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**ST. DENIS PARISH**

*PALM SUNDAY*

*THE PASSION of THE LORD*

*LUKE 22:14—23:56*

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N.—Narrator

† —Christ

V.—Voice

C.— Crowd

N. The Passion of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to Luke

When the hour came, Jesus  
took his place at table with  
the apostles. He said to them,

† “I have eagerly desired to eat  
this Passover with you before  
I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall  
not eat it again until there is  
fulfillment in the kingdom of  
God.”

N. Then he took a cup, gave  
thanks, and said,

† “Take this and share it among  
yourselves; for I tell you that  
from this time on I shall not  
drink of the fruit of the vine  
until the kingdom of God  
comes.”

N. Then he took the bread, said  
the blessing, broke it, and  
gave it to them, saying,

† “This is my body, which will  
be given for you; do this in  
memory of me.”

N. And likewise the cup after  
they had eaten, saying,

† “This cup is the new  
covenant in my blood,  
which will be shed for you.

“And yet behold, the hand  
of the one who is to betray  
me is with me on the table;  
for the Son of Man indeed  
goes as it has been  
determined; but woe to that  
man by whom he is  
betrayed.”

N. And they began to debate  
among themselves who  
among them would do such a  
deed.

Then an argument broke out  
among them about which of  
them should be regarded as  
the greatest. He said to  
them,

† “The kings of the Gentiles  
lord it over them and those  
in authority over them are  
addressed as ‘Benefactors’;  
but among you it shall not  
be so. Rather, let the greatest  
among you be as the  
youngest, and the leader as  
the servant. For who is  
greater: the one seated at  
table or the one who serves?”

N. When all the people who had  
gathered for this spectacle saw  
what had happened, they  
returned home beating their  
breasts; but all his  
acquaintances stood at a  
distance, including the women  
who had followed him from  
Galilee and saw these events.

Now there was a virtuous and  
righteous man named Joseph  
who, though he was a member  
of the council, had not  
consented to their plan of  
action. He came from the  
Jewish town of Arimathea and  
was awaiting the kingdom of  
God. He went to Pilate and  
asked for the body of Jesus.  
After he had taken the body  
down, he wrapped it in a linen  
cloth and laid him in a rock-  
hewn tomb in which no one  
had yet been buried. It was the  
day of preparation, and the  
sabbath was about to begin.  
The women who had come  
from Galilee with him followed  
behind, and when they had  
seen the tomb and the way in  
which his body was laid in it,  
they returned and prepared  
spices and perfumed oils. Then  
they rested on the sabbath  
according to the  
commandment.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

V. “Have you no fear of God, for  
you are subject to the same  
condemnation? And indeed,  
we have been condemned  
justly, for the sentence we  
received corresponds to our  
crimes, but this man has done  
nothing criminal.”

N. Then he said,

V. “Jesus, remember me when  
you come into your kingdom.”

N. He replied to him,

† “Amen, I say to you, today you  
will be with me in Paradise.”

N. It was now about noon and  
darkness came over the whole  
land until three in the  
afternoon because of an eclipse  
of the sun. Then the veil of the  
temple was torn down the  
middle. Jesus cried out in a  
loud voice,

† “Father, into your hands I  
commend my spirit”;

N. and when he had said this he  
breathed his last.

*Here all kneel and pause  
for a short time.*

N. The centurion who witnessed  
what had happened glorified  
God and said,

V. “This man was innocent  
beyond doubt.”

At that time people will say to  
the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’  
and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for  
if these things are done when  
the wood is green what will  
happen when it is dry?”

N. Now two others, both  
criminals, were led away with  
him to be executed.

When they came to the place  
called the Skull, they crucified  
him and the criminals there,  
one on his right, the other on  
his left. Then Jesus said,

† “Father, forgive them, they  
know not what they do.”

N. They divided his garments by  
casting lots. The people stood  
by and watched; the rulers,  
meanwhile, sneered at him and  
said,

C. **“He saved others, let him save  
himself if he is the chosen  
one, the Christ of God.”**

N. Even the soldiers jeered at him.  
As they approached to offer  
him wine they called out,

C. **“If you are King of the Jews,  
save yourself.”**

N. Above him there was an  
inscription that read, “This is  
the King of the Jews.”

Now one of the criminals  
hanging there reviled Jesus,  
saying,

V. “Are you not the Christ? Save  
yourself and us.”

N. The other, however, rebuking  
him, said in reply,

N. —Now Barabbas had been  
imprisoned for a rebellion that  
had taken place in the city and  
for murder. — Again Pilate  
addressed them, still wishing  
to release Jesus, but they  
continued their shouting,

C. **“Crucify him! Crucify him!”**

N. Pilate addressed them a third  
time,

V. “What evil has this man done?  
I found him guilty of no capital  
crime. Therefore I shall have  
him flogged and then release  
him.”

N. With loud shouts, however,  
they persisted in calling for his  
crucifixion, and their voices  
prevailed. The verdict of Pilate  
was that their demand should  
be granted. So he released the  
man who had been imprisoned  
for rebellion and murder, for  
whom they asked, and he  
handed Jesus over to them to  
deal with as they wished.

As they led him away they took  
hold of a certain Simon, a  
Cyrenian, who was coming in  
from the country; and after  
laying the cross on him, they  
made him carry it behind Jesus.  
A large crowd of people  
followed Jesus, including many  
women who mourned and  
lamented him. Jesus turned to  
them and said,

† “Daughters of Jerusalem, do  
not weep for me; weep instead  
for yourselves and for your  
children for indeed, the days  
are coming when people will  
say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the  
wombs that never bore and the  
breasts that never nursed.’

Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.”

N. He said to him,

V. “Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.”

N. But he replied,

† “I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.”

N. He said to them,

† “When I sent you forth without a money bag or a sack or sandals, were you in need of anything?”

C. **“No, nothing,”**

N. they replied. He said to them,

† “But now one who has a money bag should take it, and likewise a sack, and one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me, namely, *He was counted among the wicked*; and indeed what is written about me is coming to fulfillment.”

N. Then they said,

C. **“Lord, look, there are two swords here.”**

N. But he replied,

† “It is enough!”

N. Then going out, he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them,

† “Pray that you may not undergo the test.”

N. After withdrawing about a stone’s throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying,

† “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.”

N. And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them,

† “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test.”

N. While he was still speaking, a crowd approached and in front was one of the Twelve, a man named Judas. He went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said to him,

† “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

N. His disciples realized what was about to happen, and they asked,

C. **“Lord, shall we strike with a sword?”**

N. And one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said in reply,

† “Stop, no more of this!”

N. Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him. And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him,

† “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness.”

N. After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance. They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she looked intently at him and said,

C. **“This man too was with him.”**

N. But he denied it saying,

V. “Woman, I do not know him.”

N. A short while later someone else saw him and said,

C. **“You too are one of them”;**

N. but Peter answered,

V. “My friend, I am not.”

N. About an hour later, still another insisted,

C. **“Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean.”**

N. But Peter said,

V. “My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.”

N. Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly. The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,

C. **“Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”**

N. And they reviled him in saying many other things against him.

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said,

C. **“If you are the Christ, tell us,”**

N. but he replied to them,

† “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

N. They all asked,

C. **“Are you then the Son of God?”**

N. He replied to them,

† “You say that I am.”

N. Then they said,

C. **“What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth.”**

N. Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate. They brought charges against him, saying,

C. **“We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Christ, a king.”**

N. Pilate asked him,

V. “Are you the king of the Jews?”

N. He said to him in reply,

† “You say so.”

N. Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds,

V. “I find this man not guilty.”

N. But they were adamant and said,

C. **“He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to here.”**

N. On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean; and upon learning that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing him harshly. Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly. Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them,

V. “You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.”

N. But all together they shouted out,

C. **“Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.”**