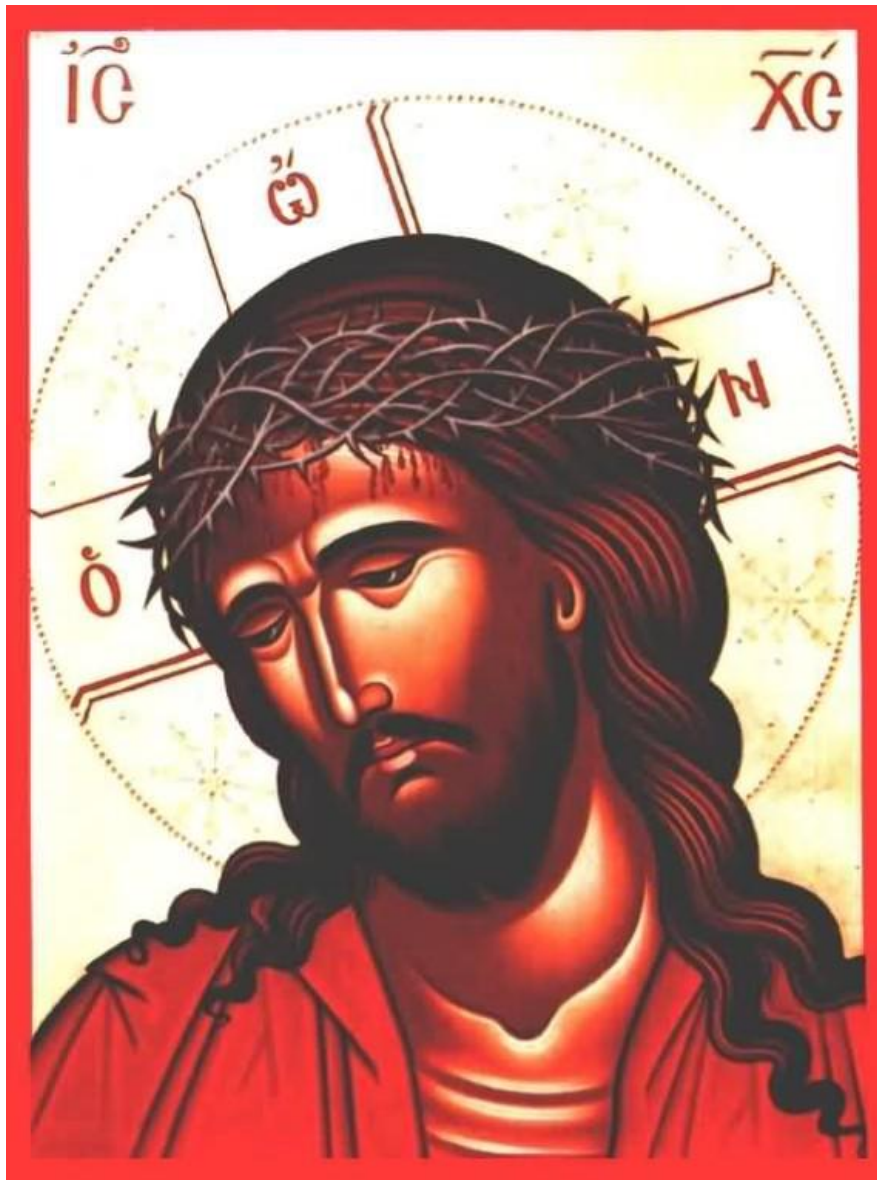


The Passion Narrative



according to Luke

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Narrator: Then the assembly arose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him saying,

Priests We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."

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

Jesus: "You say so!"

Narrator: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate: "I find no basis for an accusation against this man"

Narrator: But they insisted and said,

Priests: He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea from Galilee where he began, even to this place

Narrator: When Pilate heard this, he asked,

Pilate: Is this man a Galilean?"

Narrator: And when he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at the time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad, for he had been wanting for a long time to see him, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned Jesus at some length, but Jesus gave no answer. The chief priest and scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before that day they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders and the people and said to them,

Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

Narrator: But the chief priest, leaders and people shouted,

Priests Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!

- Narrator: Barabbas was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place and for a murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed the people again but they kept shouting,
- Crowd Crucify him! Crucify him!
- Narrator: A Third time he said to them,
- Pilate: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and release him.
- Narrator: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,
- Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountain, 'Fall on us' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'" For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
- Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,
- Jesus: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing
- Narrator: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching but the leaders scoffed at him saying,
- Crowd He saved others; let him save himself is he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!
- Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying

Soldiers "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself "

Narrator: There was also an inscription over him that read, "This is the King of the Jews. One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying,

Criminal 1 Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

Narrator: But the other rebuked him, saying,

Criminal 2 Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

Narrator: Then he said to Jesus,

Criminal 2 Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Narrator: And Jesus replied

Jesus: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Narrator: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying in a loud voice, said,

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Narrator: Having said this, he breathed his last.
All kneel
Silence

Narrator: When the centurion saw what had taken place he praised God and said,

Centurion Certainly this man was innocent.

Narrator: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching things.