

# Palms and Passion: Telling the Story Again

## Scriptures for Holy Week



Boulder Mennonite Church



**~Jesus Enters Jerusalem~**  
**John 12.12-15**

Five days before Passover the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted joyfully:



C: ***“Hosanna!”***

***“Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name—  
the ruler of Israel!”***

Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey, in accord with scripture:

“No fear, O people of Zion:  
Your ruler comes to you  
sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

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**~Jesus’ Last Supper~**  
**Luke 22.14-23**

When it was time, Jesus sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, “You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. I will not eat it again until everything is fulfilled in the reign of God.”

Then taking a cup of wine, Jesus gave thanks and said, “Take this and share it among you. I tell you, I will not drink wine from now on, until the reign of God comes.”

Then Jesus took bread and gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Jesus did the same with the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which will be poured out for you.”

[Pause to celebrate communion]

“Look! The hand of my betrayer is at this table with me. The Chosen One is following the appointed course. But woe to the person by whom that One is betrayed!”

Then they began to argue among themselves as to which of them would do such a deed.

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**The Passion of Jesus the Anointed One**  
**John 18.1-19.27; Mark 15.33-38, 42-46**



**~The Arrest~**

After Jesus had said all this, he left with the disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and Jesus and the disciples entered it.

Judas, who was about to turn him in, knew the place well, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led the Roman cohort to the place, along with some Temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. All were armed and carried lanterns and torches.

Then Jesus, aware of everything that was going to take place, stepped forward and said to them,

"Who are you looking for?" They asked,

**C:**     *"Are you Jesus of Nazareth?"*

"I am." Jesus said. And all the while Judas, who was turning him in, was standing there with them. But as soon as he said, "That's me," they all retreated and fell to the ground. Again, Jesus asked them, "Who are you looking for?" They replied,

**C:**     *"Jesus of Nazareth."*

Jesus said, "I have already told you that I am the one you want. If I am the one you're looking for, let the other's go." This was to fulfill what he had spoken: "Of those you gave me, I have not lost a single one."

Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's attendant, cutting off his right ear. The name of the attendant was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup Abba God has given me?"

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**~Peter's First Denial~**

Then the Roman cohort and its captain and the Temple guards seized and bound Jesus. They took him first to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Temple authorities that it was better to have one person die on behalf of the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, entered his courtyard with Jesus, while Peter hung back at the gate. So the disciple known to the high priest went back and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside.

The doorkeeper said, "Aren't you one of this guy's followers?"

But Peter answered, "No, I'm not."

Now the night was cold, so the attendants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were warming themselves. Peter was with them as well, keeping warm.

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### ~Jesus before the High Priest~

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings. Jesus answered, "I have spoken publicly to everyone; I have always taught in synagogues and in the Temple area where the whole Judean people congregates. I have said nothing in secret. So why do you question me? Ask those who have heard me. Ask them what I said to them—they know what I said."

When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing by slapped him and said, "Is this how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus replied, "If I've done anything wrong, point it out; but if I'm right in what I said, why do you strike me?"

Then Annas sent him, still shackled, to Caiaphas the high priest.

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### ~Peter's Second and Third Denials~

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. Others asked him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" But Peter denied it, saying, "I am not!"

One of the attendants of the high priest, a relative of the attendant whose ear Peter had severed, spoke up: "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"

Again, Peter denied it. At that moment a rooster crowed.

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### ~Jesus Before Pilate~

At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium, the Roman governor's palace. The Temple authorities didn't enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover Seder. So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charges do you bring against this person?" They responded,





**C:** *"All hail the King of the Judeans!"*

And they struck him in the face.

Pilate came outside once more and said to the crowd, "Look, I'll bring him out here to make you understand that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, and Pilate said, "Look upon the one you accuse!"

When the chief priests and the Temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted,

**C:** *"Crucify him! Crucify him!"*

Pilate told them, "Do it yourself. I find no reason to condemn him."

The Temple authorities replied,

**C:** *"We have a law that says he ought to die because he claimed to be the Only Begotten of God."*

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid. He went back into the Praetorium and asked Jesus, "Where do you come from?"

Jesus didn't answer.

Then Pilate said to Jesus, "You refuse to speak? Bear in mind that I have the power to release you—and the power to crucify you."

Jesus replied, "You would have no authority over me, unless it had been given to you by God. Therefore the person who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

Upon hearing this, Pilate attempted to set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted,

**C:** *"If you set him free, you're no 'friend of the emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king defies the emperor!"*

Hearing these words, Pilate took Jesus outside and seated himself on the judge's seat at the place called the Pavement—"Gabbatha," in Hebrew. Now it was almost noon on the Preparation Day for Passover. Pilate said to the people, "Here is your king!" They shouted,

**C:** *"Take him away! Crucify him!"*

Pilate asked, "Do you want me to crucify your king?" The chief priests answered,

**C:** *"The emperor's our king—we have no other!"*

And so, in the end, Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

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## ~The Crucifixion~

So they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull—in Hebrew, “Golgotha.” There they crucified him, along with two others, one on either side of Jesus.

Pilate wrote a notice and had it posted on the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH  
THE KING OF THE JUDEANS.

Many of the people read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The high priests objected. They said to Pilate,

**C:** *"Don't write 'The King of the Judeans.' Make it, 'This man said, 'I am the King of the Judeans.'"*

Pilate replied, “I have written what I have written.”

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothing and divided it into four pieces, one piece for each soldier. They also took the seamless robe. The soldiers said to one another,

**C:** *"Let's not tear it. We can throw dice to see who will get it."*

This happened in order to fulfill the scripture, “The divided my garments among them and, for my clothing, they cast lots.” And this is what they did.

While the Roman soldiers did this, Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala stood by his cross. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment, the disciple took her into his household.



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## ~Jesus Dies~ Mark 15.33-38

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until about three in the afternoon. At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama*

*sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked,

**C:**     ***"Listen! He is calling Elijah!"***

Someone ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and stuck in on a reed to try to make Jesus drink, saying,

**C:**     ***"Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."***

Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion who stood guard over Jesus, seeing how he died, declared, “Clearly, this was God’s Own!”

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**~Jesus is Buried~  
Mark 15.42-46**

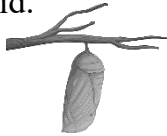


As it grew dark—it was Preparation Day, that is, the eve of the Sabbath—a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph from Arimathea, arrived. He was waiting for the reign of God, and he gathered up courage and sought an audience with Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Upon learning that this was so, Pilate released the body to Joseph.

Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took the body of Jesus down, wrapped him in the linen and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally, he rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb.

Meanwhile, Mary of Magdala and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were looking on and observed where Jesus had been laid.



Hang in there...Easter's Comin'....

**Sources:**

Scripture adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*, Priests for Equality, and *The Five Gospels*, Funk/Hoover/The Jesus Seminar  
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