



St. Catherine's Anglican Church



# The Passion According to **St Matthew**

Matthew 26 and 27 (Year A)

**Matthew the gospel writer narrates:**

MATTHEW: One of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests and asked

JUDAS: "What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you ?"

MATTHEW: So they counted out for him 30 silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover ?"

MATTHEW: He replied

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him 'the Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"

MATTHEW: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. When evening came Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating he said

JESUS: "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

MATTHEW: They became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after the other

DISCIPLES: *in turn...* "Surely not I Lord ?"

MATTHEW: Jesus answered

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man ! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

MATTHEW: Then Judas the one who would betray him said

JUDAS: "Surely not I Rabbi ?"

MATTHEW: Jesus replied

JESUS: You have said so.

MATTHEW: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying

JESUS: "Take and eat; this is my body."

MATTHEW: Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying

JESUS: "Drink from it all of you. 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 of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

MATTHEW: When they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus told them

JESUS: "This very night you will become deserters 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 have risen I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

MATTHEW: Peter replied

PETER: “Even if all desert you I never will.”

MATTHEW: Jesus answered

JESUS: “I tell you the truth, this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.”

MATTHEW: But Peter declared

PETER: “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”

MATTHEW: ....and all of the other disciples said the same.  
Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane and he said to them

JESUS: “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

MATTHEW: He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.  
Then he said to them

JESUS: “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

MATTHEW: Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed.

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

MATTHEW: Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

JESUS: "Could you not keep watch with me for one hour ?"

MATTHEW: He said to Peter

JESUS: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak."

MATTHEW: He went away a second time and prayed.

JESUS: "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

MATTHEW: When he came back he again found them sleeping because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed a third time saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and resting ? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go ! Here comes my betrayer !"

MATTHEW: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'the one I kiss is the man; arrest him' Going at once to Jesus, Judas said

JUDAS: "Greetings Rabbi !"

MATTHEW: ...and kissed him. Jesus replied

JESUS: “Friend do what you came for.”

MATTHEW: Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the High Priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus said to him

JESUS: “Put your sword back in its place ‘for all who draw the sword will die by the sword’. Do you think I cannot call on my Father and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels ? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way ?”

MATTHEW: At that time Jesus said to the crowd

JESUS: “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me ? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

MATTHEW: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared

WITNESSES: “This fellow said ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

MATTHEW: Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus

HIGH PRIEST: “Are you not going to answer ? What is this testimony that these man are bringing against you ?”

MATTHEW: But Jesus remained silent. The High Priest said to him

HIGH PRIEST: “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

MATTHEW: Jesus replied

JESUS: “You have said so. But I say to you: from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on clouds of heaven.”

MATTHEW: Then the High Priest tore his clothes and said

HIGH PRIEST: “He has spoken blasphemy ! Why do we need any more witnesses ? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think ?”

MATTHEW: They answered

CROWD: “He is worthy of death.”

MATTHEW: Then they spat in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said

CROWD: “Prophecy to us Christ... who hit you ?”

MATTHEW: Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard and a servant girl came to him. She said

FIRST GIRL: “You were also with Jesus of Galilee.”

MATTHEW: But he denied it before them all. He said

PETER: “I do not know what you are talking about.”

MATTHEW: Then he went out to the gateway where another girl saw him and said to the people there

SECOND GIRL: “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

MATTHEW: He denied it again, with an oath:

PETER: “I don’t know the man !”

MATTHEW: After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said

BYSTANDERS: “Surely you are one of them for your accent gives you away.”

MATTHEW: Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them

PETER: “I do not know the man !”

MATTHEW: Immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: ‘Before the cock crows you will disown me three times.’ And he went outside and wept bitterly.



Early in the morning all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders and said

JUDAS: "I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood."

MATTHEW: They replied

ELDERS: "What is that to us ? That is your responsibility."

MATTHEW: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said

ELDERS: "It is against the law to put this into the treasury since it is blood money."

MATTHEW: So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 'they took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

(meanwhile) Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews ?"

MATTHEW: Jesus replied

JESUS: "You say so."

MATTHEW: When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him

PILATE: "Don't you hear how many accusations they are bringing against you ?"

MATTHEW: But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor's custom at the Feasts to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them

PILATE: "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ ?"

MATTHEW: For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:

PILATE'S WIFE: "Do not have anything to do with that innocent man for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream about him."

MATTHEW: But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. The governor asked

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you ?"

MATTHEW: They answered

CROWD: "Barabbas !"

PILATE: "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called the Christ ?"

MATTHEW: They all answered

CROWD: "Crucify him !"

MATTHEW: Pilate asked

PILATE: "Why ? What crime has he committed ?"

MATTHEW: But they shouted all the louder

CROWD: "Crucify him !"

MATTHEW: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd and said

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility."

MATTHEW: All the people answered

CROWD: "Let his blood be on us and on our children !"

MATTHEW: Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him.

SOLDIERS: “Hail, king of the Jews !

MATTHEW: They spat on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha. There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it he refused to drink it. Then they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying

BYSTANDERS: “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself ! Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God !”

MATTHEW: In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him

ELDERS: “He saved others but 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 rescue him now if he wants him, for he said ‘I am the Son of God.’

MATTHEW: In the same way the bandits who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice

JESUS: “*Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani ?*”

MATTHEW: ....which means 'My God my God why have you forsaken me ?' When some of those standing there heard this they said

BYSTANDERS: "He is calling Elijah."

MATTHEW: Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said

BYSTANDERS: "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

MATTHEW: And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed

BYSTANDERS: "Surely he was the Son of God !"

MATTHEW: Many women were there watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to

the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The next day, the one after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. They said

ELDERS: “Sir, we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

MATTHEW: Pilate answered

PILATE: “Take a guard. Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.”

MATTHEW: So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

***PARTS:***

Matthew who narrates

disciples

Jesus

witnesses

Judas

crowd

Peter

bystanders

Pilate

elders

Pilate’s wife

High Priest

Girl 1

Girl 2

