

The Passion According To St John

Narrator/Evangelist:

Jesus:

Pilate:

Peter:

High Priest's Servant:

Maid:

Congregation

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FROM
THE CHURCH**

Evangelist

When Jesus had spoken to his disciples, he went out with them across the Kidron valley. There was a garden into which Jesus entered with his disciples. Judas, the one who was to betray him knew the place well, for Jesus often went there with his disciples. Now Judas went with the officers and a crowd, which the high priests and Pharisees gave to him. They came into the garden with torches, lanterns, and weapons. Now Jesus knowing all that was to come upon him, went forth and said to them.

Jesus

“Whom do you seek?”

Congregation

“Jesus of Nazareth”

Jesus

“I am he”

Evangelist

Now Judas who had betrayed him, stood there with them. As soon as Jesus said to them: “I am he,” they drew back and fell upon the ground. Again Jesus asked them:

Jesus

“Whom do you seek?”

Congregation

“Jesus of Nazareth”

Jesus

“I have told you that I am he, if you seek only me, then let these others go their way.”

Evangelist

This was to fulfill what he had said to them: “I have not lost one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter having a sword, drew it out, and struck a servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. Then Jesus said to Peter:

Jesus

“Put back the sword into its sheath, am I not to drink the cup which my father has given to me?”

Evangelist

Now the crowd, and the captain, and the officers of the Jews took Jesus and bound him, and led him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiphas, who was that year the high priest. For it was Caiphas who had advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Now Simon Peter followed Jesus there, together with another disciple. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, went with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter was left standing at the gate. The other disciple who was known to the high priest went out and spoke to the woman who kept the gate, and brought Peter in. Then the woman who kept the gate spoke to Peter:

Maid

“Are you not one of this man’s disciples?”

Peter

“I am not!”

Evangelist

Now the servants and officers who stood there had made a fire with coals to warm themselves since it was very cold. Peter also stood with them and warmed himself. Now the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples, and about his teachings. Jesus answered him:

Jesus

“I have spoken openly to the world, I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you question me? Question those who have heard what I said to them. Surely they will know what I have spoken.”

Evangelist

And after this reply, one of the guards who stood near, struck Jesus with the palm of his hand and said:

High Priest's Servant

“Is that how you dare answer the high priest?”

Jesus

“If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil. If I have spoken the truth, why do you strike me?”

Evangelist

Now Annas sent him bound to the high priest, Caiphias. Outside Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said to him:

Congregation

“Are you not one of his disciples?”

Evangelist

But he denied it and said:

Peter

“I am not”

Evangelist

Then spoke one of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the the man whose ear Peter had cut off:

High Priest’s Servant

“Did I not see you in the garden with him?”

Evangelist

Peter denied it again. At that moment, there was the crowing of a cock. Then they led Jesus from Caiphas into the hall of judgement, and it was morning. They themselves did not enter the judgement hall, lest they be defiled, but remained outside that they might eat the Passover meal. Then Pilate went out to them and said:

Pilate

“What accusation do you bring against this man?”

Congregation

“If he were not a criminal, we would not bring him to you!”

Pilate

“Then take him and judge him according to your law.”

Congregation

“The law forbids us to kill him!”

Evangelist

Thus were fulfilled the words of Jesus when he spoke of what death he should die. Then Pilate returned to the judgement hall and called Jesus and said to him:

Pilate

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus

“Do you say this of yourself, or have others told you of me?”

Pilate

“Am I a Jew? Your own people and the chief priests have delivered you to me. What have you done?”

Jesus

“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not here.”

Pilate

“Are you a king then?”

Jesus

“It is you who say I am a King. For this I was born, and came into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Whoever is of the truth hears my voice.”

Pilate

“What is truth?”

Evangelist

And when Pilate had asked this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them:

Pilate

“I find no fault in him. You have a custom that I release one to you at Passover. Do you wish that I release to you the king of the Jews?”

Evangelist

Then they all cried out together and they said:

Congregation

“Not this man, give us Bárabas!”

Evangelist

Now Bárabas was a murderer. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed it on his head and dressed him in a purple robe and said to him:

Congregation

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

Evangelist

And they struck him with their hands. Then Pilate went out again and said to them:

Pilate

“Behold, I bring him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in him.”

Evangelist

Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, and Pilate said to them:

Pilate

“Behold the man.”

Evangelist

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out saying:

Congregation

“Crucify him!”

Pilate

“Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I can find no fault in him.”

Congregation

“We have a sacred law, and by that law he should die, because he called himself the Son of God!”

Evangelist

When Pilate heard what they said, he was more afraid, and went again into the judgement hall and said to Jesus:

Pilate

“Where are you from?”

Evangelist

But Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate

“Do you not speak to me? Know you not that I have the power to crucify you and the power to set you free?”

Jesus

“You would have no power at all unless it were given you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you, he has the greater sin.”

Evangelist

From that moment on, Pilate sought to free him. But the Jews cried out saying:

Congregation

“If you let this man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whosoever makes himself a king, speaks against Caesar!”

Evangelist

When Pilate heard what they were saying, he led Jesus out and sat down in the judgement seat in a place called the High Pavement. But in Hebrew it is called Gábatha. It was the Day of Preparation for the Passover and about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews:

Pilate

“Behold, here is your king.”

Chorus

“Away with him, crucify him.”

Pilate

“Shall I crucify your king?”

Congregation

“We have no king but Caesar!”

The Congregation Stands

Evangelist

Then he delivered Jesus, that he might be crucified. They took Jesus and led him away, and he carried his own cross, and went out of the city to a place called the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others on either side, and Jesus between. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross, and on it was written: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. The title was read by many Jews for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. And it was written in Hebrew, in Greek, and in Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate:

Congregation

“Do not write the ‘King of the Jews,’ rather that he said: ‘I am the King of the Jews!’”

Pilate

“What I have written, I have written.”

Evangelist

And then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments and made four parts, one for each of the soldiers, then also his coat. The coat was without seams, woven from the top throughout. The soldiers said to one another:

Congregation

“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see whose it will be.

Evangelist

This was done that the scriptures might be fulfilled in which it was spoken: “They divided my garments among them, and for my coat they have cast lots.” The soldiers did these things. By the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, standing with the disciple whom he loved he said to his mother:

Jesus

“Woman, behold, this is your son.”

Evangelist

Then he said to his disciple:

Jesus

“Behold, this is your mother.”

Evangelist

And from that hour, the disciple cared for her. Then Jesus, knowing that all was accomplished, that the scriptures might be fulfilled, spoke:

Jesus

“I thirst!”

Evangelist

Nearby there was a vessel full of vinegar, in which they soaked a sponge, put it on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said:

Jesus

“It is finished.”

Evangelist

Then he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit. (*Silence*)

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, ‘None of his bones shall be broken.’ And again another passage of scripture says, ‘They will look on the one whom they have pierced.’

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a

mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.