

Didache Divine Service

Session 7

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The Apostles' Creed: The Second Article—The Crucifixion

- I. Invocation and Prayer**
- II. Hymn: 556 “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (Stanzas 1-4)**
- III. Bible Reading: The Crucifixion of the Son of God—Mark 15:1-47 (Separate handout)**

Discussion questions on the Passion Reading:

1. What was the office of the chief priests responsible for?
Officiating at the sacrifices
2. What was Pilate's office?
The Roman Governor
3. On whose authority were both the chief priests and the governor to be acting?
4. Why does Jesus remain silent in the face of His accusers?
5. What does the name Barabbas mean? Who does he represent?
6. How was releasing a Jewish prisoner by the Romans at the time of Passover a gesture of good will toward the Jews?
7. What does the release of the guilty Barabbas and the sentencing of innocent Jesus teach us about the Gospel?
8. What is Pilate asserting when he continually refers to Jesus as “King of the Jews”? That Jesus is the Messiah.
9. What does Pilate assert with his question, “What evil has he done?”
10. What does the mockery of Jesus signify?
11. What does it signify for us that Simon a Cyrenian is called upon to carry Jesus' cross?
12. What is the prophetic significance that Jesus is crucified at “the place of a skull”? Ge. 3:15
13. What does Pilate declare by the inscription written above Jesus?
14. What is the significance of the prophecy, “He was numbered with the transgressors”?
15. How does Jesus demonstrate who He was and His love for His Father and us by NOT coming down from the cross?
16. What passage of Scripture is Jesus praying when He says, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” and what does it say about Jesus' suffering on our behalf?
17. What did the veil of the Temple signify? And what does it mean that it was torn in two at the time of Jesus' death?
18. What did the Centurion confess?
19. Why did the women and Joseph of Arimathea take such great care of Jesus' body after His death?

IV. The Creed preaches the faith that saves us from our sin: The creed shows us that God loves us and has done everything to save us from sin through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1. Incarnation
2. Crucifixion
3. Resurrection
&
- Ascension
4. Judgment

The Explanation to the Second Article from the Catechism —

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary,
is my Lord,
who has redeemed me,
a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins,
from death, and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

- V. Hymn: 556 “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (Stanzas 5-8)
- VI. Liturgy for Holy Communion (Peach handout)
- VII. Hymn to Depart: 451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

The Crucifixion of the Son of God—Mark 15:1-47

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led *Him* away, and delivered *Him* to Pilate. ² Then Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

He answered and said to him, “*It is as you say.*”

³ And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. ⁴ Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? See how many things ^[a]they testify against You!” ⁵ But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

⁶ Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. ⁷ And there was one named Barabbas, *who was* chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸ Then the multitude, ^[b]crying aloud, began to ask *him to do* just as he had always done for them. ⁹ But Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰ For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. ¹² Pilate answered and said to them again, “What then do you want me to do *with Him* whom you call the King of the Jews?”

¹³ So they cried out again, “Crucify Him!”

¹⁴ Then Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?”

But they cried out all the more, “Crucify Him!”

¹⁵ So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged *Him*, to be crucified.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called ^[c]Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. ¹⁷ And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His *head*, ¹⁸ and began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. ²² And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³ Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take *it*. ²⁴ And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them *to determine* what every man should take.

²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His ^[d]accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ ^[e]So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and ^[f]believe."

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."

³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that ^[g]He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.