

Some of the people there heard him and said:

Person 1 Listen, he is calling for Elijah!

Narrator One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said:

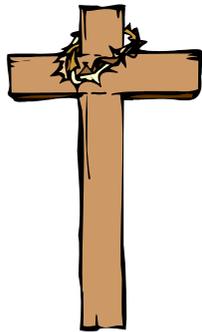
Person 2 Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!

Narrator With a loud cry, Jesus died.

The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The centurion who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. He said:

Centurion Truly, this man was the Son of God!

Hymn for reflection



Text taken from *The Dramatized Bible*

The Passion According to Mark St Paul's Egham Hythe



The Passion according to St Mark (Mark 14: 32—15: 39)

Narrator They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples:

Jesus Sit here while I pray.

Narrator He took Peter, James, and John with him.
Distress and anguish came over him.

Jesus The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me.
Stay here and keep watch.

Narrator He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if possible, he might not have to go through that time of suffering:

Jesus Father, my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me.
Yet not what I want, but what you want.

Narrator Then he returned and found the three disciples asleep. He said to Peter:

Jesus Simon, are you asleep? Weren't you able to stay awake even for one hour? Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator He went away once more and prayed, saying the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and found them asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to say to him. When he came back the third time, he said to them:

Jesus Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come! Look, the Son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinful men. Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!

Narrator On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means 'The Place of the Skull'. There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said: 'The King of the Jews'.

Narrator They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus:

Person 1 You were going to tear down the Temple and build it up again in three days!

Person 2 Now come down from the cross and save yourself!

Narrator In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law jeered at Jesus, saying to each other:

Lawyer 1 He saved others, but he cannot save himself!

Lawyer 2 Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him!

Narrator And the two who were crucified with Jesus insulted him also.

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

Jesus Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

Narrator Which means My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Pilate Do you want me to set free for you the king of the Jews?

Narrator He knew very well that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask, instead, for Pilate to set Barabbas free for them. Pilate spoke again to the crowd.

Pilate What, then, do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?

Narrator They shouted back

Crowd Crucify him!

Pilate But what crime has he committed?

Narrator They shouted all the louder:

Crowd Crucify him!

Narrator Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified.

Narrator The soldiers took Jesus inside to the courtyard of the governor's palace and called together the rest of the company. They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches and put it on his head. Then they began to salute him:

Soldiers Long live the King of the Jews!

Narrator They beat him over the head with a stick, spat on him, fell on their knees, and bowed down to him. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Narrator Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, and sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal.

Judas The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.

Narrator As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said...

Judas Teacher!

Narrator ... and he kissed him. So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. But one of those standing there drew his sword and struck at the High Priest's slave, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus spoke:

Jesus Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were an outlaw? Day after day I was with you teaching in the Temple, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must come true.

Narrator Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

Narrator Jesus was taken to the High Priest's house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering. The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some evidence against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. Many witnesses told lies against Jesus, but their stories did not agree.

Then some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus:

Man We heard him say, 'I will tear down this Temple which men have made, and after three days I will build one that is not made by men.'

Narrator Not even they, however, could make their stories agree.

The High Priest stood up in front of them all and questioned Jesus:

High Priest Have you no answer to the accusations they bring against you?

Narrator But Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. Again the High Priest questioned him:

High Priest Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?

Jesus I am, and you will all see the Son of Man seated on the right of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!

Narrator The High Priest tore his robes:

High Priest We don't need any more witnesses! You heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

Narrator They all voted against him: he was guilty and should be put to death.

Some of them began to spit on Jesus, and they blindfolded him and hit him. They said:

Man Guess who hit you!

Narrator And the guards took him and slapped him.

Narrator Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant girls came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him:

Girl You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth.

Peter I don't know... I don't understand what you are talking about.

Narrator And he went out into the passage. Just then a cock crowed. The servant girl saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders:

Girl He is one of them!

Narrator But Peter denied it again.
A little while later the bystanders accused Peter again:

Bystander You can't deny that you are one of them, because you, too, are from Galilee.

Peter I swear that I am telling the truth! May God punish me if I am not! I do not know the man you are talking about!

Narrator Just then a cock crowed a second time, and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will say three times that you do not know me.' And he broke down and cried.

Hymn

Narrator Early in the morning the chief priests met hurriedly with the elders, the teachers of the Law, and the whole Council, and made their plans. They put Jesus in chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him:

Pilate Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus So you say.

Narrator The chief priests were accusing Jesus of many things, so Pilate questioned him again:

Pilate Aren't you going to answer? Listen to all their accusations!

Narrator Jesus refused to say a word, and Pilate was amazed. At every Passover Festival Pilate was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the people asked for. At that time a man named Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the riot. When the crowd gathered and began to ask Pilate for the usual favour, he asked them: