

# PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

PASSION: *Matthew 27:11-54*

REFRAIN:

*Leader:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*All:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*The story of the suffering and death of Jesus,  
from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Jesus stood in front of Pilate, the governor of Jerusalem.  
Pilate asked Jesus,

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered,

“You have said so.”

The chief priests and leaders started accusing Jesus,  
but he didn't answer them. So Pilate said,

“You hear all these things they are saying against you.  
Don't you have anything to say?”

Still Jesus did not say anything, and Pilate wondered why.

Now every year at the feast of Passover,  
the governor would free one person from the prison—  
anyone the people wanted.

At that time, there was a man in prison named Barabbas,  
and everyone knew who he was.

So Pilate asked the people,

“Who do you want me to set free, Barabbas or Jesus?”

Pilate did this because his wife sent a message to him saying,

“Do not do anything to harm Jesus. He is a good man.  
I had a dream about him today, and it worries me.”

But the chief priests and leaders told the people  
to ask for Barabbas and have Jesus killed.

So when Pilate asked them again, they said,

“Free Barabbas!”

Pilate said to them,

“Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called *the Christ*?”

They all shouted,

“Kill him! Crucify him!”

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But Pilate said,

“Why? What has he done wrong?”

But the people kept on shouting,

“Crucify him!”

[When Pilate saw that the people were starting a riot,  
he knew that he could not change their minds.

So he took a bowl of water

and washed his hands in front of the crowd and said,

“I don’t want to be guilty of killing this man.

I don’t want anything to do with it.

Kill him yourselves.”

All the people said,

“We will take the blame for killing him,  
we and all our children.”]

So Pilate set Barabbas free.

He told the soldiers to whip Jesus,

and then he gave him to the people so they could crucify him.

The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus

and made a crown out of thorns and put it on his head.

And they put a stick in his hand.

Then they knelt in front of Jesus and made fun of him saying,

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

They took the stick away from Jesus

and started hitting him on the head with it and spitting at him.

After they had made fun of him and laughed at him,

they took the purple robe off and led Jesus away to crucify him.

As they were taking him away,

they saw a man from Cyrene, named Simon,

and they made him carry Jesus’ cross.

