

1-1-2004

The Passion of Our Lord (According to St. Matthew)

John Steven Paul
Valparaiso University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholar.valpo.edu/soul_purpose

Recommended Citation

Paul, John Steven, "The Passion of Our Lord (According to St. Matthew)" (2004). Soul Purpose Liturgical Drama. Paper 29.
http://scholar.valpo.edu/soul_purpose/29

This Liturgical Drama is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Theatre at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Soul Purpose Liturgical Dramas and Essays by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

The Passion of Our Lord
According to St. Matthew
A play for actors and singers by John Steven Paul
Developed in workshop by Soul Purpose,
The Liturgical Drama Troupe of the Valparaiso University Theatre

Characters:

Evangelist	Council
Jesus	Peter
Chief Priests	Bystanders
Disciples	Pilate
Judas	Crowd
Caiaphas	Soldiers
Servant Girl	Centurion
Servant Girl 2	

I. The Plot against Jesus and Jesus Anointed at Bethany (26:1-16)

EVANGELIST:

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples,

JESUS:

You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

EVANGELIST:

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS:

Not during the festival, or they may be a riot among the people.

EVANGELIST:

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said,

DISCIPLES:

Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.

EVANGELIST:

But Jesus, aware of this, said to them,

JESUS:

Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

EVANGELIST:

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS:

What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?

EVANGELIST:

They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

II. Preparation for the Passover and Institution of the Lord's Supper (26:17-29)

EVANGELIST:

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

DISCIPLES:

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

JESUS:

Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, “The Teacher says, ‘My time is near. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”

EVANGELIST:

And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said,

JESUS:

Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

EVANGELIST:

They became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES:

Is it I, Lord?

JESUS:

The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

EVANGELIST:

Judas, who would betray him, answered,

JUDAS:

Is it I, Rabbi?

EVANGELIST:

He said to him,

JESUS:

You have said so.

EVANGELIST:

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS:

Take, eat; this is my body.

EVANGELIST:

He took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS:

Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

EVANGELIST:

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

III. Prediction of Peter's Denial (26:30-35)

EVANGELIST:

Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS:

You will all become deserters because of me this night. For it is written, "I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

EVANGELIST:

Peter answered him,

PETER:

Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

JESUS:

Truly, I tell you Peter, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.

PETER:

Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!

EVANGELIST:

And all the disciples said the same.

IV. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (26:36-46)

EVANGELIST:

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

JESUS:

Sit here, while I go over there and pray.

EVANGELIST:

And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS:

My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

EVANGELIST:

And going a little farther he threw himself on the ground and prayed...

JESUS:

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not what I want but what you want.

EVANGELIST:

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

JESUS:

So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

EVANGELIST:

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

JESUS:

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

EVANGELIST:

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

JESUS:

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. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

V. Judas' Betrayal and the Arrest of Jesus (26:47-56)

EVANGELIST:

While 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. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS:

The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

EVANGELIST:

At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS:

Greetings, Rabbi!

EVANGELIST:

And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS:

Friend, do what you came to do.

EVANGELIST:

Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, 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. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS:

Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?

EVANGELIST:

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS:

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

EVANGELIST:

Then all the disciples left him and fled.

VI. Jesus before Caiaphas (26:57-68)

EVANGELIST:

Then those who arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And 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 how this would all end. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

FALSE WITNESS:

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

EVANGELIST:

The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST:

Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?

EVANGELIST:

But Jesus remained silent.

HIGH PRIEST:

I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

EVANGELIST:

Jesus said to him,

JESUS:

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.

EVANGELIST:

The high priest tore his robes and said,

HIGH PRIEST:

He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

COUNCIL:

He deserves death!

EVANGELIST:

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

COUNCIL:

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

VII. Peter's Denial (26:69-75)

EVANGELIST:

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came up to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL:

You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

EVANGELIST:

But he denied it before them all, saying,

PETER:

I do not know what you are talking about.

EVANGELIST:

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

SERVANT GIRL 2:

This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

EVANGELIST:

Again he denied it with an oath:

PETER:

I do not know the man.

EVANGELIST:

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

BYSTANDER:

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

EVANGELIST:

Then he began to curse and he swore an oath,

PETER:

I do not know the man!

EVANGELIST:

And immediately the rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

VIII. The Death of Judas and Jesus before Pilate (27:1-14)

EVANGELIST:

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to put him to death. They bound him and let him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

JUDAS:

I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

CHIEF PRIESTS:

What is that to us? See to it yourself.

EVANGELIST:

Throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. The chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CHIEF PRIESTS:

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

EVANGELIST:

After conferring together, they used the blood money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for strangers and foreigners. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then 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 people of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

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

PILATE:

Are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS:

You have said so.

EVANGELIST:

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

PILATE:

Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

EVANGELIST:

But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

IX. Pilate Sentences Jesus (27:15-26)

EVANGELIST:

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE:

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

EVANGELIST:

For he knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. Pilate again said to them,

PILATE:

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

CROWD:

Barabbas!

PILATE:

Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?

CROWD:

Let him be crucified!

PILATE:

Why, what evil has he done?

CROWD:

Let him be crucified!

EVANGELIST:

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

PILATE:

I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

EVANGELIST:

And all the people answered,

CROWD:

His blood be on us and on our children!

EVANGELIST:

Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, handed him over to be crucified.

X. Jesus Mocked and Crucified (27:27-44)

EVANGELIST:

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and 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,

SOLDIERS:

Hail, King of the Jews!

EVANGELIST:

They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

BYSTANDERS:

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.

EVANGELIST:

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

CHIEF PRIESTS:

He saved others, he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to. For he said, "I am the Son of God."

EVANGELIST:

And the robbers who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

XI. The Death of Jesus (27:45-56)

EVANGELIST:

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice...

JESUS:

Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

EVANGELIST:

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

BYSTANDERS:

This man is calling for Elijah.

EVANGELIST:

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

BYSTANDERS:

Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

EVANGELIST:

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

CENTURION:

Truly this was the Son of God!

EVANGELIST:

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

XII. Jesus' Burial and a Guard Posted (27:57-66)

EVANGELIST:

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered it to be given to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. He rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CHIEF PRIESTS:

Sir, we remember how the impostor said, while he was still alive, "After three days, I will rise." Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, otherwise his disciples may 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.

EVANGELIST:

Pilate said to them,

PILATE:

You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.

EVANGELIST:

So they went and made the tomb secure by seal the stone and setting a guard.

END