

The Passion of Jesus According to Luke

Luke 22:39–23:56



The People remain seated for the first part of the Passion Gospel.

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

Jesus went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Evangelist Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.”

Evangelist Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Evangelist While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”

Evangelist When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

Congregation “Lord, should we strike with the sword?”

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

Jesus “No more of this!”

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

Jesus “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 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!”

Evangelist Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Servant Girl “This man also was with him.”

Evangelist But he denied it, saying,

Peter “Woman, I do not know him.”

Evangelist A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Bystander #1 “You also are one of them.”

Evangelist But Peter said,

Peter “Man, I am not!”

Evangelist Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

Bystander #2 “Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.”

Evangelist But Peter said,

Peter “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!”

Evangelist At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then 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.”

Evangelist And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

*Men in the
Congregation* “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”

Evangelist They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Congregation “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”

Evangelist He replied,

Jesus “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Evangelist All of them asked,

Congregation “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

Evangelist He said to them,

Jesus “You say that I am.”

Evangelist Then they said,

Congregation “What further testimony do we need?
We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

Evangelist Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Congregation “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

Evangelist Then Pilate asked him,

Pilate “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Evangelist He answered,

Jesus “You say so.”

Evangelist Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.”

Evangelist But they were insistent and said,

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

Evangelist When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself 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, and said to them,

Pilate “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.”

Evangelist Then they all shouted out together,

Congregation “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”

Evangelist (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Congregation “Crucify, crucify him!”

Evangelist A third time Pilate said to them,

Pilate “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.”

Evangelist But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So 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 insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

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. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus “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?”

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

The People stand as able.

Evangelist 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.

Then Jesus said,

Jesus “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Evangelist And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

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

Evangelist The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

*Men in the
Congregation* “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

Evangelist There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”
One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Criminal #1 “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Evangelist 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Evangelist Then he said,

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

Evangelist Jesus replied,

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

Evangelist It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 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 your hands I commend my spirit.”

The People kneel.

Evangelist Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

Centurion “Certainly this man was innocent.”

Evangelist And 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.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they 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.