



# **Resurrection Lutheran Church**

*To Live & Share the Love of Christ*

Pastor Melissa Pagel

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Palm Sunday*

*Congregational responses are printed in **Bold Type**.*

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## ***To Live & Share the Love of Christ***

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran Church where different people come together for the shared purpose of worshiping God and encouraging each other through the inclusive love of Jesus. Whether you are our guest, looking for a church home, or already a member, we want you to feel welcomed by our congregation and inspired by our worship service.

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## **Call to Worship**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

**Processional Gospel      Matthew 21:1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to *St. Matthew*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd<sup>[b]</sup> spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Individually wrapped snacks

### Treasurer's Snapshot for February

Total Income:	\$28,088.97
Operating Income:	\$8,749.97
Food Pantry/Noisy Offering:	\$2,232.00
February Expenses:	\$16,279.77
Checking: 2/28/2026:	\$127,779.96
Savings: 2/28/2026 :	\$67,494.52
(Includes Certificates of Deposits totaling \$80,000)	

## Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*The people raise their palm branches.*

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Process around the sanctuary*

**Processional Hymn:   *All Glory Laud and Honor***  
***ELW 344***

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

First lecture is 2:30-4:30 PM, entitled, “*Understanding Jesus Means Understand Judaism: How not to introduce antisemitism into your preaching and teaching*”.

The cost is \$30 for the afternoon. \$35 if staying for the supper and evening session. RSVP required if staying for supper.

The second lecture will be 6:00-7:30 PM, entitled, “*How and Why Jews and Christians Read the Same Bible Stories Differently*”.

For information and to RSVP: Call 920-682-6311

### Continued Book Study

Please join us for an ongoing bible study on the book, “Life Together” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Tuesday, April 7 at 6 PM. The remaining date is April 21.

### Lincoln School Drive

We will be accepting donations for Lincoln School as noted below.

If you prefer a donation of cash for us to purchase items, just specify on the envelope and place in the offering plate. Envelopes and flyers will be available in the Narthex. This ministry will be supported all year long.

**New or gently used elastic waist pants, joggers, leggings, Youth sizes 4t-16**

**New underwear or socks, Youth sizes 4t-16**

**New or gently used sport bras**

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Assisting with Worship</b>	<b>3/29/2026</b>	<b>4/5/2026</b>
Usher	Jim Gatske	TBD
Communion Deacon	Kevin Wood	Christina Marcin
Counters	John & Jodi Koch	Larry Nelson & Debbie La Plante
Lector	John Koch & Julie Gegler	<b>Open</b>
Altar Guild	Sandy Krakow & Jean Halloran	Jan Hansen
Fellowship	<b>Palm Sunday Brunch</b>	<b>Open</b>

**Ordering Lillies and Tulips**

Today is the last day for ordered a lily or tulip and the cost is \$10 each. Order forms and envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please place your envelope in the collection plate.

**Sharing Table in Narthex through 3/29/26**

If there is anything that you'd like to take for yourself or someone else, there is a Sharing Table in the Narthex with items that will be donated after March 29.

**Lecture Series at Lakeshore Church on April 20, 2026:**

Dr. AJ Levine will be coming to Lakeshore Church in Manitowoc for 2 lectures on April 20. Dr. Levine is a world-renowned scholar of Judaism and the New Testament.

**WORD**

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me  
a trained tongue,<sup>[a]</sup>  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens,  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together.  
  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

**Second Reading          Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew**

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

*For this reading, the congregation will be asked to read those parts which are printed in bold type.*

Narrator (N): Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples,  
went to the leading priests and asked,

**Dismissal**

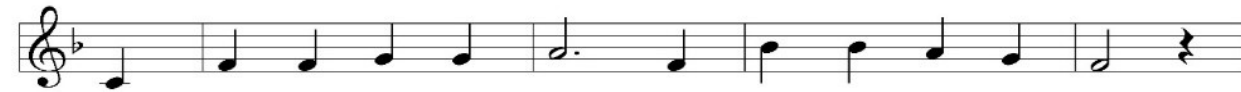
Go in peace to live and share the love of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

**This Week at a Glance**

<b>Monday-Wednesday Office Hours</b>	9:00 am-2:00 pm
Tuesday	
Quilters	9:00 am
Wednesday	
Confirmation	6-7:30 pm
Thursday	
Food Pantry Open	9:00-11:00 am
Maundy Thursday Worship Service	6:30 pm
Friday	
Good Friday Worship Service	6:30 pm
Sunday	
Ascension Food Drive	
Easter Worship Service	9:30 am

## My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
 re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away; a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free.	6 In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
---	--

7 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683  
 Music: RHOSYMLDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

### **Congregation (C): How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?**

N: And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

### **C: Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?**

Jesus (J): *As you go into the city, you will see a certain man. Tell him, 'The Teacher says: My time has come and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.'*

N: So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there.

When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, he said

J: *I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.*

N: Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn

### **Men: Am I the one, Lord?**

### **Women: Am I the one, Lord?**

J: *One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who*

*betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!*

N: Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked

**C: Rabbi, am I the one?**

N: And Jesus told him

J: *You have said it.*

N: As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying,

J: *Take this and eat it, for this is my body.*

N: And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said,

J: *Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words-- I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom.*

N: then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

On the way, Jesus told them,

J: *Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, "God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.*

**Table Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

***Sending Hymn      My Song is Love Unknown      LBW 94***

In the same way, among those same flawed and forgiven people, with their fear and confusion on full display. In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and he gave thanks. He gave it to his friends, (his deeply loved, fully human friends), each of them in turn, saying:

**Drink. This cup is poured out for you and for all people. It is the promise of God. Drink it and remember me.**

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break the bread and share the one cup.

**Thanks be to God.**

On the night...let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Welcome to the Table**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

N: Peter declared,

**C: Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.**

N: Jesus replied,

*J: I tell you the truth, Peter-- this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.*

N: But Peter insisted,

**C: No! Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!**

N: And all the other disciples vowed the same.

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said,

*J: Sit here while I go over there to pray.*

N: He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them,

*J: My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.*

N: He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying

*J: My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

N: Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter

J: *Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!*

N: Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed,

J: *My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.*

N: When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said,

J: *Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look-- the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!*

N: And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal:

**C: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss."**

N: So Judas came straight to Jesus.

**C: "Greetings, Rabbi!"**

N: He exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Jesus said,

## MEAL

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution

On the night in which he was betrayed  
Which is to say, on the night before he was sentenced to death by those who didn't like him challenging their power and disturbing their status quo,

Which is to say, on the night before he was subjected to an unjust trial, torture and humiliation, on that night, with the heart of God on full display, as feet were washed, a meal was shared and encouragement to carry on ministry was given.

On that night, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and shared it among them saying:

**Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this and remember me.**

In the same way after supper, which is to say, with those same incredibly imperfect and fallible people there, His closest friends, the ones who knew him the best, the ones who had watched him heal, heard him teach and yet would doubt, deny and betray him.

## Prayers of the People

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally (*here local bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers may be named*).

Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Response: Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## Offering

### Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*J: My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.*

N: Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

*J: Put away your sword. Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?*

N: Then Jesus said to the crowd,

*J: Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.*

N: At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.

Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. But even though they found many

who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Finally, two men came forward who declared,

**C: This man said, "I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days."**

N: Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus,

**C: Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?**

N: But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him,

**C: I demand in the name of the living God-- tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.**

N: Jesus replied:

*J: You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

N: Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said,

**Men: Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?**

**Women: Guilty! He deserves to die!**

N: Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering,

**Men: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?**

### There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching.

The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. They told him,

**Women: Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise from the dead.’ So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.**

N: Pilate replied,

**Men: Take guards and secure it the best you can.**

N: So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.

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**Silence for Meditation**

*Hymn of the Day There in God’s Garden ELW 342*

N: Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him,

**Women: You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean**

N: But Peter denied it in front of everyone, saying:

**Men: I don ’tknow what you’re talking about.**

N: Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around,

**Women: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.**

N: Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath, saying:

**Men: I don’t even know the man!**

N: A little later, some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said,

**Women: You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.**

N: Peter swore,

**Men: A curse on me if I’m lying-- I don’t know the man!**

N: And immediately the rooster crowed.

Suddenly Jesus ’words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders of the people met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders and declared:

**Men: I have sinned for I have betrayed an innocent man.**

**Women: “What do we care? That’s your problem,”**

N: they retorted.

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

The leading priests picked up the coins.

**Women: It wouldn’t be right to put this money in the Temple treasury since it was payment for murder.**

N: After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter’s field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners. That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood. This fulfilled the prophesy of Jeremiah that says, “They took the thirty pieces of silver-- the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel, and purchased the potter’s field, as the LORD directed.”

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling out for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. But the rest said,

**C: Wait! Let’s see whether Elijah comes to save him!**

N: Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women, who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus ’resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said,

**C: This man truly was the Son of God!**

N: And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus ’body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to

kept guard as he hung there. A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. They yelled at him:

**Men: Look at you now! You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuilt it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!**

N: The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus.

**Women: He saved others but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'**

N: Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice,

J: *Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*

N: Which means "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"

Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. He asked him,

**C: Are you the king of the Jews?**

J: *You have said it.*

N: But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. Pilate demanded:

**C: Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?**

N: But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise.

Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd-- anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them:

**Men: Which one do you want me to release to you-- Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?**

N: (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message:

**Women: Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.**

N: Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again,

**Men: Which of these two do you want me to release to you?**

N: The crowd shouted back,

**Women: Barabbas!**

N: Pilate responded,

**Men: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?**

N: They shouted back,

**Women: Crucify him!**

**Men: Why? What crime has he committed?**

N: asked Pilate. But the mob roared even louder,

**C: Crucify him!!**

N: Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

**Men: I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!**

N: And all the people yelled back,

**Women: We will take responsibility for his death-- we and our children!**

N: So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted,

**C: Hail! King of the Jews!**

N: And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). The soldiers gave him wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he tasted it, he refused to drink it.

After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and