

Gospel Drama for Passion Sunday

Gospel: *Matthew 26:14-27, 66*

Children will be required for the roles of:

Narrator 1	Pilate	Pilate's Wife	Soldier	Robbers (2)
Narrator 2	Jesus	Crowd (2 or 3	Simon	Chief Priests &
Narrator 3		Children)		Leaders (3 or 4)

Props required: Purple robe, crown of thorns, stick, large cross,
sign reading: "This is Jesus, King of the Jews."

Narrator 1: 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,

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You have said so.

Narrator 1: The chief priests and leaders started accusing Jesus, but he didn't answer them. So Pilate said,

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

Narrator 1: 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,

Pilate: Who do you want me to set free, Barabbas or Jesus?

Narrator 1: Pilate did this because his wife sent a message to him saying,

Pilate's wife: Do not do anything to hurt Jesus. He is a good man. I had a dream about him today, and it worries me.

Narrator 1: 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,

Crowd (2 or 3 children): Free Barabbas!

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called "the Christ"?

Crowd: Kill him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Why? What has he done wrong?

Crowd: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Narrator 2: 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. They knelt in front of Jesus and made fun of him, saying,

Crowd: Hail, king of the Jews!

Narrator 2: 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.

Narrator 3: When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means "the skull," they crucified Jesus. They put a sign over his head which said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Narrator 2: Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. And while they were hanging there, they made fun of Jesus. And the people who were going by laughed at Jesus and said,

Crowd: If you are the Son of God, come down off that cross!

Narrator 2: And the chief priests and leaders also made fun of him, saying,

Crowd: He saved other people, but he can't save himself. If he is the King of the Jews, let's see him come down from that cross. Then we will believe in him! He trusts in God and even said, "I am the Son of God." Well, let's see if God wants to save him now!

Narrator 3: About noon, everything became dark and stayed dark until about three o'clock in the afternoon. Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you left me alone?

Crowd: He is calling for help. Let's see if God comes to help him.

Narrator 3: Then Jesus cried out again, and he died.

PAUSE

The people who were there were terrified. One of the Roman soldiers said,

Soldier: This man really was the Son of God.

Narrator 1: This is the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

