

PLEASE PRAY...

For those baptised recently: Ada Mitchell-Stagg, 15.10.23; Kacey Menezes de Pinho, Julieta Fernandes, Ivy Fuller, 17.9.23; Chloe Hesketh, 3.9.23; Tilly & Rosie Harrison, 2.9.23; Zhara Buffonge-Williams, 30.7.23; Joshua, Jacob, Joseph, Bella-Rose & Myah Hans, 17.6.23.

For those confirmed recently: Mason Okpala & Sam Stewart, 5.11.23.

For those married recently: Tom Odell & Georgie Somerville, 25.11.23; Terri Locke & Guven Huseyin, 3.6.23; Thomas Hermet & Anna Packford, 27.5.23.

For those who are unwell: Maureen Beer. Danuta Brak. Rachel Bridgeman. Pauline Brown. Henrietta Buffonge. Sue Cannon. Margaret Cooke. Emanuel Curto. Doug Davies. Pat Farquhar. Mary Faulks. Paulette Francis-Ingram. Elizabeth Gabbidon. Jolanta Graham. Cathy Harris. Gerry Harris. Georgina & James Hughes. Pat Johnson. Pamela Jones. Mary Marshall. Connie Nantege. Milly Nasiwa. Melissa & Eric Nordh. Michael Osapanin. Elizabeth Paul-Worika. Silverline Paul-Worika. Gem Pusey. Joan Rawson. Doreen Robinson. Christelle Vantard. Gordon Wellard. Margaret White. Roseanna White. Michael Wilmott. Holly Young.

For those who have died recently: Helen Johnston. The Revd Duncan Ross. George Cleghorne. Adam Czerniawski. Violet Laniyan. Aina Aideloje. Amy Louise Irvine. Shirley Burge. Linda Galvin.

For those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Jessie Mates. Marion Robertson. Sergio Mendes. Charles Stephens. Kate Farquhar. Rebekah Bone. William Woollams. Mike Harth.

CONTACTS

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**You can also visit us at: www.sjoj.co.uk
and follow us on [instagram](#)/[twitter](#)/[facebook](#)**

The Liturgy of Palm Sunday



*“And those who went before
and those who followed cried out,
‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

Mark 11:9

24 March 2024



*A very warm welcome to St John of Jerusalem –
especially if you are here for the first time*

*Today's volunteers:
Stewards - Anna & Val
Junior Church - Ibi & Naomi
Intercessions - Datoru
Refreshments - Maria & Joannie*

Organist: Elspeth Wilkes

**Front cover: Jyoti Sahi (Indian, 1944-), Entry into Jerusalem, 2012.
Oil and acrylic on canvas.**

Dr. Jyoti Sahi studied art at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts in England and gained a Doctorate in Divinity from Serampore College. In 1970 he came to live in Bangalore where he was connected with the National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Centre founded by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, soon after the Second Vatican Council, to reflect on the relation of the Church in India to Indian cultures and spirituality. He also designed works for Indian churches. Coming from a mixed religious background having Hindu and Christian roots, Jyoti has spent the last forty years trying to see how it is possible to bridge/integrate these religious and cultural divides through art. He is particularly interested in the relation of Christian symbols and stories to the sacred images that are found in other faith traditions, particularly in the Indian tradition. As an artist, he has been actively involved with various non governmental groups in India concerned with social change. Jyoti currently teaches in seminaries all over India, lecturing on the relation of art to Indian aesthetics and spirituality.

Jyoti started this painting after visiting Jerusalem for an interfaith meeting – his first trip to the Holy Land – where he presented a paper on art and meditation. He was fascinated by the surrounding landscape. The theme of Christ entering Jerusalem is related to the idea of Christ entering the human heart, he says. The painting was acquired in 2018 by a visiting Italian monk for a Christian chapel in Sicily.

Holy Week & Easter 2024

Sunday 24 March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Palm Sunday Procession from St J of J School Parish Eucharist (with Junior Church) <i>No Evening Prayer</i> Festival Chorus Concert (Free entry, retiring collection)	9:45am 10am 7pm
Monday 25 March	Morning Prayer <i>No Evening Prayer</i> Monday of Holy Week: Eucharist	9am - 7pm
Tuesday 26 March	Morning Prayer <i>No Evening Prayer</i> Tuesday of Holy Week: Eucharist	9am - 7pm
Wednesday 27 March	Morning Prayer Coffee Morning <i>No Evening Prayer</i> Wednesday of Holy Week: Eucharist	9am 11am-2pm - 7pm
Thursday 28 March <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>No Morning Prayer</i> St John of Jerusalem School Easter Service <i>No Evening Prayer</i> Maundy Thursday Liturgy, with vigil (Church will remain open for prayer until midnight)	- 10am - 8pm
Friday 29 March <i>Good Friday</i>	Morning Prayer Good Friday Liturgy <i>No Midday Eucharist</i> Stations of the Cross Shortened Evening Prayer	9am 10am - 2:30pm 5pm
Saturday 30 March <i>Holy Saturday</i>	Holy Saturday shortened Morning Prayer Church Decorating <i>No Evening Prayer</i> <u>NB Remember: Clocks go forward 1 hr tonight!</u>	9am 9:30am -
Sunday 31 March <i>Easter Day</i>	Easter Day Dawn Eucharist (All Age Service - no Junior Church) followed by Easter breakfast! Easter Day Eucharist <i>No Evening Prayer</i>	5:30am 10am -
Monday 1 April <i>Bank holiday</i>	<i>No Morning or Evening Prayer</i>	-

comments into the suggestions box.

New Coffee Morning - every Wednesday, 11am - 2pm here in church - in the Parish Room. All very welcome!

Would you by any chance have the energy to bring **someone from Leander Court** (about 50 yds from the church) to church on Sundays - or be part of a small rota doing that. **If yes, please sign the list at the back of church.**

If you would be interested in volunteering to help with the occasional **Junior Church or Youth Group session**, please speak to Estelle, Ibi, Lisa-Raine or Susan to find out more.

Parish Newsletter - volunteers needed! With design, interviewing, ideas, general help. Please speak with Liz.

Prideaux House is seeking donations of good quality clothes/items to sell in their **Charity Shop**. Donations can be left at Prideaux House (10 Church Crescent) or at the shop (407 Mare Street). Also seeking volunteers who would be willing to help out in the Charity Shop. Please speak to Liz or Estelle for further details.

Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you**

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.
Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God,
it endures for ever;

and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

You have loved righteousness and hated evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of
gladness above your fellows.

All **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Procession

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.
(*See hymn overleaf*)

NOTICES

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

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

2. The company of angels
are praising thee on high;
and mortal men and all things
created make reply: Refrain

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

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

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

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

7. For homage may we bring thee
our victory o'er the foe,
that in the Conqueror's triumph
this strain may ever flow: Refrain

Hymn (for the Procession from the school to church)

*Words: Theodulph of Orleans, tr J.M. Neale;
Music: Melody by M.Teschner adapted & harmonised by J.S.Bach*

And then return to verse one until we reach the church

Every Sunday there are people who would be happy to **pray with you** immediately after the service, or offer prayers for healing - just make your way to the side chapel (top right, behind where the organ is played).

There is **no Evening Prayer today**, owing to the concert this evening. For a list of All **Holy Week** service times, please see the . Do come to as many services as you can to make the week as special as possible.

Festival Chorus Concert - tonight, **Sunday 24th March, 7pm**. Martines - *Dixit Dominus*; Schubert - *Mass in G major*; Handel - *Coronation Anthems*. Free entry, retiring collection. You don't have to, but you can sign up for a free ticket on Eventbrite. Type into a search engine - "Festival Chorus Easter Concert 2024."

If you would like to buy an **Easter lily** in memory of someone who has died, please sign the list at the back of church **TODAY** so we can order flowers first thing tomorrow. Please print clearly in CAPITALS the name of the person you are remembering. General donations towards the cost of Easter flowers are also welcome.

Church Decorating & Cleaning this Saturday 30th March, 9:30-11:30am.

Do you know whether you'll be coming to the 5.30am service on Easter Morning? If you are coming and you'd be willing to read, **please sign up** this morning on the sheet at the back of church. We're looking for looking for **five readers!**

Don't forget the clocks go forward one hour at 1am on Easter Day! - so the 5:30am service will feel like 4:30am :-)

Helen (Johnston)'s funeral will be in church at 12.30pm on Friday 5 April. All are welcome.

Please take a look at the boards at the back of church which show some exciting development ideas for our church. **Do please put any**

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.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Exit Voluntary

If you are new to our church - welcome!

*For further information about the life of the church,
do please leave your contact details in the A4 folder
on the table at the back of the church*

Hymn (in church)

Hymn announced from the West end of the church. Everyone finds a seat. If you are arriving in the procession, please take a hymn book as you come into church.

Hymn 129 (First Tune: Winchester New). **Words below:**

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

2. 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.

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

4. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

5. 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.

Words: H.H. Milman;

Music: Adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg 1690

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Introduction

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.

The Palm Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

John 12.12-16

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

All **Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the courage to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

and we continue together

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Final Hymn

433 Give me joy (*Sing Hosanna*)

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

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.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

If you are a full member of a Christian Church, then you are welcome to receive Communion here. If you would prefer to receive a Blessing, then please come up and bow your head.

Communion Hymn

108 Glory be to Jesus (*Caswall*)

Everyone holds up their palms

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ
entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
+ bless these palms
that they may be for us signs of his victory
and 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 lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

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 Collect

The Collect for Palm Sunday:

Let us pray:

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 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.

All **Amen.**

A candle for peace is lit

Christian Aid - Prayer for the Middle East:

**All God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.
May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.
We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.
God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.
May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.
We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.
May the clamour of violence cease, replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.
God, in your name we pray,
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (*read by Tonye*)

The servant of the LORD said:
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.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of John the Baptist and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

We sing:

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

for ever praising you and singing:

We sing:

All **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

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?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Isaiah 50.4-9a

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31.9-16 (read by Simon; congregation please say verses in bold type)

- 9 Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble; ♦
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
my soul and my body also.
- 10 **For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; ♦
my strength fails me because of my affliction,
and my bones are consumed.**
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies
and even to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; ♦
when they see me in the street they flee from me.
- 12 **I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind; ♦
I have become like a broken vessel.**
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is on every side; ♦
they scheme together against me,
and plot to take my life.

14 **But my trust is in you, O Lord. ♦
I have said, 'You are my God.**

15 'My times are in your hand; ♦
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 **'Make your face to shine upon your servant, ♦
and save me for your mercy's sake.'**

Those involved in the Passion reading please make your way to the front

The Passion Reading

*(Congregation: please be seated and join in the parts marked **in bold**.)*

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

NARRATOR: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

DISCIPLES: "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."

NARRATOR: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

During which the collection is taken up. If you would prefer, there is also now a Card Reader at the back of church. (If you are a tax payer, you can indicate that on the Card Reader, or please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope which you will find at the end of the pew, signing it and supplying your address)

Preparation of the Table

Be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **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,

Prayers of Intercession

During the prayers (led by Datoru)

Lord, in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

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.

cf Ephesians 2.13

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

109 It is a thing most wonderful (*Herongate*)

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: So he sent two of his disciples, saying 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 owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

NARRATOR: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

NARRATOR: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely, not I?"

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: "Take; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters; 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."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: But he said vehemently,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

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

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

(The Passion ends with a time of silence).

At the end:

NARRATOR: This is the Passion of the Lord

(No response is made)

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

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

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

NARRATOR: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

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

BYSTANDERS: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Where able, all in the congregation please stand

NARRATOR: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and 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 waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: "Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

ACCUSERS: "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.'"

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

ACCUSERS: "Prophecy!"

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: "This man is one of them."

NARRATOR: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

BYSTANDERS: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he broke down and wept.]

NARRATOR: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."