

# THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST



LENT Session 4 2020



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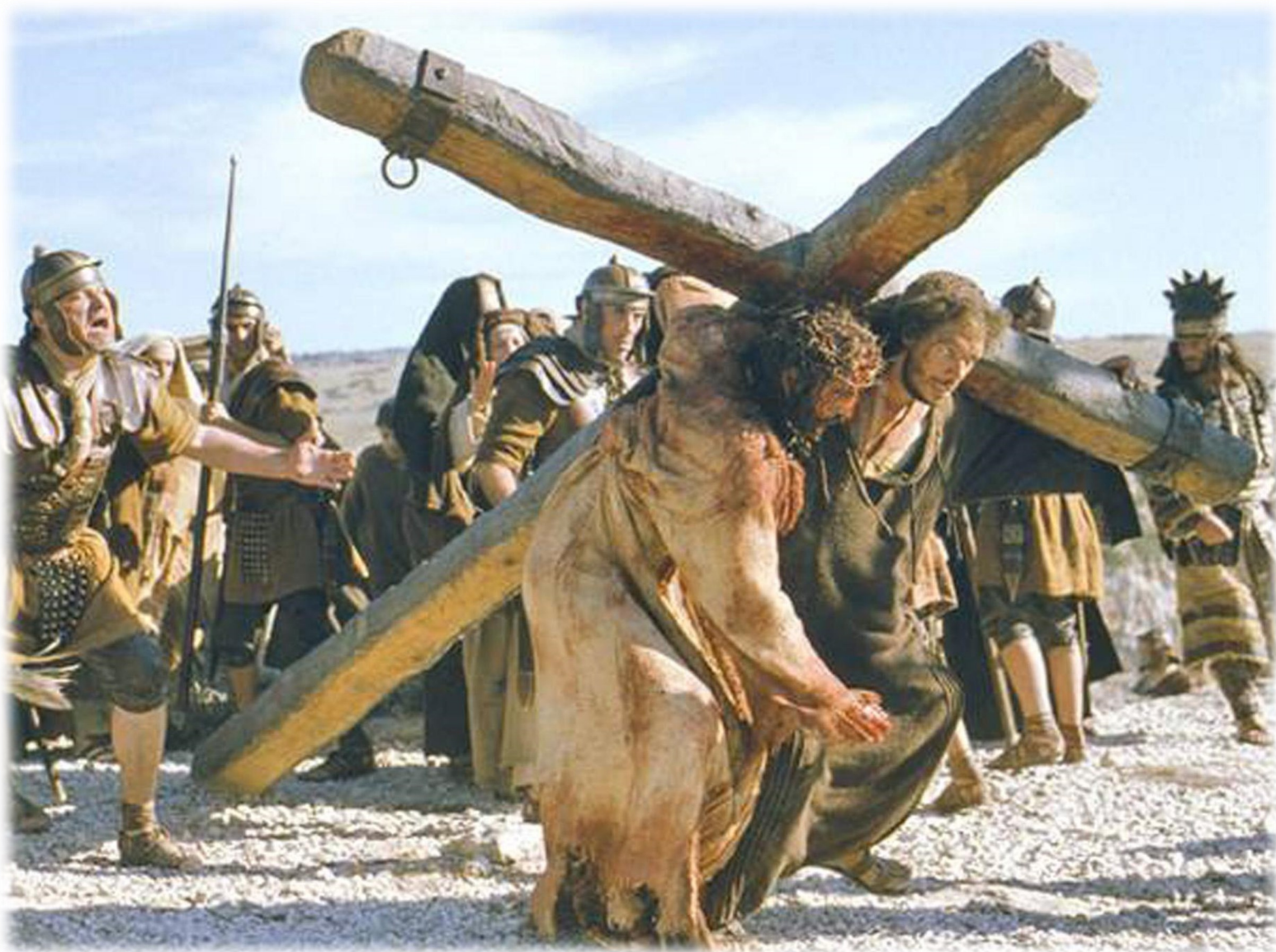
# Words to Know

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**Gall:** Probably a drink of wine mixed with to help a person feel less pain.

**Pontus Pilate:** The Roman Governor of Jerusalem during Jesus' time.

**Washed his hands:** Pilate did this to say that he wanted no part in what people were going to do to Jesus.



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# Opening Prayer

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Lord Jesus, we come together to be in your presence. With Easter coming closer, help us to be open to your word so that we can respond to it with a yes, like Mary, our Mother.

Help us to change our ways and to become more like you, who gave your life for love of us.

Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

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# The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

## A reading from Matthew's Gospel

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Jesus was brought to stand in front of **Pilate**, the Roman governor.

Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "You say so."

Then the chief priests and the Jewish leaders accused him, but Jesus said nothing.

Pilate said to Jesus, "You hear all these people accusing you."

But again, Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed (surprised).

Every year at the Passover feast, the governor would free one prisoner chosen by the people.

At that time there was a well-known wicked man in prison named Barabbas.





Then the crowd came together and Pilate asked them, "Which man do you want me to free: Barabbas, or Jesus named the Christ?"

Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders gave Jesus to him because they were jealous of Jesus.

Pilate sat in the Judgement chair.

His wife sent him a message, "Do nothing with that man. I have been upset by a bad dream I had about Jesus."

The chief priests and the Jewish leaders persuaded the crowd telling them it was better to free Barabbas and to condemn Jesus to death.

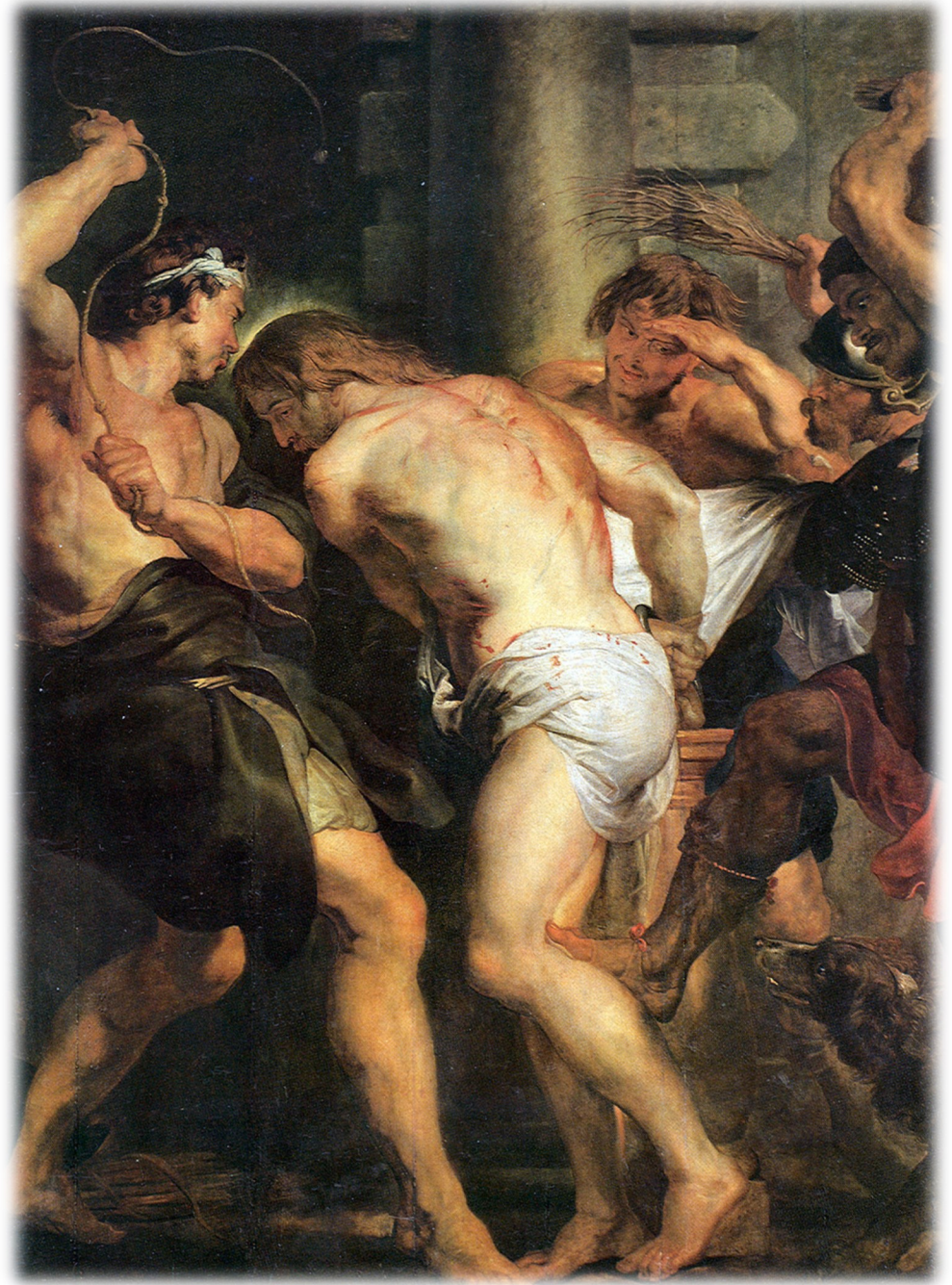


Then Pilate asked the crowd, "Which of the men, Barabbas or Jesus, do you want me to free?"

They said, "Barabbas."

Pilate asked, "What should I do with Jesus named the Christ?"

They all said, "Crucify him!"



Pilate asked, "Why? He has done nothing wrong."  
But all the people shouted louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate realised it was no use trying to explain to the people. He became worried that the people would make trouble and rebel. So, he **washed his hands** in water in front of the crowd.

Pilate said, "I have nothing to do with Jesus' blood. He is your responsibility."



Everybody in the crowd shouted together, “We will be responsible for his death, blame us and our children!”

Then Pilate freed Barabbas. He ordered Jesus to be whipped first before crucifixion.

The soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (square) of the Roman governor.

All the soldiers came around Jesus. They tore off his clothes and put a red robe on him. They made thorns into a crown and put it on Jesus’ head. They put a reed (stick) in his right hand.



Then, they knelt in front of him, and mocked him, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!”

They spat at him. They took the reed (stick) and hit his head. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the red robe and gave back the old clothes. They led him away to crucify him.



On the way, the soldiers saw a man named Simon, from Cyrene. They forced him to help carry the cross for Jesus. Then they arrived at a place called Golgotha, that means, 'The Place of the Skull'.

The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with **gall**. Jesus tasted it, but refused to drink. When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus, they gambled to see who could win Jesus' clothes. Then they sat there and watched Jesus. On top of the cross was written

'THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.'





At the same time, two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on the right, and one on the left.

People passing by shook their heads and mocked Jesus saying: “You said you would destroy the Temple and in three days build it again! Save yourself! If you

are God’s Son, come down from the cross!”

The chief priests, with the scribes (writers) and the Jewish leaders, also mocked Jesus, saying, “Jesus saved other people, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted God. Now let God save Jesus, because he did say, ‘I am the Son of God!’”

The robbers crucified with Jesus also mocked.

At the 6th hour (12 noon) the whole land became dark for three hours.

At about 9th hour, three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani?" That means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon (leave) me?"

Some people standing there heard Jesus. They said, "He is shouting to Elijah!"

Someone quickly went to get a sponge. He dipped it in cheap vinegar-wine and put it on a stick, gave it to Jesus to drink.

The other people said, "Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him."

But Jesus, shouted again in a loud voice, gave up his spirit and died.

## Silence

When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two, from top to bottom. There was an earthquake; the rocks cracked and split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men and women rose from the dead.



After Jesus' resurrection, these bodies came out from their tombs and went into the Holy City, and many people saw them.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and all the things that happened.

They were terrified and said:

“Truly this man was a Son of God!”





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# Reflection

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Before Jesus was nailed and died on the Cross, he was suffering a lot already. He was sweating blood in the Garden, the Apostles ran away from him when he was arrested, Judas betrayed him with a kiss, he was sent to the high priest, he had been beaten up and then taken to Pontus Pilate who later handed him over to be put to death. At this time Jesus would have been up all night and he would not have eaten or slept. He had been through so much already, but the worst was yet to come.





Jesus was whipped by the soldiers. The whip is so thick that it would peel the skin off. Imagine how many times the soldiers would have whipped Jesus. It would be horrible; it would make you sick and would make you feel sad. But through all that he did not complain. He did not tell them, to stop when the pain was too much. He just let it happen. He accepted it. That is the great love that Jesus has for us.



Next, the soldiers stripped off his garments. They put on him a scarlet cloak and a crown of thorns on his head. They didn't just place it on him. It went into his skin. They gave him a reed. The soldiers made fun at him and mocked him as a king. They spit at him and used his reed to hit him on the head. Jesus is going through so much pain, but once again he accepted it.

Then Jesus carries his cross to Calvary. It would have been heavy. He fell three times, but he got up and kept on going. Simon of Cyrene help him to carry his cross. His body would have been tired and exhausting, but once again he accepted it.

He arrives at Calvary. He is nailed to the Cross. His nails go through his hands and his feet. Imagine how much pain that would have been. He hangs on the Cross for hours. His arms would have been so sore from hanging there for so long. He looks down to the High Priest and asks the father to forgive them for their sins. He then looks to his mother and John, his disciple, and he asks Mary to take John in as his son and ask John to take Mary as his mother. And finally, after completing everything that was asked of him he looks up to the Father and says, "Father, into your hands, I give you my spirit." After he says these words he dies.

When we complain about a person or something, receive bad news, we lose someone close to us, or we are not feeling well, we experience strong emotions. But after a while we need to remind ourselves that our sufferings are only small compared to the sufferings that Jesus went through. He died for us because of the sins of every human person on earth.



What a great sacrifice that is. What great love that Jesus has for us.

Therefore, we need to ask Jesus to help us to accept our suffering and to offer them up for the love of him and he will give us the strength we need to help overcome them.

As we prepare for Holy Week, I encourage you to read and meditate of the death of Jesus Christ and relate it to your own lives; and to ask yourself how Jesus would have handled this situation I am going through right now.



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# To think about

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Q1. After reading this Gospel, what touched you the most about the death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord?

Q2. Have you ever been so sad that you thought you would never feel happy again? How did you get over that sad feeling?

Q3. Do you know a person in your life who has great faith in God but still have many problems?



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# Prayers

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**Leader:** As we come to the end of our Lenten reflection Let us pray for the needs of the Church, the world and for our own prayers.

**L:** We pray for Pope Francis and all our bishops and priests, that they may continue to be witnesses of hope in our troubled world.

**Lord receive our prayer**

**L:** We pray for the world leaders, that they may work tirelessly for the cause of peace.

**Lord receive our prayer**

**L:** We pray that our friendship with Jesus may lead us to be truly sorry for our sins and a desire to be forgiven.

**Lord receive our prayer**

**Personal prayers**







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# Closing Prayer

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Lord Jesus, you died on the Cross so that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

In your suffering and death you revealed to us how deep your love is for us. Help us to be your true followers by the love we have one another.

Mother Mary and all the saints in heaven,  
pray for us. Amen.

