

# Good Friday



The next day was Yom Shishi, the sixth day of the week, which we call Friday, which is the “day of Frigg”. In ancient mythology, Frigg was the Germanic goddess of marriage, prophecy, clairvoyance, and motherhood. On the morning of the sixth day, the Jewish authorities brought Jesus to stand trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The Sanhedrin had convicted Jesus of blasphemy but to secure a death sentence from Pilate they accused Jesus of sedition against Rome, that is, setting himself up as a king. They said he spread sedition from Galilee to Judea. Pilate had woken that morning to a volatile and politically dangerous situation he wished to avoid. He saw a way out. Since Jesus was a Galilean, he could hand the matter over to Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, who happened to be in Jerusalem.

So, Pilate sent Jesus to Antipas who examined him and, finding no crime, sent him back to Pilate. (1) Pilate told the accusers,

“I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him.” (2) Pilate wanted to release Jesus, but when the crowd cried for his death, caved to their demand, and handed him over to be crucified. (3)

So, the Romans crucified Jesus at 9 A.M. on Good Friday. (4) Darkness came over the entire land at noon (when the sun should have been brightest) and remained until 3.00 P.M. when Jesus died. (5) As evening approached, a rich follower of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body. (6) He, with the help of Nicodemus, wrapped Jesus’ broken body in linen clothes with seventy-five pounds of ointment and laid him to rest in his own brand-new tomb, one cut out of a rock. (7) This fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy that the Messiah would be assigned a grave with the rich. (8) The temple leaders planned to wait until the festival was over and the crowds had returned home before they arrested and killed Jesus. But Satan betrayed himself, entered Judas, and motivated him to give Jesus up early, while the festival was just beginning. Therefore, Jesus offered himself as the sacrificial lamb of God to take away the sins of the world—at God’s chosen time—during the Passover. Good Friday closed with Peter weeping as a broken and unfaithful follower of Jesus. He who promised he would be faithful even to the point of death ended the day as a traitor.

(1) Luke 23: 8-11.

(2) Luke 23:14-15.

(3) John 19.15-16.

(4) Mark 15.25.

(5) Mark 15.33-34.

(6) Matthew 27.57ff.

(7) John 19.38ff

(8) Isaiah 53.9.

This account is an excerpt from  
*Solid Saint: How Peter Became a Rock*