

# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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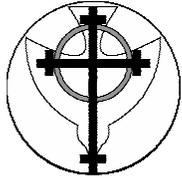
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# Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

*Palmarum* ("Sunday of Palms")

17 April Anno † Domini 2011

## Welcome

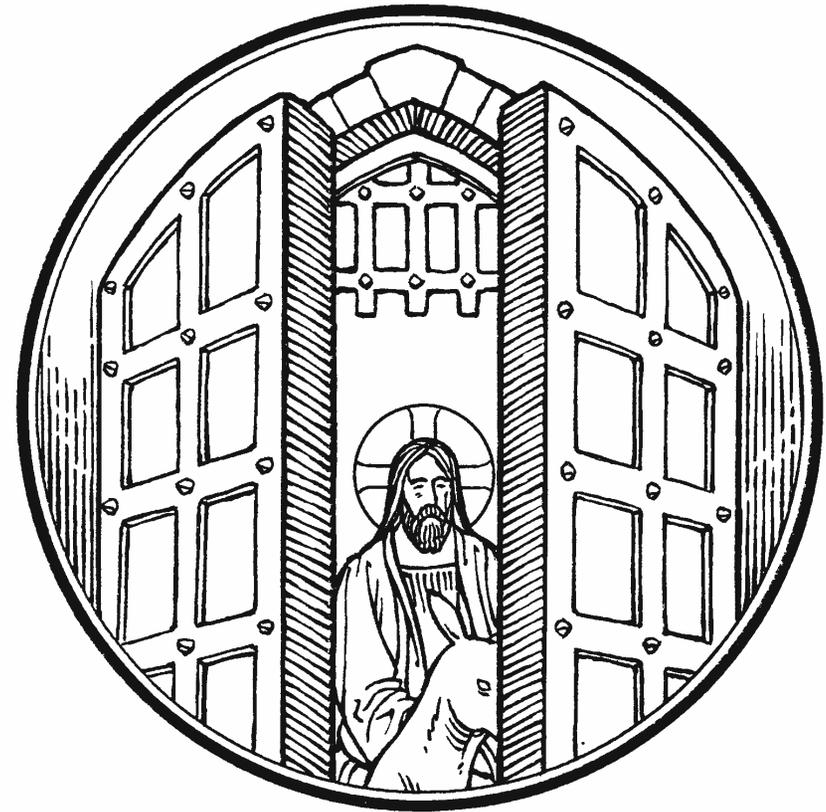
Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the nave. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

## Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus



*Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.  
(LSB 441:2)*

# Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

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## Introduction to the Service

*The Service of Passion Sunday, beginning with the procession of palms, reflects the contrasting attitudes toward Jesus that were on display during the days leading up to His Crucifixion. "Palm Sunday" is named after the palms that were spread before Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. The acclamation of the people, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," clearly reveals that they hailed Jesus as the Messianic King. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear the cry, "Crucify!" This contrast is reflected on this day as the joy of His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem gives way to the somber remembrance of His Passion. The extended reading from the Passion Narrative sets before the faithful all that our Lord did on our behalf. Thus is the Church prepared to enter Holy Week—the most important week of the entire Church Year. (LSB Altar Book, p. 501)*

## LSB DIVINE SERVICE 1, PAGE 151

### The Service of Preparation

#### The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

*At the Ringing of the Bells, the Congregation gathers in the Fellowship Hall for the Procession of Palms.*

#### The Procession of Palms

#### The Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

#### Distribution Hymns

637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

436 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

443 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

432 "In Silent Pain the Eternal Son"

#### The Post-Communion Canticle: *Nunc Dimittis* (p. 165)

*(NOTE: The Nunc Dimittis ends with the word "Israel," as the Gloria Patri is omitted)*

#### The Post-Communion Collect (p. 166)

#### The Benediction (p. 166)

#### The Recessional Hymn: 441 "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

#### The Postlude

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

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### From Martin Luther's Sermon for

### Palmarum - Lent 6

#### Matthew 21:1-9

To invite the daughter of Zion and the daughter of Jerusalem to joy and gladness, the prophet abundantly gives us to understand that the coming of this King is most comforting to every sin-burdened conscience, since He removes all fear and trembling, so that men do not flee from Him and look upon Him as a severe judge, who will press them with the Law as Moses did, so that they could not have a joyful confidence in God, as the knowledge and realization of sin naturally come from the Law. But He would arouse them with this first word to expect from Him all grace and goodness. For what other reason should He invite them to rejoice and command them even to shout and be exceeding glad! He tells this command of God to all who are in sorrow and fear of God. He also shows that it is God's will and full intent, and demands that they entertain joyful confidence in Him against the natural fear and alarm. And this is the natural voice of the Gospel which the prophet here begins to preach, as Christ speaks likewise in the Gospel and the apostles always admonish to rejoice in Christ, as we shall hear further on.

It is also full of meaning that He comes from the Mount of Olives. We shall notice that this grace, on account of its greatness, might be called a mountain of grace, a grace which is not only a drop or handful, but grace abundant and heaped up like a mountain.

## The Apostles' Creed (p. 159)

**The Hymn of the Day:** 438 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

## The Sermon

**The Prayer of the Church** (p. 159)

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**The Offering** is gathered for the Lord's work (p. 159)

*(If you have not done so already, please sign and share the Fellowship folders in the pews to assist us in keeping accurate attendance records. Thank you.)*

*“Crown of Thorns, Crown of Glory” (Choir)*

**The Offertory** (pp. 159-160)

## The Service of the Sacrament

*(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)*

**The Preface and Proper Preface** (pp. 160-161)

**The Sanctus** (p. 161)

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving** (p. 161)

**The Lord's Prayer** (pp. 162-163)

**The Words of Our Lord** (p. 162)

**The Pax Domini** (p. 163)

**Agnus Dei** (p. 163)

**Communicants are invited to pray the following:**

**Before receiving the Sacrament:**

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:**

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

## The Collect

**P** Let us pray: Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**P** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

*“Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!”*

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went out to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.” *(John 12:12-19)*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

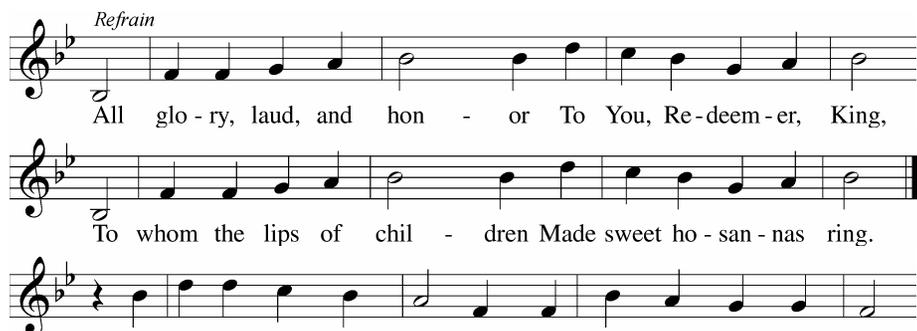
**C** in the name of the Lord.

## The Processional Hymn

### All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LSB 442

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re-deem-er, King,  
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,  
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;  
4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;

*Refrain*



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.  
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.  
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.  
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.

5 As You received their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

When all have arrived at their places, the procession concludes with the following:

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

### The Confession and Absolution (p. 151)



**L** And one of them at once ran and took a sponge and filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

**C** “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

**L** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

**C** “Truly this was the Son of God!”

**L** There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

**C** “Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

**L** Pilate said to them,

**C** “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”

**L** So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**P** This is the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the Evangelist.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

**L** And all the people answered,

**C** “His blood be on us and on our children!”

**L** Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

**C** “Hail, King of the Jews!”

**L** And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,

**C** “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

**L** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

**C** “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

**L** And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

**P** “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

**L** that is,

**P** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**L** And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

**C** “This man is calling Elijah.”

## The Service of the Word

### The Introit

Ps. 22:1, 7-8, 11; antiphon: Ps. 22:19, 21



But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!\*

O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

**Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\***

**You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!**

My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?

**All who see me | mock me;\***

**they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;**

“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;\*

let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”

**Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,\***

**and there is | none to help.**

But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!\*

O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

**Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\***

**You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!**

**The Kyrie** (pp. 152-153)

*The Hymn of Praise is Omitted during Lent*

**The Salutation and Collect of the Day** (p. 156)

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**The Old Testament Reading**

*Zechariah 9:9-12*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

## The Gradual

Ps. 73:23b-24, 1

You hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

**Truly God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.**

## The Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Lenten Verse (p. 157)

## The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew, the Evangelist Matthew 26:1-27:66

Read Responsively in Three Parts:

- 1) The narrative parts are read by the Elder **L**
- 2) The words of Jesus are read by the Pastor **P**
- 3) The words of all other characters are read by the Congregation **C**

**P** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew, the Evangelist.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

- L** When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,  
**P** “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”  
**L** Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said,  
**C** “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

- L** So they took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying,  
**C** “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”  
**L** Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,  
**C** “Are you the King of the Jews?”  
**L** Jesus said,  
**P** “You have said so.”  
**L** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him,  
**C** “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”  
**L** But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,  
**C** “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”  
**L** For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,  
**C** “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.”  
**L** Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,  
**C** “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”  
**L** And they said,  
**C** “Barabbas.”  
**L** Pilate said to them,  
**C** “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”  
**L** They all said,  
**C** “Let him be crucified!”  
**L** And he said,  
**C** “Why, what evil has he done?”  
**L** But they shouted all the more,  
**C** “Let him be crucified!”  
**L** So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

**L** Jesus said to him,  
**P** *“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.”*

**L** Then the high priest tore his robes and said,  
**C** **“He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?”**

**L** They answered,  
**C** **“He deserves death.”**

**L** Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying,  
**C** **“Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”**

**L** Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,  
**C** **“You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”**

**L** But he denied it before them all, saying,  
**C** **“I do not know what you mean.”**

**L** And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,  
**C** **“This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”**

**L** And again he denied it with an oath:  
**C** **“I do not know the man.”**

**L** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,  
**C** **“Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”**

**L** Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and swear,  
**C** **“I do not know the man.”**

**L** And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus,  
**P** *“Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”*

**L** And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying,  
**C** **“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”**

**L** They said,  
**C** **“What is that to us? See to it yourself.”**

**L** And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,  
**C** **“It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.”**

**L** Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying,  
**C** **“Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”**

**L** But Jesus, aware of this, said to them,  
**P** *“Why do you trouble this woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”*

**L** Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,  
**C** **“What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?”**

**L** And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus saying,  
**C** **“Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”**

**L** He said,  
**P** *“Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”*

**L** And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said,  
**P** *“Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”*

**L** And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,  
**C** **“Is it I, Lord?”**

**L** He answered,  
**P** *He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”*

**L** Judas, who would betray him, answered,  
**C** **“Is it I, Rabbi?”**

**L** He said to him,  
**P** *“You have said so.”*

**L** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

**P** *“Take, eat; this is my body.”*

**L** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

**P** *“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”*

**L** And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

**P** *“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.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”*

**L** Peter answered him,

**C** **“Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”**

**L** Jesus said to him,

**P** *“Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”*

**L** Peter said to him,

**C** **“Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!”**

**L** And all the disciples said the same. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

**P** *“Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”*

**L** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

**P** *“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”*

**L** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

**P** *“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*

**L** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

**P** *“So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

**L** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

**P** *“My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”*

**L** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

**P** *“Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”*

**L** While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**C** **“The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”**

**L** And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

**C** **“Greetings, Rabbi!”**

**L** And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

**P** *“Friend, do what you came to do.”*

**L** Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

**P** *“Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”*

**L** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

**P** *“Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”*

**L** Then all the disciples left him and fled. Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

**C** **“This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”**

**L** And the high priest stood up and said,

**C** **“Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”**

**L** But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,

**C** **“I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”**