



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 2, 2023

Welcome to Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members and friends gather here each Sunday morning (and lots of times during the week!) to celebrate and serve. We rejoice that you are here with us, and hope that you'll feel right at home.

Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.

Face Masks for personal protection are optional for all activities on our campus

Visitors are encouraged to reach out about activities they may be interested in attending.

Visual Worship Schedules are available upon request.

If you need a little help hearing, portable listening devices are available.

If a fidget toy would be helpful for you, they are available at the Narthex entrance.

An All Gender Restroom is located in the Narthex.

An infant changing station and Quiet Room for parents with little ones is located off the Narthex.

A Parents' room is available downstairs for those with small children,

Activity packets are available for children to use during worship.

Please ask an usher if you need help; we are here to assist you!

Sunday , April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

10:00 am- Faith Formation

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

11:00 am- Easter Pageant Practice

Monday, April 3

10:00 am- Adult Bible Study

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

7:30 pm- Session

Tuesday, April 4

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

7:00 pm- Ballroom Dancing

7:30 pm- Peacemaking and Social Justice

Wednesday, April 5

9:00 am-Breakfast Group-Court Diner

10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends

Wednesday (continued)

3:00 pm- Private lessons

4:00 pm- Private Flute lessons

Thursday, April 6

7:30 pm- Maundy Thursday Service

7:30 pm- BSA 277/2019

Friday, April 7

Good Friday, Sanctuary open 9 a.m-9 p.m.

Saturday, April 8

Sunday , April 9

Easter Sunday

8:00 am- Outdoor Worship

9:30 am- Chancel Choir

10:00 am- Worship

10:00 am- Easter Pageant

10:015am- Faith Formation

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

11:00 am- Mini Easter egg hunt

A community where all who seek God are Welcome...



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF MEDITATION

Palm/Passion Sunday is, by design, a day of drama and paradox, of triumph and tragedy. As the service begins, a crowd gathers, waving branches and shouting “Hosanna” (Hebrew for save us) and wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of Christ’s passion unfolds, the shouts of praise turn into demands for his death. Jesus is handed over to be mocked, tortured, and killed; the crown he receives is one of thorns... the service is established on the theological principle that Jesus’ death and resurrection cannot be separated. It insists that we not avoid the cross — God’s way of glory leads through the grave. Indeed, there is a clear path through this service, connecting Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem with his triumphal entry into the new Jerusalem... This pattern of worship at the beginning of Holy Week has ancient origins, dating to at least the fourth century and reflecting the theological, pastoral, and liturgical wisdom of the early church... Because this is such a full service, it is appropriate to allow the story of scripture to speak for itself. (Book of Common Worship, PCUSA)

GATHERING

WELCOME, HYMN, PRAYER, AND CONFESSION

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

We invite you to sign the black friendship pew pads which are located near the center aisle in each pew. They will help us get to know one another better! Thank you for being here with us!

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed in the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey.

Hosanna in the highest!

OPENING PRAYER

Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

NT 23

*OPENING HYMN #196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL IC DIR GEBEN

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

PROCLAMATION, SCRIPTURE, SERMON, AND ANTHEM

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front pews. Children are invited to Faith Formation classes (ages 18 months – 5 years and 6-11 years) or to stay with us in worship. There are activity packets at each entrance for children to enjoy during worship time.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Teschner/Lau

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, whose word silences the shouts of the mighty: quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

OT 681

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

OT 565

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

NT 197

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:14-27:66

NT 29

SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM

Who Crucified My Lord

Belcher

Who crucified my Lord? Who nailed him to the cross? Who crowned him with a wreath of thorn? Who crucified my Lord? Nobody knew him, his suff'ring and shame, when he hung on the cross all torn with pain. O Lord, my Lord, my Lord! Who crucified my Lord?

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

At the Cross

Ralph Hudson, arr. Cindy Berry

If you wish to give electronically from your smartphone or tablet, please scan the box at the right to go to the website where you can give to WPC via credit card, or give via the Church Center app.



*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Solemn Intercessions

SENDING

ACTS OF COMMITMENT, CHARGE, PEACE, AND SERVICE IN THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #160

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

ANDUJAR

BLESSINGS AND CHARGE

TIME OF GREETING AND SHARING THE GRACE AND PEACE WE RECEIVED

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

(Please exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation.)

****Those who are able, please stand.***

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Thank you to Jenny Miller, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by Lloyd Smith in memory of my loving mother, Bernice Smith.

HOLY WEEK

Join for the following events as we walk the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter.

LENTEN SEASON AT WPC: You know the story of Jesus' birth, his travels with his family and his quest for understanding from the religious leaders of his youth. Using the WPC's Lenten Reflections, you are invited to spend a few minutes of your day reading selected poems, Bible passages and thought-provoking questions. Also included are reflections from members of the WPC family, past and present. It is easy to do and will give you a closer look at Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the impact He has had on all of us. Here is how to do it:

- Use this link (<https://bit.ly/3YTxLVW>) to print a copy and jump in!
- Print each week's entries from WPC Happenings
- Pick up a copy of the booklet in the Narthex

See you on the other side, **Easter Sunday, April 9!**

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE (7:30 pm, Thursday, April 6) – worship in the shadows of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Communion will be served.

GOOD FRIDAY (9 am-9 pm, Friday, April 7) – You are invited to come in out of the noise and spend some time in the silence of the day. The sanctuary will be open for prayer and contemplation. The labyrinth will be set up in Fellowship Hall to center the spirit by walking the single, circuitous path.

EASTER SUNDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE (8 am, Sunday, April 9) – Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with a service in the courtyard and your favorite Easter hymns accompanied by guitar.

EASTER SUNDAY INDOOR SERVICE (10 am, Sunday, April 9) – Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with our first Easter Pageant. The service will also feature brass, the Wallingford Winds and the Bell and Chancel Choirs. Children birth-11 are invited to an Easter egg hunt after the service.

EASTER SUNDAY SCHOOL Please note – all our Sunday School rooms (including the toddler room) will be closed from 10-10:15 am, Easter Sunday, so everyone can enjoy the Easter pageant. When the pageant is over, Sunday school will be available for children ages 18 months-fifth grade.

EASTER HAMS Have a ham you won't be cooking for Easter? Donate it to the Deacons to provide for local families. Mark it "Deacons" and put in the church refrigerator by **Friday, April 7**. Call Karen Emmons (610-737-8239) if you are donating or have questions.

PRIME TIME All aboard! Rail historian and writer Beth Anne Keates will talk, **Tuesday, April 11**, about the Philadelphia – West Chester Rail Line and its impact on the surrounding areas, including Wallingford, and parts of the line west of Wawa. Her books will be for sale (cash/check only). Bring lunch and a friend – we will provide beverages and dessert. **Lunch starts at noon; the talk, 12:30 p.m.**

SPROUTS SCIENCE NIGHT Exploding sidewalk chalk – bubble paint! Just a preview of the fun science experiments and crafts we will do, **6 p.m., Friday, April 14**. Dinner included. Open to children grades K-5.

SPRING CLEAN-UP Lend a hand **9 a.m., Saturday, April 15**, helping to tidy up the beds and spread mulch, Please bring your own tools.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS All are invited **Wednesday, April 19**, to hear Julie Brownhill, from the Social Enrichment Center, talk about two interrelated subjects: is my child ready for kindergarten and social engagement. **Begin with coffee at 9:15 a.m., followed by the presentation at 10:15 a.m.** Sponsored by Wallingford Co-op Nursery School.

DEALING WITH DISINFORMATION To start learning how to deal with disinformation, **Wednesday, April 19**, view a series of scenarios and presentations about what disinformation is, how personal bias feeds into it and (time allowing) start on conspiratorial thinking. Professional communicators created each lesson to help students navigate "the most complex information landscape ever." Led by David Rudd. **Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m., the talk, 7:15 p.m.**

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS WPC's Disabilities Initiative invites you **11:30 a.m., Sunday, April 23**, for a training session on "Effective Communication Strategies" for families and caregivers working with those experiencing Alzheimer's Disease. The program is presented by the Delaware Valley chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

PRESBYTERY MEETING WPC is hosting the regular meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, **Tuesday, April 25, beginning at 1 p.m.** with small group discussions, worship and a box lunch-style dinner. Many volunteers are needed for registration, greeting, ushers, serving communion and serving dinner. Like to help? Email/text/call Judy Kenworthy (kenworthy@comcast.net or 610-420-2577).

LA BOHÉME Soprano section leader Kara Goodrich will star as Mimi, the seamstress, in the Opera Philadelphia presentation of La bohème. The story and music are presented in reverse order, ending with the promise of new love and the joys of friendship, wine and song. The performances, at the Academy of Music, will be **8 p.m., Fridays, April 28 and May 5; 2 p.m., Sundays, April 30 and May 5**. Individual and group ticket sales are available. Visit <https://www.operaphila.org/> for more information.

BOOKS ABOUT DISABILITIES The church library now has a collection of books addressing various disabilities. The books for kids (autism spectrum, cerebral palsy, diversity, Down Syndrome, dyslexia, visual/hearing impairment) and adults (Alzheimer's disease, autism spectrum and dementia), which may be checked out, provide a kinder, softer approach for talking about difficult situations with siblings and other relatives.

The book cart will be in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour **every Sunday**. Suggestions are welcome on additional topics, as are monetary donations for future purchases.

WORSHIP Just a reminder: If you aren't feeling your best (headache, fever, body ache), please consider staying at home until you feel like your old self again.

MASK OPTIONAL Mask wearing is optional for worship and all activities and groups using WPC's buildings or grounds. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

IN-PERSON STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS

Pastor François Tuesday 11 am - 4:30 pm
 Wednesday 10 am - 2 pm

Pastor Taylor Monday 11 am - 4:30 pm
 Thursday 10 am - 1 pm

Main Office Tuesday-Friday 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Feel free to call the church office (610-566-1644) or email staff members at other times.

GLUTEN FREE COOKIES will now be available during coffee hour. The tray of yummys will be marked – please save them for those with specific dietary restrictions.

CALL FOR NEW USHERS Ushers who volunteer to serve on a date that is convenient to them, are needed for Sunday worship services. Ushers arrive at the church by 9:40 am, welcome members and visitors, hand out bulletins, offer any needed assistance to worshippers, etc. After the service, the ushers check pews for trash, books out of order, extinguish all lights in chancel, sanctuary, narthex, etc. Please contact Judy Kenworthy if you are willing to offer this service to our congregation.

CHANCEL FLOWERS Would you like to sponsor the chancel flowers a Sunday in 2023. To order, use the Church Center app, this link (<https://bit.ly/3Wzyj1l>) or the chart in Fellowship Hall. The suggested donation is \$50.

CELL PHONES As a courtesy to your fellow pew mates, please silence your cell phone during the service.

VASES Have any small vases you could give to the Deacons? They need them to deliver the Chancel flowers each Sunday to members and friends. Please leave them in the kitchen.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

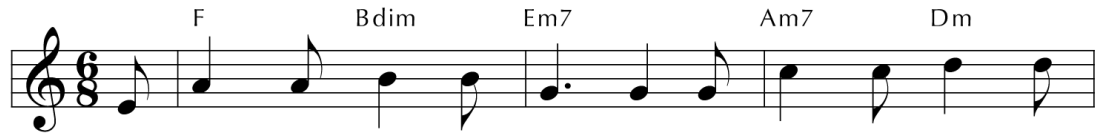
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

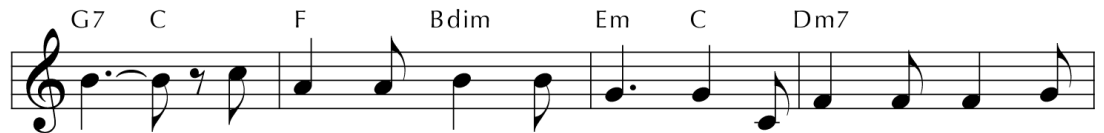
who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted 160



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose glow shall wake the
 2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y shall ride in tri - umph
 3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en, and yield - ed up to
 4 But now, as at the end - ing, the low is lift - ed



sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - ery stone shall
 by; the palm shall strew its branch - es, and ev - ery stone shall
 die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and ev - ery stone shall
 high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - ery stone shall



cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, and
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, though
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, for
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, in



straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 heav - y, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -



heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way to pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The doubled lines in each stanza of this reflection on Christ's birth and death echo his saying (Luke 19:40) that creation will praise him if people are silent. This text by a former Poet Laureate of the United States is set to a lullaby-like tune specially composed for it.

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Isaiah 50:4

The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.
⁶ 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.

⁷ 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;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹ 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.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

A Song of Victory

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

8 he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

14 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Passover with the Disciples

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, 21 and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 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." 25 Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Peter's Denial Foretold

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 "But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 33 Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." 35 Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." 39 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." 40 Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? 41 Stay awake and

pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." 49 At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 51 Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" 55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Jesus before the High Priest

57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58 But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" 62 The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" 63 But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, "From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death." 67 Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Peter's Denial of Jesus

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." 70 But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." 71 When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw

him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." 72 Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Jesus Brought before Pilate

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. 2 They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

The Suicide of Judas

3 When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 5 Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." 7 After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Pilate Questions Jesus

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Barabbas or Jesus?

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified

24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" 44 The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

The Death of Jesus

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." 48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

55 Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

The Burial of Jesus

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 60 and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." 66 So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.