

**Today's Reading: Mark 15:15-39**

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means 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 garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**Simple Summary (for Parents):**

On Thursday of Holy Week Jesus gave specific instructions to His disciples about preparing the Passover meal, and everything happened just as Jesus said it would. As He ate with His disciples, He told them the unsettling news that one of them—Judas—would betray Him. Though Judas's betrayal was the gravest of sins, Jesus knew that this too was fulfilling God's saving plan.

Just as God's people were delivered from Egypt on that first Passover night through the sacrifice of a lamb (Exodus 12), so now God was accomplishing an even greater deliverance through the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. All the previous Passover meals and sacrificial lambs had been pointing forward to Jesus. This meal, which we now celebrate regularly in the Lord's Supper, would now serve to remind God's people of Christ's death on their behalf. The broken bread symbolizes His body and the cup symbolizes His blood that was "poured out for many."

## Discuss:

**1. In today's story, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. What do you remember about the Passover from the Old Testament?**

(After giving your kids a chance to answer, either read the Passover story to them—see particularly Exodus 12:1–13—or summarize it for them.)

**2. How does the Passover remind us of Jesus and what He did for us?**

(Just as the Israelites were rescued by putting the blood of a lamb on the doorway of their houses, so we are rescued from the judgment we deserve when we trust in Jesus, who is the Lamb of God. His blood, i.e., His death, covers our sins.)

**3. Judas committed a great sin by betraying Jesus. Did this stop God's plan? Why not?**

(No, Judas's betrayal led to Jesus being hung on the cross, and the cross was always God's plan to rescue us from our sins.)

**4. How do the bread and the cup remind us of Jesus's death?**

(The broken bread reminds us that Jesus's body was broken for us. The cup reminds us of Jesus's blood, which was poured out for us in His death.)

**5. Does Jesus's death on the cross mean that everyone's sins will be forgiven? Why not?**

(No, only those who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior will be forgiven of their sins and have eternal life.)

## Pray:

Thank God for His willingness to send Jesus to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins.

## Sing:

["Man of Sorrows"](#) (See Week 3 Song Sheet for lyrics)

