



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2, 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday

As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.

The Prelude

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Cathy Townley

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The Introit

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark all the tribes "Hosanna!" cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road,
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

The Processional Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

The Call to Worship

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

The Processional Hymn No. 280

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ST. THEODULPH

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

1. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One. **Refrain**
2. The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. **Refrain**
3. The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. **Refrain**
4. To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **Refrain**
5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. **Refrain**

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God,
on this day your Son Jesus Christ
entered the holy city of Jerusalem

and was proclaimed King by those who spread
their garments and palm branches along his way.
Let those branches be for us signs of his victory,
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our Lord,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.
In his name we pray. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter pages 764-765

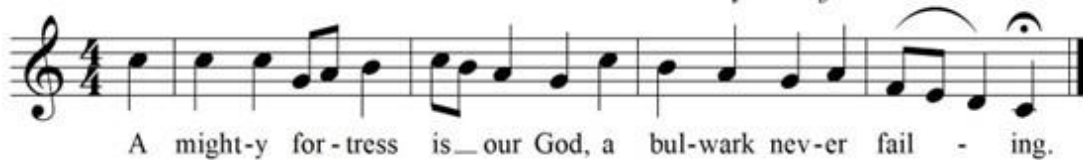
Psalm 31:1-16

The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone.

All other responses will be sung by everyone.

Martin Luther
trans. by Frederick H. Hedge

Martin Luther
harmonized from *The New Hymnal for American Youth*



Response

- 1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness, deliver me!
- 2 **Incline your ear to me,
rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!**
- 3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
- 4 **take me out of the net which is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**
- 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
- 6 **I hate those who pay regard to vain idols;
but I trust in the Lord.**
- 7 I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction,
and have taken heed of my adversities.
- 8 **You have not delivered me into the hand of my enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Response

- 9 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief,
my soul and body also.

- 10 **For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.**
- 11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
- 12 **I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become a broken vessel.**
- 13 For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.
- 14 **But I trust in you, O Lord,
I say, “You are my God.”**
- 15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- 16 **Let your face shine on your servant,
save me through your steadfast love!**

Response

The Gospel Lesson (dramatic reading by choir)

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Hymn No. 2111

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas

HOLY WEEK

1. We sang our glad hosannas and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, browning, as Jesus rode on by.
They sought a royal Savior, but did not understand
a king could rule by loving instead of by command.
2. We heard an angry Jesus in Temple courts declare
“Be gone, you money changers! This is a house of prayer.”
Though many came for healing and stayed to hear his word,
still others, hostile, plotted and thus his death assured.
3. We served him at the table with wine, unleavened bread.
“The one who will betray me now eats with men,” he said.
His friends would not believe him, but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him, they scurried out of sight.
4. We saw a suffering Jesus alone without a friend,
and heard the oices shouting abuse until the end.
We wept as we stood watching Love’s light grown dim and die,
and cried, “Why did this happen? God, tell us, tell us why

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The Homily

You Can Learn a Lot in a Week

Dr. Matt Bates

The Affirmation of Faith No. 880 – *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Gloria Patri No. 71

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Bruce Saylor

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts, 1707

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The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion,
remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Carlton R. Young



5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

8 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

11 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The Congregation is seated and the pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Carlton R. Young



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Carlton R. Young

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those that trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Communion Music *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Dietrich Buxtehude

The Recessional Hymn No. 286 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* PASSION CHORALE

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
 now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
 how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
 How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!
2. What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
 mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
 Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
 look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.
3. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
 O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

The Benediction

The Choral Response

For me kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
 thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
 thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
 for my salvation.

The Postlude *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* American Folk Hymn

The altar flowers this morning are in honor of Vic Grand's birthday by Nancy Grand.

Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this morning by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning and throughout the week to make this worship possible.

Announcements

EASTER FLOWERS - On Easter Sunday, please bring fresh flowers to adorn our cross in celebration of Easter.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Join us on Wednesday as we gather on Zoom to look at the scripture for the upcoming week. An email is out with all the details on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to the Bible study email list, please contact the church office.

THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3 – Did you miss the season finale? We will host a repeat screening of the final episode of Season 3 on April 16. We will not meet on April 2 or April 9.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

April 3	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
April 4	Noon	AA
April 5	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
April 6	7:30 pm	Holy Thursday Service
April 7	10:30 am Noon 7:30 pm	Friday Lunch Program AA Good Friday Service
April 2	10:30 am	Easter Sunday

All services at Centenary are in person and online.

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!



Scripture

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."

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.