

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Luke

Luke 22: 14 – 23:56

Narrator And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,

Jesus “I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Narrator And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,

Jesus “Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Narrator And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Narrator And likewise the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”

Narrator And they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this.

A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them,

Jesus “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves.

“You are those who have continued with me in my trials; and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.”

Narrator And he said to him,

Peter “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

Narrator He said,

Jesus “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me.”

Narrator And he said to them,

Jesus “When I sent you out with no purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

Narrator They said,

Disciples “Nothing.”

Narrator He said to them,

Jesus “But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one. For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me,

‘And he was reckoned with transgressors’;
for what is written about me has its fulfilment.”

Narrator And they said,

Disciples “Look, Lord, here are two swords.”

Narrator And he said to them,

Jesus “It is enough.”

Narrator And he came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them,

Jesus “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Narrator And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed,

Jesus "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Narrator And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

Jesus "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Narrator While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?"

Narrator And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said,

Disciples "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

Narrator And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus "No more of this!"

Narrator And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him,

Jesus "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Narrator Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said,

Servant 1 "This man also was with him."

Narrator But he denied it, saying,

Peter "Woman, I do not know him."

Narrator And a little later someone else saw him and said,

Servant 2 "You also are one of them."
Narrator But Peter said,

Peter "Man, I am not."

Narrator And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying,

Servant 3 "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

Narrator But Peter said,

Peter "Man, I do not know what you are saying."

Narrator And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

Jesus "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

Narrator And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and asked him,

Soldier 1 "Prophesy!"

Soldier 2 "Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said,

Elder 1 "If you are the Christ, tell us."

Narrator But he said to them,

Jesus "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Narrator And they all said,

Elder 2 "Are you the Son of God, then?"

Narrator And he said to them,

Jesus "You say that I am."

Narrator And they said,

Elder 3 "What further testimony do we need?"

Elder 2 We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

Narrator Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

Elder 1 "We found this man perverting our nation,

Elder 2 and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar,

Elder 3 and saying that he himself is Christ a king."

Narrator And Pilate asked him,

Pilate "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator And he answered him,

Jesus "You have said so."

Narrator And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes,

Pilate "I find no crime in this man."

Narrator But they were urgent, saying,

Elder 1 "He stirs up the people,

Elder 2 teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

Narrator When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate.

And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them,

Pilate "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

Narrator But they all cried out together,

Elder 2 "Away with this man,

Elder 3 and release to us Barab'bas"

Narrator (a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out,

Congregation "Crucify, crucify him!"

Narrator A third time he said to them,

Pilate "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

Narrator But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said,

Jesus "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' 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?"

Narrator Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

All stand.

And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said,

Jesus "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Narrator And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

Elder 1 "He saved others;

Elder 2 let him save himself,

Elder 3 if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

Narrator The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying,

Soldier 1 "If you are the King of the Jews,

Soldier 2 save yourself!"

Narrator There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Criminal 1 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying,
"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Narrator But the other rebuked him, saying,

Criminal 2 “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Narrator And he said,

Criminal 2 “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Narrator And he said to him,

Jesus “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Narrator It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!”

Narrator And having said this he breathed his last.

All kneel, for several moments. All stand, when Narrator stands.

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said,

Centurion “Certainly this man was innocent!”

Narrator And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathe’a. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid.

It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.