巴拉巴，除灭耶稣。21 巡抚对众人说：「这两个人，你们要我释放哪一个给你们呢？」他们说：「巴拉巴。」22 彼拉多说：「这样，那称为基督的耶稣我怎么办他呢？」他们都说：「把他钉十字架！」23 巡抚说：「为什么呢？他做了什么恶事呢？」他们便极力地喊着说：「把他钉十字架！」24 彼拉多见说也无济于事，反要生乱，就拿水在众人面前洗手，说：「流这义人的血，罪不在我，你们承当吧。」25 众人都回答说：「他的血归到我们和我们的子孙身上。」26 于是彼拉多释放巴拉巴给他们，把耶稣鞭打了，交给钉十字架。

27 巡抚的兵就把耶稣带进衙门，叫全营的兵都聚集在他那里。28 他们给他脱了衣服，穿上一件朱红色袍子，29 用荆棘编做冠冕，戴在他头上，拿一根苇子放在他右手里，跪在他面前，戏弄他，说：「恭喜，犹太人的王啊！」30 又吐唾沫在他脸上，

拿苇子打他的头。31 戏弄完了，就给他脱了袍子，仍穿上他自己的衣服，带他出去，要钉十字架。

32 他们出来的时候，遇见一个古利奈人，名叫西门，就勉强他同去，好背着耶稣的十字架。33 到了一个地方名叫各各他，意思就是「髑髅地」。34 兵丁拿苦胆调和的酒给耶稣喝；他尝了，就不肯喝。35 他们既将他钉在十字架上，就拈阄分他的衣服，36 又坐在那里看守他。37 在他头以上安一个牌子，写着他的罪状，说：「这是犹太人的王耶稣。」 38 当时，有两个强盗和他同钉十字架，一个在右边，一个在左边。39 从那里经过的人讥诮他，摇着头，说：40「你这拆毁圣殿、三日又建造起来的，可以救自己吧！你如果是上帝的儿子，就从十字架上下来吧！」 41 祭司长和文士并长老也是这样戏弄他，说：42「他救了别人，不能救自己。他是以色列的王，现在可以从十字架上下来，我们就信他。43 他倚靠上帝，上帝若喜悦他，现在可以救他；因为他曾说：『我是上帝的儿子。』」44 那和他同钉的强盗也是这样地讥诮他。

45 从午正到申初，遍地都黑暗了。 46 约在申初，耶稣大声喊着说：「以利！以利！拉马撒巴各大尼？」就是说：「我的上帝！我的上帝！为什么离弃我？」47 站在那里的人，有的听见就说：「这个人呼叫以利亚呢！」48 内中有一个人赶紧跑去，拿海绵蘸满了醋，绑在苇子上，送给他喝。49 其余的人说：

「且等着，看以利亚来救他不来。」50 耶稣又大声喊叫，气就断了。 51 忽然，殿里的幔子从上到下裂为两半，地也震动，磐石也崩裂，52 坟墓也开了，已睡圣徒的身体多有起来的。53 到耶稣复活以后，他们从坟墓里出来，进了圣城，向许多人显现。54 百夫长和一同看守耶稣的人看见地震并所经历的事，就极其害怕，说：「这真是上帝的儿子了！」