

“Passionis et Mortis Domini secundum S. Joannem”

Composer: Fr Aureo Castro (1917-1993)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (John 18:1-19:30)

Narrator: After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: “For whom are you looking?”

Crowd: “Jesum Nazarenum.” (Jesus of Nazareth.)

Jesus: “I am he.”

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he”, they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus: “For whom are you looking?”

Crowd: “Jesum Nazarenum.” (Jesus of Nazareth.)

Jesus: “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

Narrator: This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Narrator: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter,

Woman: “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?”

Peter: “I am not.”

Narrator: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

Jesus: “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know

what I said.”

Narrator: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

Policeman: “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

Jesus: “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

Narrator: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him,

Bystanders: “Numquid et tu ex discipulis eius es?” (You are not also one of his disciples, are you?)

Narrator: He denied it and said,

Peter: “I am not.”

Narrator: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Slave: “Did I not see you in the garden with him?”

Narrator: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

Pilate: “What accusation do you bring against this man?”

Crowd: “Si non esset hic malefactor, non tibi tradidissemus eum.” (If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.)

Pilate: “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

Crowd: “Nobis non licet interficere quemquam.” (We are not permitted to put anyone to death.)

Narrator: This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die. Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus: “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate: “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus: “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate: “So you are a king?”

Jesus: “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate: “What is truth?”

Narrator: After Pilate had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,

Pilate: “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: They shouted in reply,

Crowd: “Non hunc, sed Barabbam.” (Not this man, but Barabbas!)

Narrator: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,

Soldiers: “Ave, Rex Judaeorum!” (Hail, King of the Jews!)

Narrator: and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them,

Pilate: “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.”

Narrator: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Here is the man!”

Narrator: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

Crowd: “Crucifige eum!” (Crucify him! Crucify him!)

Pilate: “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.”

Crowd: “Nos legem habemus, et secundum legem debet mori, quia Filium Dei se fecit.” (We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.)

Narrator: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,

Pilate: “Where are you from?”

Narrator: But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

Pilate: “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?”

Jesus: “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

Narrator: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

Crowd: “Si hunc dimittis, non es amicus Caesaris. Omnis enim, qui se regem facit, contradicit Caesari.” (If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.)

Narrator: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews,

Pilate: “Here is your King!”

Crowd: “Tolle, tolle, crucifige.” (Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!)

Pilate: “Shall I crucify your King?”

Priests: “Non habemus regem, nisi Caesarem.” (We have no king but the emperor.)

Narrator: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the

place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

**Priests: “Noli scribere, Rex Judaeorum, sed quia ipse dixit: Rex sum Judaeorum.”
(Do not write, “The King of the Jews”, but, “This man said, I am King of the Jews.”)**

Pilate: “What I have written I have written.”

Narrator: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another,

Soldiers: “Non scindamus eam, sed sortiamur de illa cujus sit.” (Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.)

Narrator This was to fulfil what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,

Jesus: “Woman, here is your son.”

Narrator: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: “Here is your mother.”

Narrator: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture),

Jesus: “I am thirsty.”

Narrator: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

Jesus: “It is finished.”

Narrator: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.