

P: Open the gates of Jerusalem, let your Redeemer enter in! This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

C: Shout Hosanna! Shout Hosanna! God's love endures forever.

P: If we keep silent, the rocks will cry out:

C: Hosanna to the Son of David!

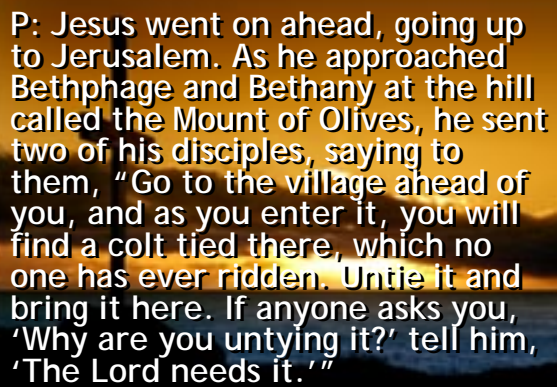
P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

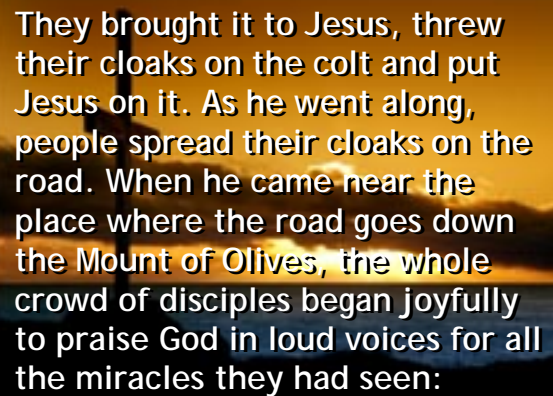


Palm Sunday Reading

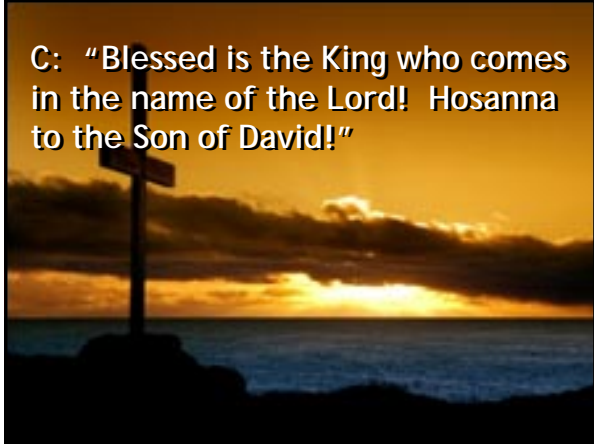
Luke 19:28-31, 35-37



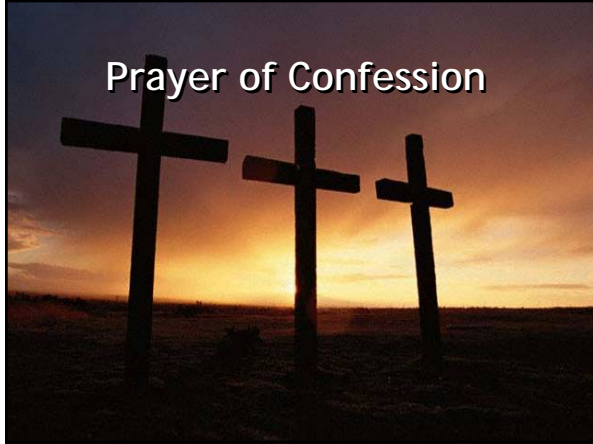
P: Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"



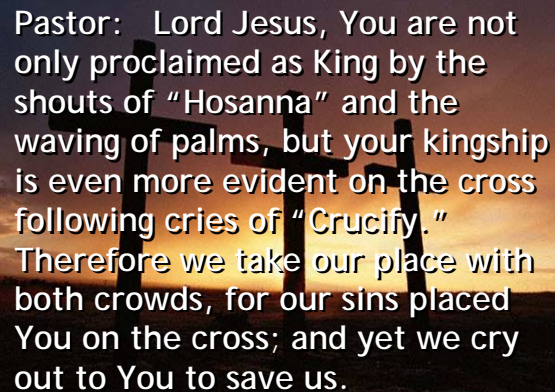
They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:



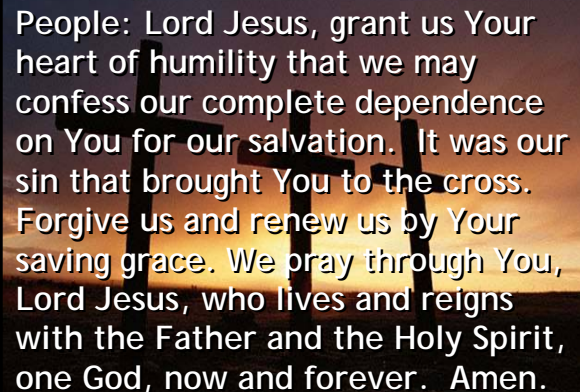
C: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the Son of David!"



Prayer of Confession



Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are not only proclaimed as King by the shouts of "Hosanna" and the waving of palms, but your kingship is even more evident on the cross following cries of "Crucify." Therefore we take our place with both crowds, for our sins placed You on the cross; and yet we cry out to You to save us.

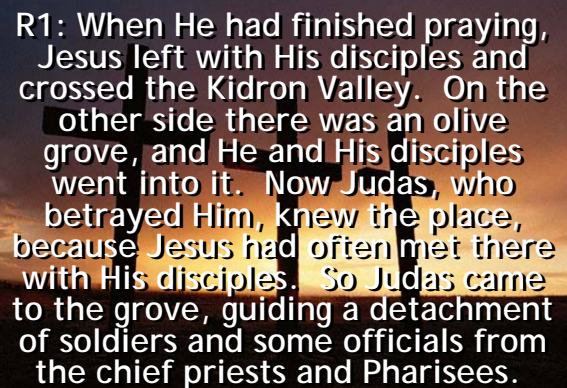


People: Lord Jesus, grant us Your heart of humility that we may confess our complete dependence on You for our salvation. It was our sin that brought You to the cross. Forgive us and renew us by Your saving grace. We pray through You, Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

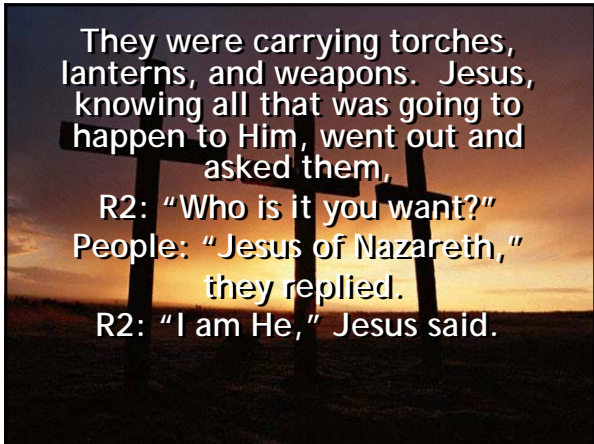


Reading from the Passion
(*Betrayal and arrest of Jesus*)

John 18:1-11



R1: When He had finished praying, Jesus left with His disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and He and His disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees.

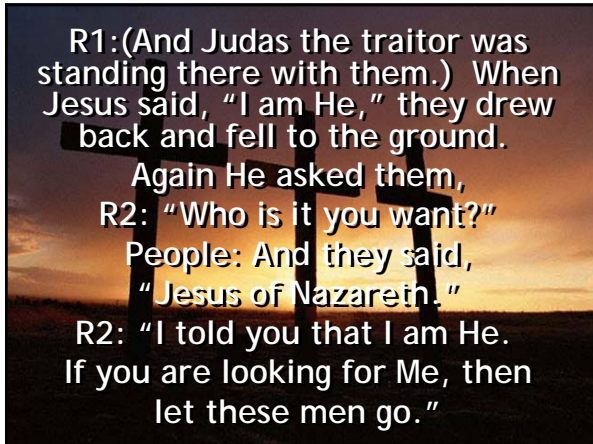


They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them,

R2: "Who is it you want?"

People: "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

R2: "I am He," Jesus said.



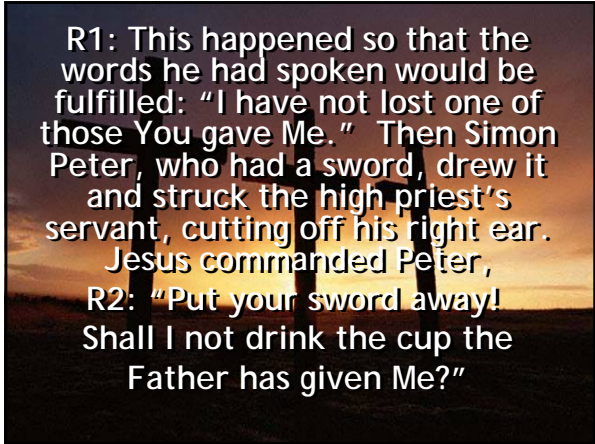
R1:(And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again He asked them,

R2: "Who is it you want?"

People: And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

R2: "I told you that I am He. If you are looking for Me, then let these men go."



R1: This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those You gave Me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.

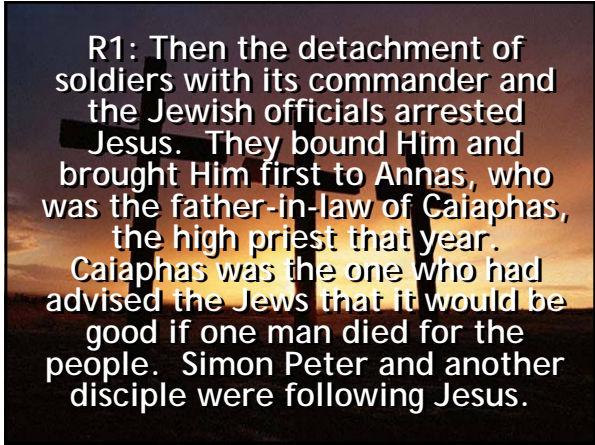
Jesus commanded Peter,

R2: "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?"

Reading from the Passion

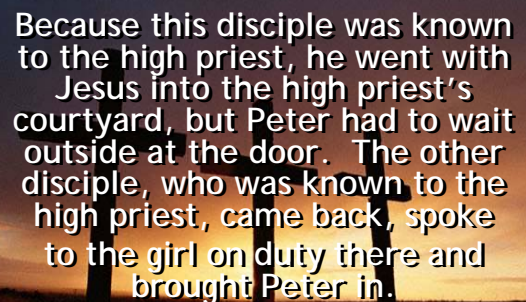
(Jesus before the High Priest and the denial of Peter)

John 18:12-27



R1: Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound Him and brought Him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus.



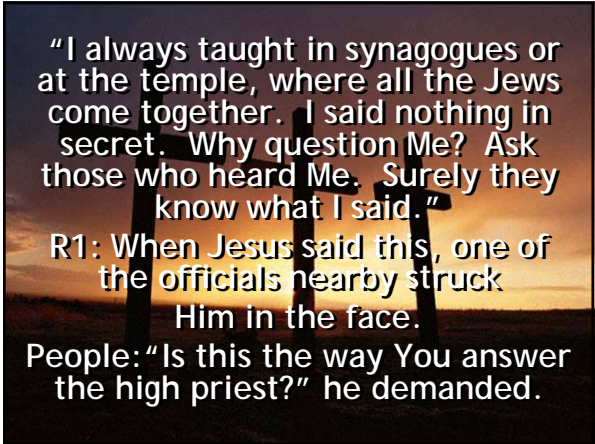
Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

Women: "You are not one of His disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter.

Men: He replied, "I am not."

R1: It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

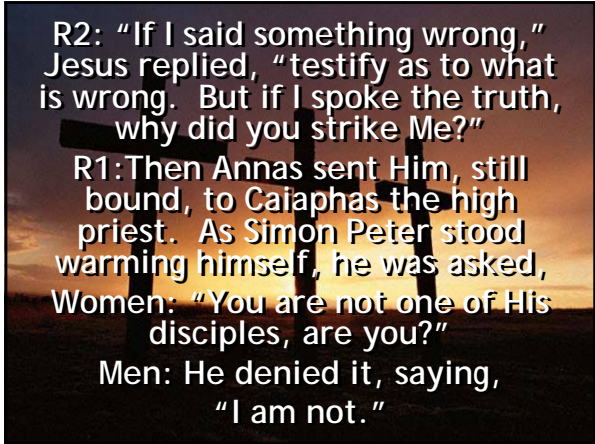
R2: "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied.



"I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question Me? Ask those who heard Me. Surely they know what I said."

R1: When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck Him in the face.

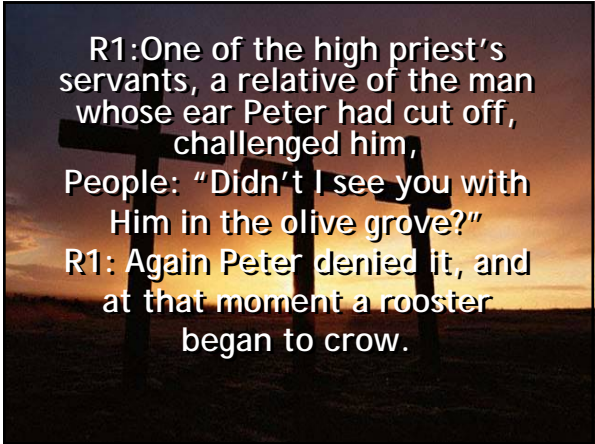
People: "Is this the way You answer the high priest?" he demanded.



R2: "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike Me?"

R1: Then Annas sent Him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, Women: "You are not one of His disciples, are you?"

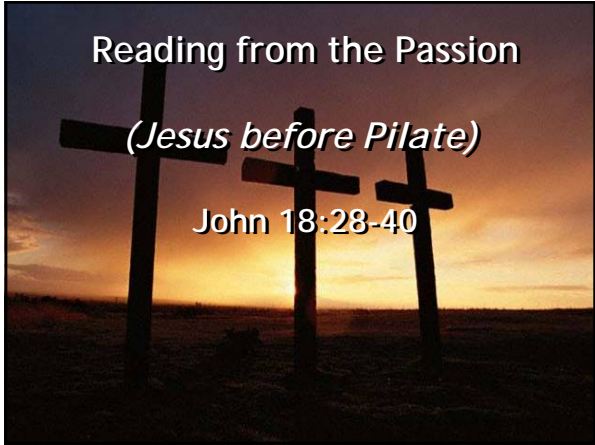
Men: He denied it, saying, "I am not."



R1: One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him,

People: "Didn't I see you with Him in the olive grove?"

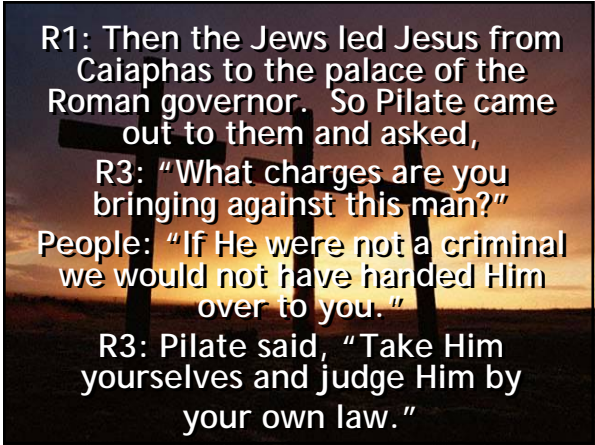
R1: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.



Reading from the Passion

(Jesus before Pilate)

John 18:28-40

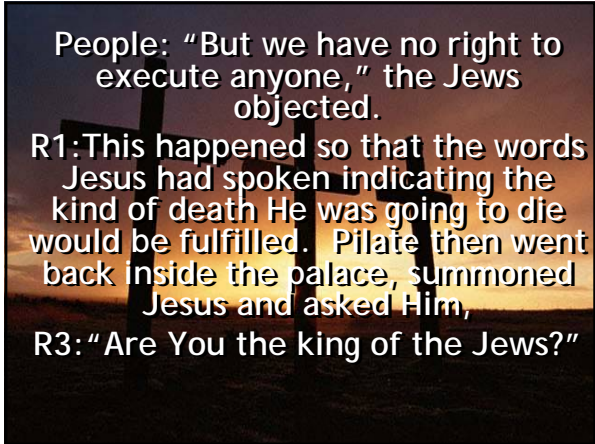


R1: Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. So Pilate came out to them and asked,

R3: "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

People: "If He were not a criminal we would not have handed Him over to you."

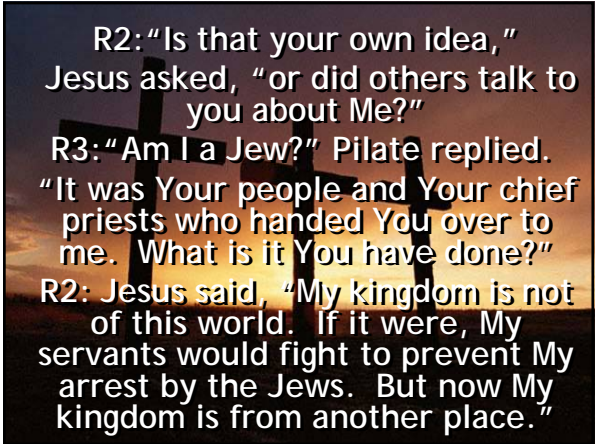
R3: Pilate said, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law."



People: "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected.

R1: This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death He was going to die would be fulfilled. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked Him,

R3: "Are You the king of the Jews?"

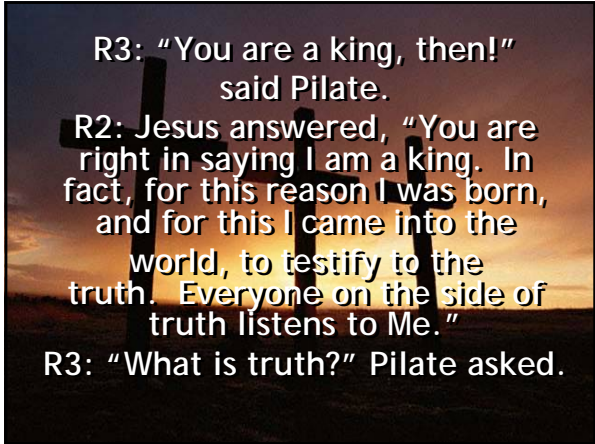


R2: "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about Me?"

R3: "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied.

"It was Your people and Your chief priests who handed You over to me. What is it You have done?"

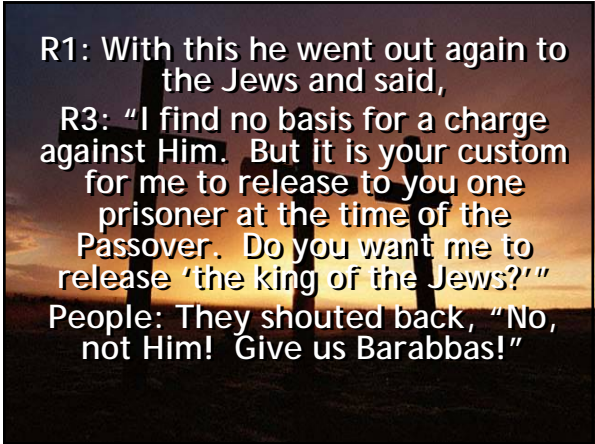
R2: Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is from another place."



R3: "You are a king, then!"
said Pilate.

R2: Jesus answered, "You are
right in saying I am a king. In
fact, for this reason I was born,
and for this I came into the
world, to testify to the
truth. Everyone on the side of
truth listens to Me."

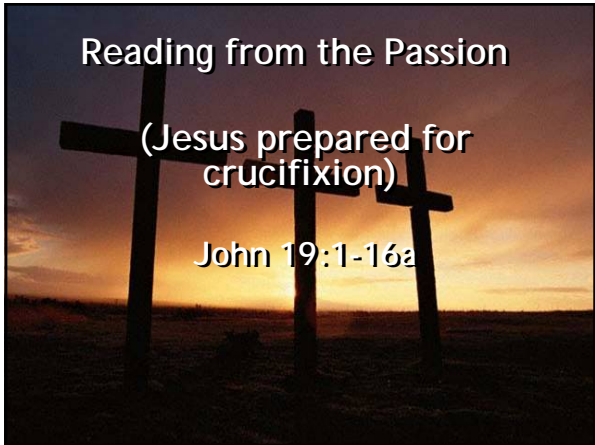
R3: "What is truth?" Pilate asked.



R1: With this he went out again to
the Jews and said,

R3: "I find no basis for a charge
against Him. But it is your custom
for me to release to you one
prisoner at the time of the
Passover. Do you want me to
release 'the king of the Jews?'"

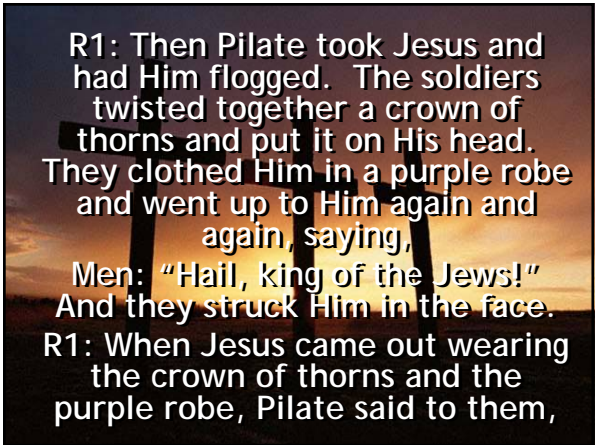
People: They shouted back, "No,
not Him! Give us Barabbas!"



Reading from the Passion

(Jesus prepared for
crucifixion)

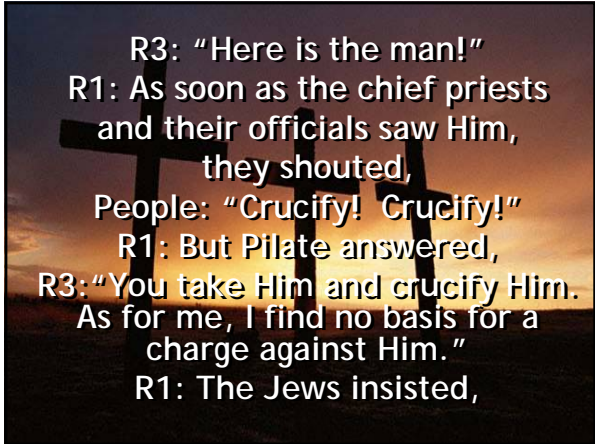
John 19:1-16a



R1: Then Pilate took Jesus and
had Him flogged. The soldiers
twisted together a crown of
thorns and put it on His head.
They clothed Him in a purple robe
and went up to Him again and
again, saying,

Men: "Hail, king of the Jews!"
And they struck Him in the face.

R1: When Jesus came out wearing
the crown of thorns and the
purple robe, Pilate said to them,



R3: "Here is the man!"

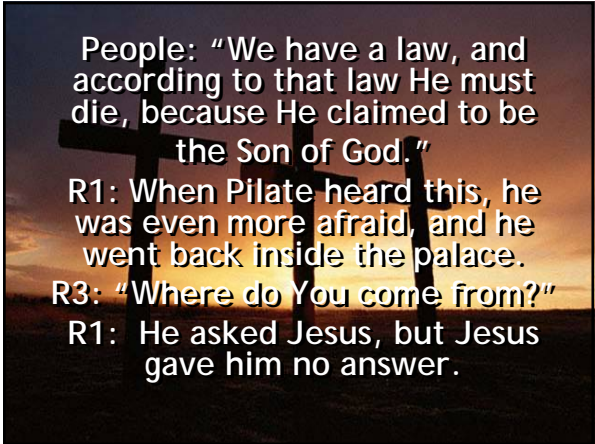
R1: As soon as the chief priests
and their officials saw Him,
they shouted,

People: "Crucify! Crucify!"

R1: But Pilate answered,

R3: "You take Him and crucify Him.
As for me, I find no basis for a
charge against Him."

R1: The Jews insisted,



People: "We have a law, and
according to that law He must
die, because He claimed to be
the Son of God."

R1: When Pilate heard this, he
was even more afraid, and he
went back inside the palace.

R3: "Where do You come from?"

R1: He asked Jesus, but Jesus
gave him no answer.

R3: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you realize I have power either to free You or to crucify You?"

R2: Jesus answered, "You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

R1: From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting,

People: "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

R1: When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement.

It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

R3: "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

People: But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!"

R3: "Shall I crucify your King?" Pilate asked.

People: "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

R1: Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

Reading from the Passion

(The crucifixion of Jesus)

John 19:16b-30

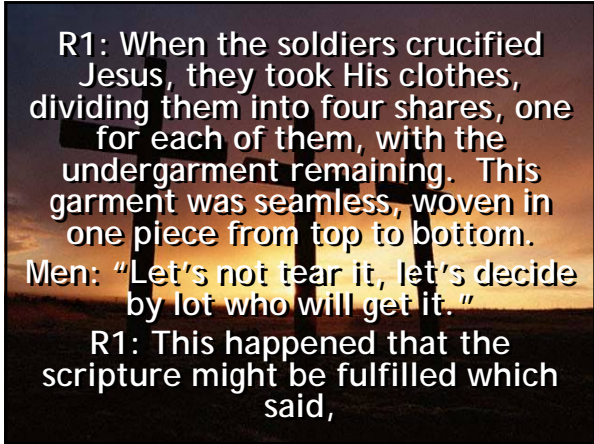
R1: So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read:

R3: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

R1: Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate,

People: "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

R3: Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."



R1: When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

Men: "Let's not tear it, let's decide by lot who will get it."

R1: This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said,

People: "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

R1: So this is what the soldiers did.

R1: Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to his mother,

R2: "Dear woman, here is your son,"

R1: and to the disciple,

R2: "Here is your mother."

R1: From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

R2: "I am thirsty."

R1: A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said,

R2: "It is finished."

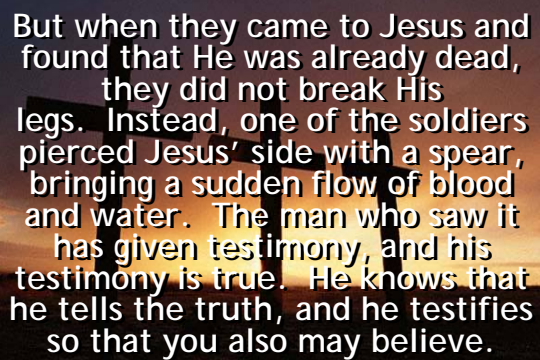
R1: With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Reading from the Passion

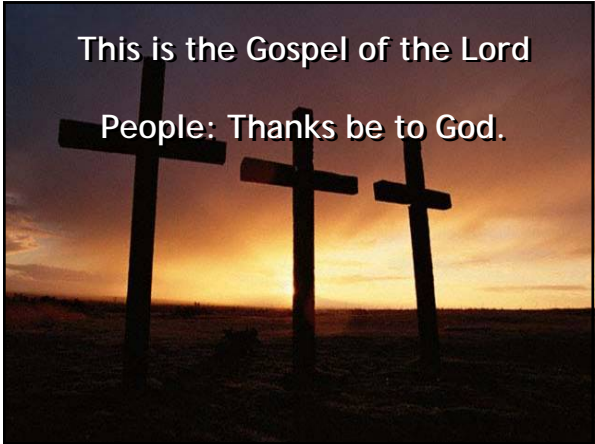
(Jesus' side is pierced)

John 19:31-36

R1: Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

A photograph of three wooden crosses on a hill, silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The crosses are arranged in a line, with the tallest in the center and two shorter ones on either side.

But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

A photograph of three wooden crosses on a hill, silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The crosses are arranged in a line, with the tallest in the center and two shorter ones on either side.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.