

For SOLO readers and SMALL GROUP readers
MARK YOUR PART WITH YELLOW MARKER PEN, and rehearse it at home

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE Luke 22:14 – 23:56 (NIV)

In Luke's version of the Passion narrative, Jesus has more words to say than in any of the other Evangelists' Gospels. It seems right, therefore, that the words of Christ should be spoken by the Body of Christ – i.e. the Church in this place – everyone. (These words are written in **bold** letters.)

Therefore, please speak the words of Jesus as though you were Jesus – for you are Jesus in this world to others. Speak steadily and fearlessly, for His words are immortal.

Other voices will be taken by small groups. Some of you could be in more than one group. Decide which group you should be in at any one time.

When you are in a group which is speaking to Jesus, don't speak Jesus' words at that point.

Jesus: To be spoken by everyone

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Simon Peter

Disciples

Servant girl

A man

A third person

Soldiers

Council of the Elders

Pilate

Criminal 1

Criminal 2

Centurion

Epilogue

Solo readers and members of small groups should sit at the ends of rows so that they can easily get out, when the time comes for them to speak.

All, except the narrators, remain seated

Narrator 1 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

Narrator 2 And he said to them,

Jesus "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
 For I tell you,
 I will not eat it again
 until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God."

Narrator 1 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said,

Jesus "Take this and divide it among you.
 For I tell you
 I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine
 until the kingdom of God comes."

Narrator 2 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus "This is my body given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me."

Narrator 1 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,



Jesus "This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 which is poured out for you.
 But the hand of him who is going to betray me
 is with mine on the table.
 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed,
 but woe to that man who betrays him."

[SHORT PAUSE to allow people to move to their places

***Simon Peter** unobtrusively makes his way to the front between the choirstalls.
The Disciples quietly make their way to stand
 below the choirstalls facing the congregation.]*

Narrator 2 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Narrator 1 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.
 Jesus said to them,

Jesus "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them;
 and those who exercise authority over *them* call themselves Benefactors.
 But you are not to be like that.

Instead,
 the greatest among you should be like the youngest,
 and the one who rules like the one who serves.
 For who is greater,
 the one who is at the table or the one who serves?
 Is it not the one who is at the table?
 But I am among you as one who serves.

You are those who have stood by me in my trials.
 And I confer on you a kingdom,
 just as my Father conferred one on me,
 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom
 and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
 But I have prayed for you, Simon,
 that your faith may not fail.
 And when you have turned back,
 strengthen your brothers."

Narrator 2 But he replied,

Simon Peter "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Narrator 1 Jesus answered,

Jesus "I tell you, Peter,
 before the rooster crows today,
 you will deny three times that you know me."

Narrator 2 Then Jesus asked them,

Jesus "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals,
 did you lack anything?"

Narrator 1 They answered,

Disciples "Nothing."

Narrator 1 He said to them,

Jesus **"But now if you have a purse, take it,
and also a bag;
and if you don't have a sword,
sell your cloak and buy one.**

It is written:

**'And he was numbered with the transgressors';
and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me.**

Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment."

Narrator 2 The disciples said,

Disciples "See, Lord, here are two swords."

Narrator 1 he replied.

Jesus **"That is enough,"**

Narrator 2 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

Narrator 1 On reaching the place, he said to them,

Jesus **"Pray that you will not fall into temptation."**

Narrator 2 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

Jesus **"Father, if you are willing,
take this cup from me;
yet not my will, but yours be done."**

Narrator 1 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

Narrator 2 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly,
and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Narrator 1 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples,
he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.
He asked them,

Jesus **"Why are you sleeping?
Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."**

Narrator 2 While he was still speaking a crowd came up,
and the man who was called Judas,
one of the Twelve,
was leading them.
He approached Jesus to kiss him,

Narrator 1 but Jesus asked him,

Jesus **"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

Narrator 2 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said,

Disciples "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

Narrator 1 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Narrator 2 But Jesus answered,

Jesus "No more of this!"

Narrator 1 And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

[The Disciples return to their places.

The servant girl and 'a man'

and 'a 3rd person' make their way to the front below the choirstalls facing the congregation]

Narrator 2 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him,

Jesus "Am I leading a rebellion,
that you have come with swords and clubs?
Every day I was with you in the temple courts,
and you did not lay a hand on me.
But this is your hour – when darkness reigns."

Narrator 1 Then seizing him, they led him away
and took him into the house of the high priest.
Peter followed at a distance.

Narrator 2 But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard
and had sat down together,
Peter sat down with them.
A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight.
She looked closely at him and said,

Servant girl "This man was with him."

Narrator 1 But he denied it, saying,

Simon Peter (*Loudly*) "Woman, I don't know him,"

Narrator 2 A little later someone else saw him and said,

A man (facing Peter) "You also are one of them."

Narrator 1 Peter replied.

Simon Peter (*Even louder*)
"Man, I am not!"

Narrator 2 About an hour later another asserted,

3rd person (facing Peter) "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

Narrator 1 Peter replied,

Simon Peter (*Almost shouting*)
"Man, I don't know what you're talking about!"

Narrator 2 Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. (***Short pause***)

Narrator 1 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.

Narrator 2 (*slowly*)
Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him:
"Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."
And he went outside and wept bitterly.

[SHORT PAUSE while people move to their places]

***Peter, the servant girl, 'a man' and 'a 3rd person' quietly return to their places.
The Soldiers (CHOIRMEN) line themselves along the altar rail, and face West.
The Council of the Elders – PCC – gather at the middle of the Nave and face the altar]***

Narrator 1 The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.
They blindfolded him and demanded,

Soldiers "Prophecy! Who hit you?"

Narrator 2 And they said many other insulting things to him.

The Soldiers return to the choirstalls

Narrator 1 At daybreak the council of the elders of the people,
both the chief priests and teachers of the law,
met together, and Jesus was led before them.
They said,

Council of the elders [PCC]
"If you are the Christ, tell us."

Narrator 2 Jesus answered,

Jesus "If I tell you, you will not believe me,
and if I asked you, you would not answer.
But from now on,
the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

Narrator 1 They all asked,

Council of the elders
"Are you then the Son of God?"

Narrator 2 He replied,

Jesus "You are right in saying I am."

Narrator 1 Then they said,

Council of the elders
"Why do we need any more testimony?
We have heard it from his own lips."

Narrator 2 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

[ALL STAND]

[Pilate moves to the centre, between the choirstalls, and faces West]

Narrator 1 And they began to accuse him, saying,

Council of the elders
"We have found this man subverting our nation.
He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar
and claims to be Christ, a king."

Narrator 2 So Pilate asked Jesus,

Pilate "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Narrator 1 Jesus replied.

Jesus "Yes, it is as you say,"

Narrator 2 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd,

Pilate "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

Narrator 1 But they insisted,

Council of the elders

"He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching.
He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

Narrator 2 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.

Narrator 1 When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction,
he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Narrator 2 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased,
because for a long time he had been wanting to see him.
From what he had heard about him,
he hoped to see him perform some miracle.
He plied him with many questions,
but Jesus gave him no answer.
The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there,
vehemently accusing him.

Narrator 1 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him.
Dressing him in an elegant robe,
they sent him back to Pilate.
That day Herod and Pilate became friends –
before this they had been enemies.

Narrator 2 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them,

Pilate "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion.
I have examined him in your presence
and have found no basis for your charges against him.
Neither has Herod,
for he sent him back to us;
as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.
Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

Narrator 1 With one voice they cried out,

Council of the elders (*Loudly*)

"Away with this man!
Release Barabbas to us!"

Narrator 2 (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Narrator 1 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting,

Council of the elders

"Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Narrator 2 For the third time he spoke to them:

Pilate "Why? What crime has this man committed?"

I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty.
Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

Narrator 1 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified,
and their shouts prevailed.
So Pilate decided to grant their demand.

Narrator 2 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder,
the one they asked for,
and surrendered Jesus to their will.

[Pilate returns to his place in the congregation]

Narrator 1 As they led him away,
they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country,
and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.
A large number of people followed him,
including women who mourned and wailed for him.

Narrator 2 Jesus turned and said to them,

Jesus "Daughters of Jerusalem,
do not weep for me;
weep for yourselves and for your children.
For the time will come when you will say,
'Blessed are the barren women,
the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'
Then they will say to the mountains,
'Fall on us!'
and to the hills, 'Cover us!'
For if men do these things when the tree is green,
what will happen when it is dry?"

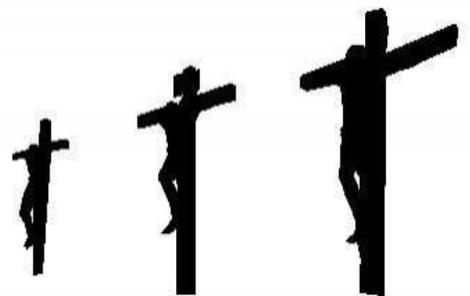
***[Short pause while the two criminals take their places between the choirstalls, Left and Right.
The remaining choirmen (SOLDIERS) take their places along the altar rail]***

Narrator 1 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

Narrator 2 When they came to the place called the Skull,
there they crucified him, along with the criminals
one on his right, the other on his left.

Narrator 1 Jesus said,

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



Narrator 2 And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Narrator 1 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him.
They said,

Council of the elders

"He saved others;
let him save himself if he is the Christ of God,
the Chosen One."

Narrator 2 The soldiers also came up and mocked him.
They offered him wine vinegar and said,

Soldiers "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

Narrator 1 There was a written notice above him, which read:

Narrators 1 and 2 THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Narrator 2 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

Criminal 1 (*Accusingly!*)

"Aren't you the Christ?
Save yourself and us!"

Narrator 1 But the other criminal rebuked him, saying,

Criminal 2 (*Speaking to Criminal 1*)

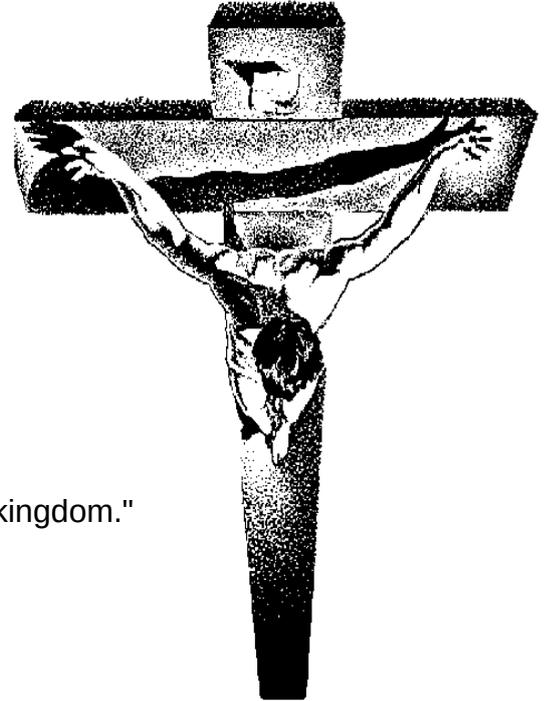
"Don't you fear God,
since you are under the same sentence?
We are punished justly,
for we are getting what our deeds deserve.
But this man has done nothing wrong."

Narrator 2 Then he said,

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

Narrator 1 Jesus answered him,

Jesus "I tell you the truth,
today you will be with me in paradise."



[Pause, while the two criminals, soldiers & Elders (PCC) return quietly to their places]

Narrator 2 It was now about the sixth hour,
and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,
for the sun stopped shining.

Narrator 1 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
Jesus called out with a loud voice,

Jesus "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Narrator 2 (Slowly) When he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Silence)

Bishop The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said,

Centurion "Surely, this was a righteous man."

Bishop When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place,
they beat their breasts and went away.

[Pause, while the Narrators return to their places, and ALL SIT QUIETLY]

Vicar (*still standing*) But all those who knew him,
including the women who had followed him from Galilee,
stood at a distance,
watching these things.

(Silence)