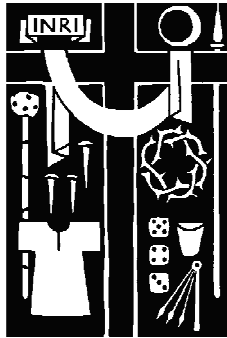


THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

23:1-49 ♦ YEAR C

PLEASE LEAVE THIS BOOKLET IN THE CHURCH



[Please be seated for the proclamation of the Passion.]

N The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The assembly of the elders rose as a body
and brought Jesus before Pilate.

ALL *We found this man inciting our nation,
forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor,
and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.*

R Are you the king of the Jews?

❖ You say so, Pilate.

R I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

ALL *He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.*

R Is this man a Galilean?

N When Pilate learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together
the chief priests, the leaders, and the people:

R You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

ALL *Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!*

N Barabbas had been put in prison
for a riot that had taken place in the city, and for murder.

R I wish to release Jesus.

ALL *Crucify, crucify him!*

R Why, what evil has he done?
I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death;
I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

ALL *Crucify, crucify him!*

N Their voices prevailed.

Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.
He released the man they asked for,
the one who had been put in prison for riot and murder,
and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

*O Sacred Head surrounded by crown of piercing thorn!
 O bleeding Head, so wounded, reviled and put to scorn!
 The pow'r of death comes o'er you, the glow of life decays,
 Yet angel hosts adore you and tremble as they gaze.*

N As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

A great number of the people followed him,
 and among them were women
 who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

❖ Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me,
 but weep for yourselves and for your children.
 For the days are surely coming when they will say,
 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore,
 and the breasts that never nursed.'
 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us';
 and to the hills, 'Cover us.'
 For if they do this when the wood is green,
 what will happen when it is dry?"

N Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

❖ Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

N They cast lots to divide his clothing.
 The people stood by, watching. The leaders scoffed:

R He saved others; let him save himself if he is
 the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

N The soldiers mocked him, coming up, offering him sour wine:

R If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

*In this your bitter passion, Good Shepherd, think of me
 With your most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be:
 Beneath your cross abiding for ever I would rest,
 In your dear love confiding, and with your presence blest.*

N There was also an inscription over him,

R This is the King of the Jews.

N One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus:

R Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

N The other criminal rebuked him:

R Do you not fear God,
since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?
And we indeed have been condemned justly,
for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,
but this man has done nothing wrong.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

❖ Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

N Noon.

Darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
The sun's light failed.
The curtain of the temple was torn in two.

❖ Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

N He breathed his last.

The centurion saw what had taken place:

ALL *Certainly this man was innocent.*

PAUSE

SUNG

*Christ Jesus we adore you, our thorn-crowned Lord and King.
We bow our heads before you, and to your cross we cling.
Lord, give us strength to bear it with patience and with love,
That we may truly merit a glorious crown above.*

N When all the crowds who had gathered there
for this spectacle saw what had taken place,
they returned home, beating their breasts.

But all his acquaintances,
including the women who had followed him from Galilee,
stood at a distance, watching these things.

