

# The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

SAINT MATTHEW 26.36-75; 27.1-66

- C. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples,  
⌘ Sit here, while I go yonder and pray.  
C. And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, ⌘ My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.  
C. And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, ⌘ My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.  
C. And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter, ⌘ So, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.  
C. Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, ⌘ My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Thy will be done.  
C. And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to the disciples and said to them, ⌘ Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.  
C. While He was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ⌘ The one I shall kiss is the Man; seize Him.  
S. C. And he came up to Jesus at once and said, ⌘ Hail, Master!  
C. And he kissed Him. Jesus said to him, ⌘ Friend, why are you here?  
C. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, ⌘ Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of Angels? But how then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?  
C. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, ⌘ Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But all this has taken place, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.  
C. Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter followed Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, **THIS FELLOW SAID, 'I AM ABLE TO DESTROY THE TEMPLE OF GOD, AND TO BUILD IT IN THREE DAYS.'**  
All. C. And the high priest stood up and said,
- S. Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?  
C. But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to Him, S. I adjure You by the living God, tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.  
C. Jesus said to him, ⌘ You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.  
C. Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, S. He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. What is your judgment?  
C. They answered, **HE DESERVES DEATH.**  
C. Then they spat in His face, and struck Him; and some slapped Him, saying, **PROPHESY TO US, YOU CHRIST! WHO IS IT THAT STRUCK YOU?**  
C. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said, S. You also were with Jesus the Galilean.  
C. But he denied it before them all, saying, S. I do not know what you mean.  
C. And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders, S. This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.  
C. And again he denied it with an oath, S. I do not know the Man.  
C. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, All. **CERTAINLY YOU ARE ALSO ONE OF THEM, FOR YOUR ACCENT BETRAYS YOU.**  
C. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, S. I do not know the Man.  
C. And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, ⌘ Before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.  
C. And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor. When Judas, His betrayer, saw that He was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, S. I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.  
C. They said, **WHAT IS THAT TO US? SEE TO IT YOURSELF.**  
C. And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. 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.**  
C. So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah, saying, S. And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.  
C. Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, S. Are You the King of the Jews?

C. Jesus said,  
You have said so.

All. Him, saying,  
**HE SAVED OTHERS; HE CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF.  
HE IS THE KING OF ISRAEL; LET HIM COME DOWN  
NOW FROM THE CROSS, AND WE WILL BELIEVE IN  
HIM. HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD DELIVER HIM  
NOW, IF HE DESIRES HIM; FOR HE SAID, 'I AM THE  
SON OF GOD.'**

C. And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled  
Him in the same way. (*STAND*) Now from the sixth hour  
there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And  
about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,  
Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?  
that is,

C. My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

C. And some of the bystanders hearing it said,  
**THIS MAN IS CALLING ELIJAH.**

All. And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with  
vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to Him to drink. But  
the others said,  
**WAIT, LET US SEE WHETHER ELIJAH WILL COME  
TO SAVE HIM.**

C. And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His  
spirit.

*A period of silence is kept,  
traditionally a silence the duration of one Our Father.*

C. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from  
top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split;  
the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints  
who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the  
tombs after His Resurrection they went into the holy city and  
appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were  
with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and  
what took place, they were filled with awe, and said,  
**TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!**

C. There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who  
had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him; among  
whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James  
and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it  
was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named  
Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate  
and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be  
given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a  
clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he  
had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of  
the tomb, and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary  
were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre. Next day, that is,  
after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees  
gathered before Pilate and said,

**SIR, WE REMEMBER HOW THAT IMPOSTOR SAID,  
WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE, 'AFTER THREE DAYS  
I WILL RISE AGAIN.' THEREFORE ORDER THE  
SEPULCHRE TO BE MADE SECURE UNTIL THE  
THIRD DAY, LEST HIS DISCIPLES GO AND STEAL  
HIM AWAY, AND TELL THE PEOPLE, 'HE HAS  
RISEN FROM THE DEAD,' AND THE LAST FRAUD  
WILL BE WORSE THAN THE FIRST.**

All. Pilate said to them,  
You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.  
So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the  
stone and setting a guard. □□□

C. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked