

The remaining **Annual Parochial Church Meetings** take place throughout April. Nomination lists go up in the churches about a fortnight before each one, if you wish to stand either as a Churchwarden or as a member of the PCC during the elections at those meetings. It is probably worth reminding everyone that you must be on the Electoral Roll in order to vote; and also that if you are thinking of standing for election, you must:

- be on the church's Electoral Roll
- have received communion at least three times during the past year
- be aged 18 or over
- not be disqualified by law from being a charity trustee

Also – if you *do* think of standing for any of our PCCs, or as Churchwarden somewhere, don't forget that nominations must be **in writing**, and in Selwyn's hands before the relevant Annual Meeting begins. Copies of the parishes' Annual Reports & Financial Statements, and Agendas for the meetings, are available in church at the same time.

We are proud and grateful to announce that the **re-opening of Attlebridge church will take place on Sunday 26th April, beginning at 10:00 am**. This is three years, almost to the day, since that church had to be suddenly closed because of the perilous condition of the roof. Since then

- the entire nave roof has been re-boarded
- the porch has been repaired and painted
- the medieval carving found many years ago has been installed at the entrance
- the whole building has been completely re-wired and new light fittings provided
- and we are waiting for much of the north aisle floor to be renewed, new tiles laid, and the old font replaced by the more elegant one from the disused St Faith's church, Lenwade.

So on Sunday 26th there will be a Eucharist of Re-Dedication and Celebration, led by Bishop Graham James, bishop of Norwich, and followed by refreshments suitable to the occasion (almost certainly in the garden of The Old Rectory next door, by kind invitation of the brand-new owners). There will be no other services anywhere that day; please do come and join in the re-birth of the sixth church in our team!



Palm Sunday
2009
10:15 am
St Margaret,
Swannington



We assemble for the procession at the Pump. As you arrive, you will be given one of these service leaflets and a palm cross. You will not need any other books for the service. When the servers and the priest arrive, the service begins.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Dear friends in Christ: during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour; to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Please hold up your palm crosses or branches while this prayer is said:

God our Saviour, whose son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our king, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 11, 1-11

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you

enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please follow in procession along the road, through the drive in front of The Old Rectory, up the steps and so into church. As we walk, we sing these hymns. When you arrive in church, please make your way into your pew and remain standing.

*All glory, laud and honour
 To thee, Redeemer, King,
 To whom the lips of children
 Made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel,
 Thou David's royal Son,
 Who in the Lord's name comest,
 The King and blessed One:
All glory, laud and honour...

The company of angels
 Are praising thee on high,
 And mortal men and all things
 Created make reply:

All glory, laud and honour...
 The people of the Hebrews
 With palms before thee went;
 Our praise and prayer and anthems
 Before thee we present:

All glory, laud and honour...
 To thee before thy passion
 They sang their hymns of praise;
 To thee, now high exalted,
 Our melody we raise:

All glory, laud and honour...
 Thou didst accept their praises,
 Accept the prayers we bring,
 Who in all good delightest,

Please continue to pray for the sick and those in need:
Alic Bowen; Anne Dunn; Annette; Margaret; Val.

On **Maundy Thursday** night the Eucharist of the Last Supper takes place at **7:30 pm at Great Witchingham**. It includes the ceremony of the feet-washing, as we follow the example of Christ's humility. If you wish to be one of the 12 people taking part and having your feet washed, please add your name to the list at the back of church (or in any of our other churches).

From the end of the Maundy Eucharist the **Watch of Prayer** continues in **Great Witchingham church till midnight**. There are also lists in all our churches dividing this time into 20-minute slots. Please indicate when you could be 'on watch', by your initials or a simple tick. Don't feel you have to come alone; arrange to come with someone and help build up the atmosphere of prayer as we symbolically watch with Jesus.

The service at **2.00 pm on Good Friday** is at **Weston Longville**, and it will as usual include congregational hymns, Passion readings from Isaiah and St John's Gospel, anthems sung by the benefice choir, intercessions at the foot of the stark wooden cross, times for silence and reflection, and a final simple act of Communion. It is a time not just to focus on the reality of Christ's death but to thank God for his love. Please be there if you can; and if you would like to receive Communion at the end of the service, once again there is a list here and in all our churches. Please just add a tick to indicate you will be taking part.

The celebration of Easter begins with the **Paschal Vigil at 6.00 am** on Easter Day at **Alderford**. Our own rising to new life with Christ in Baptism forms the theme of the service, as the world around us comes back to joyful life at the start of a new day. Go on, be brave this year and be there - it is a wonderful experience!

And finally – the palm crosses we have received today are a permanent reminder for each of us, all the year round, of what Christ suffered through Holy Week on our behalf. So please keep them somewhere visible at home until early next year – they will be 'called in' to be burnt on Shrove Tuesday to provide the ash for the Ash Wednesday service.

O thou who through
 this holy week
 The path of suffering trod,
 Our sins to heal, our souls to seek,
 And bring us to our God;

We cannot comprehend the woe
 Thy love was pleased to bear;
 O Saviour Christ,
 we only know
 That all our hopes are there.

Then grant us, Lord,
 this week to trace
 Thy passion and thy love,
 And by thine all-inspiring grace
 Uplift our hearts above:

Beyond the pain, beyond the cross,
 The Christ of glory see,
 And count the things
 of earth but loss
 To gain our heaven in thee.



Go in peace to love
 and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, A - men.



This week we are united with our Lord in his suffering, death and resurrection.

We pray that our own faith may be tested, strengthened and confirmed.

We pray that we may be sent out in the power of the Spirit to proclaim the truth of the world's redemption by the quality of our everyday life.

Full details of all the services and events of **Holy Week** are in the special leaflet delivered with the Wensum Diary and the Pilgrim; there are also some copies on the table at the back.

All this week we pray particularly for all who live and work along **School Road** in Swannington.

Thou good and gracious King:
 Do thou direct our footsteps
 Upon our earthly way,
 And bring us by thy mercy
 To heaven's eternal day:

All glory, laud and honour...

All glory, laud and honour...
 Within that blessed City
 Thy praises may we sing,
 And ever raise hosannas
 To our most loving King:

All glory, laud and honour...



Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 Hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry;
 Thy humble beast pursues his road
 With palms and scattered
 garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 In lowly pomp ride on to die:
 O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
 O'er captive death
 and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 The wingèd squadrons of the sky
 Look down with sad
 and wondering eyes
 To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
 The Father on his sapphire throne
 Awaits his own
 anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 In lowly pomp ride on to die;
 Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
 Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.



and as many verses as necessary of:

My song is love unknown,
 My Saviour's love to me,
 Love to the loveless shown,
 That they might lovely be.
 O, who am I,
 That for my sake
 My Lord should take
 Frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne,
 Salvation to bestow:
 But men made strange, and none
 The longed-for Christ would know.
 But O, my Friend,
 My Friend indeed,
 Who at my need
 His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
Is all their breath,
And for his death
They thirst and cry.

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 suffering goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.

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.

As the hymns end, please find your way into the pews.

The Collect for the day:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the Lord said:

During Communion the choir will sing God so loved the world from The Crucifixion by Sir John Stainer

*God so loved the world,
that he gave his only-begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through him might be saved.*

Lord Jesus Christ,
who humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

*Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen.*

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

(Organ) O Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the

94 sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

97 O Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sins of the world, have

100 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that

103 tak - est a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace

Jesus is the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sin of the world.
 Happy are those who are called to his supper.
***Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
 but only say the word, and I shall be healed.***

We warmly invite communicant members of all Christian churches to receive communion. If you are not a communicant, but would like to receive a blessing, please bring this service booklet to the altar rail with you.

At the distribution

The Body of Christ. ***Amen.***
 The Blood of Christ. ***Amen.***

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, 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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. 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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31.9-16 (please remain seated)

Response: *I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.*

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble;
 my eye is consumed with sorrow, my soul and my body also.
 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
 my strength fails me because of my affliction,
 and my bones are consumed. ***(Response)***

I have become a reproach to all my enemies
 and even to my neighbours,
 an object of dread to my acquaintances;
 when they see me in the street they flee from me.
 I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind;
 I have become like a broken vessel. ***(Response)***

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
 fear is on every side;
 they scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.
 But my trust is in you, O Lord. I have said "You are my God."
(Response)

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake." *(Response)*

After the Psalm, **please stand** for the reading of the Passion narrative from St Mark, chapters 14 and 15. If you do not wish to remain standing during the whole reading, you will see some signs ► in the text. These mark suitable places where you might decide to sit down.

Please join in *confidently* and read the lines marked **DISCIPLES, WITNESSES, SCRIBES, BYSTANDERS, CROWD, SOLDIERS and PASSERS-BY.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Evangelist	It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said:
Priests	Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.
Evangelist	While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger:
DISCIPLES	<i>Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.</i>
Evangelist	And they scolded her. But Jesus said:

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please kneel

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
*Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.*

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
and in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
***Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.***

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Margaret and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Jesus

Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Evangelist

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him:

DISCIPLES

Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Evangelist

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them:

Jesus

Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

Evangelist

So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said:

Jesus

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Evangelist They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another:

DISCIPLES *Surely, not I?*

Jesus It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Evangelist While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said:

Jesus Take; this is my body.

Evangelist Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them:

Jesus This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Evangelist When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them:

Jesus You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Evangelist Peter said to him:

Peter Even though all become deserters, I will not.

Jesus Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Peter (*vehemently*) Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist And all of them said the same. ►

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples:

The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever; our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, for ever praising you and singing:

(Organ) Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

72 hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo - ry.

75 Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord most high.

78 Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the name of the

81 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

We greet those around us informally as an expression of Christian fellowship.

Once, only, once, and once for all, His precious life he gave; Before the Cross in faith we fall, And own it strong to save.	So he who once atonement wrought, Our Priest of endless power, Presents himself for those he bought In that dark noontide hour.
'One offering, single and complete,' With lips and hearts we say; But what he never can repeat He shows forth day by day.	His Manhood pleads where now it lives On heaven's eternal throne, And where in mystic rite he gives Its presence to his own.
For as the priest of Aaron's line Within the holiest stood, And sprinkled all the mercy-shrine With sacrificial blood;	And so we show thy death, O Lord, Till thou again appear, And feel, when we approach thy board, We have an altar here.

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

Jesus	Sit here while I pray.
Evangelist	He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them:
Jesus	I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.
Evangelist	And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him:
Jesus	Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.
Evangelist	He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter:
Jesus	Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
Evangelist	And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them:
Jesus	Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.
Evangelist	Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign:
Judas	The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

Evangelist So when he came, he went up to him at once and said:
 Judas Rabbi!
 Evangelist and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them:
 Jesus Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.
 Evangelist All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.
 They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.
 Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:
WITNESSES *We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."*
 Evangelist But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus:
 High Priest Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

Please kneel or sit as you are comfortable for the prayers. Each petition ends:

... Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

After the final section:

... Merciful Father,
*Accept these prayers
 for the sake of your Son,
 our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Please sit for any notices and **stand** to share the Peace:

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Evangelist In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves:

Priests He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Evangelist Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

Jesus Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist Which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said:

BYSTANDERS *Listen, he is calling for Elijah.*

Evangelist And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink:

Man Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Evangelist Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Please KNEEL for a brief moment of silence, standing again as the reading resumes)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said:

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son! ►

Evangelist There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when

Evangelist But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him:

High Priest Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Jesus I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power," and "coming with the clouds of heaven."

Evangelist Then the high priest tore his clothes and said:

High Priest Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

Evangelist All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him:

SCRIBES *Prophesy!*

Evangelist The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said:

Servant-girl You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

Evangelist And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crew. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders:

Servant-girl This man is one of them.

Evangelist But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter:

BYSTANDERS *Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.*

Evangelist But he began to curse, and he swore an oath:

Peter I do not know this man you are talking about.

Evangelist At that moment the cock crew for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept. ►

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him:

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Evangelist Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again:

Pilate Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Evangelist But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them:

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Evangelist For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again:

Pilate Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

CROWD *Crucify him!*

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

CROWD (*louder*) *Crucify him!*

Evangelist So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him:

SOLDIERS *Hail, King of the Jews!*

Evangelist They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying:

PASSERS-BY *So! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!*