

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:31—27:66

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh chapters.

³¹Then Jesus said to them,

P *“You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”*

L ³³Peter answered him,

C **“Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”**

L ³⁴Jesus said to him,

P *“Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”*

L ³⁵Peter said to him,

C **“Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!”**

L And all the disciples said the same. ³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

P *“Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”*

L ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them,

P *“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”*

L ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

P *“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*

L ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

P *“So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

L ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

P *“My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”*

L ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

P *“Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”*

L ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

C **“The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”**

L ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

C **“Greetings, Rabbi!”**

L And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him,

P *“Friend, do what you came to do.”*

L Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him,

P *“Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”*

L ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

P *“Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”*

L Then all the disciples left him and fled. ⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said,

C **“This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”**

L ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said,

C **“Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”**

L ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,

C **“I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”**

L ⁶⁴Jesus said to him,

P *“You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

L ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

C “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?”

L They answered,

C “He deserves death.”

L ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying,

C “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

L ⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,

C “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

L ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying,

C “I do not know what you mean.”

L ⁷¹And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

C “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

L ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath:

C “I do not know the man.”

L ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

C “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

L ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

C “I do not know the man.”

L And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus,

P “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

L And he went out and wept bitterly. ¹When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ²And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. ³Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴saying,

C “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

L They said,

C “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

L ⁵And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

C “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.”

L ⁷So they took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

C “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said,

P “You have said so.”

L ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him,

C “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

L ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

C “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

L ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

C “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.”

L ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them,

C “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

L And they said,

C “Barabbas.”

L ²²Pilate said to them,

C “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

L They all said,

C “Let him be crucified!”

L ²³And he said,

C “Why, what evil has he done?”

L But they shouted all the more,

C **“Let him be crucified!”**

L ²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

C **“I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”**

L ²⁵And all the people answered,

C **“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

L ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

C **“Hail, King of the Jews!”**

L ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying,

C **“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”**

L ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

C ⁴²**“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”**

L ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

P *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”*

L that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

C **“This man is calling Elijah.”**

L ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said,

C **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”**

L ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

silence

L ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

C **“Truly this was the Son of God!”**

L ⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said,

C **“Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”**

L ⁶⁵Pilate said to them,

C **“You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”**

L ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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