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HYMNS: 51 64 146 48 v.3

PSALM: Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against a nation that is not devout! Rescue me from the deceitful and unruly man! For You are the God who gives me refuge. Why have You been rejecting me? Why must I walk around dressed in mourning attire because of the oppression of the enemy?

Send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me! Let them bring me to Your holy mountain and to Your dwelling-place! Then let me go to the altar of God, to God, my Joy and my Delight, that I may give thanks to You on the lyre, O God, my God! Why are you downcast, my soul, and why are you restless inside me? Hope in God! For I shall again praise Him, my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 43

COLLECT: Lord God, through Your Son you have made the heavens and the earth. Through Him You continue to rule over all things. Make us, Your chosen people, witnesses of Your power and heralds of Your glory to the praise of Your unfailing love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: John 6:66-68 The Warrior rejected by many Followers

After this, many of His disciples went back and did not walk with Him any longer. ⁶⁷ Therefore, Jesus asked the Twelve, "Surely you too do not want to go away?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life."

1st Reading: Psalm 2

Why have the nations been restless, and why do the peoples plot for no purpose?

The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together, against the LORD and against His Anointed One,

The wicked nations announce their opposition

saying: "Let us tear up their chains and throw their ropes away from us!"

The LORD tells the nations about His King

The One enthroned in heaven laughs. The LORD ridicules them.

Then He speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His glowing anger, saying: "Nevertheless, I Myself have consecrated My King on Zion, My holy mountain."

"I shall proclaim the decree of the LORD: He has said to Me: 'You are My Son. Today I have begotten You.

"Ask Me, that I may make the nations Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your property.

"You will break them with an iron rod. You will smash them to pieces like a vessel of pottery.'"

Now therefore, kings, act with insight! Take advice, judges of the earth!

Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling!

Fervently kiss the Son, that He may not become angry, and that you may not perish in your way! For His anger may blaze up in a short time. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Drawn from the Four Gospels, Part 5

Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.¹ The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and called together the whole company of soldiers. They took His clothes off and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns, placed it on His head, and put a stick in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and made fun of Him, saying: "Welcome, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him, took the stick, and began to beat Him on the head.²

Pilate went outside again and told them, "Look! I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no cause for complaint in Him."

Jesus came outside, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate told them, "Look at the Man!"

Therefore when the chief priests and the attendants saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify, crucify!"

Pilate told them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him! For I do not find any basis for a charge against Him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a Law, and according to the Law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard them say that, he was more afraid. He went into the governor's quarters again and asked Jesus, "From where are You?"

However, Jesus did not give him an answer. Therefore Pilate asked Him, "Are You refusing to speak to me? Do You not realise that I have authority to free You and authority to crucify You?"

Jesus answered him, "You would not have any authority at all over Me if it had not been given to you from above. That is why the

¹ John 19:1

² Matthew 27:28-30; Mark 15:16-19; John 19:2-3

man who has handed Me over to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate kept trying to release Jesus, but the Jews shouted out, “If you let this Man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king is speaking against Caesar.” Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he took Jesus outside, and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place called “the Stone Pavement,” or “Gabbatha” in Aramaic. It was the day of the Preparation of the Passover, and about six in the morning. Pilate told the Jews, “Look at your King!”

Therefore they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”

Pilate asked them, “Am I to crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”³

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. He said, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. You will see to it yourselves.”

All the people answered, “Let His blood be on us and on our children!”⁴

Then Pilate decided that what they demanded should be done. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he had Jesus scourged, and handed Him over to be crucified.⁵ After the soldiers had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.⁶

Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic.⁷ A certain man, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was going past as he was coming in from the country, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.⁸

A large crowd of the people followed Him. The women in the crowd were mourning and weeping for Him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me! Rather, weep for yourselves and for your children! For indeed the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that have not borne children, and the breasts that have not suckled!’ Then people will begin to say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’ For, if they do these things to the green tree, what will be done to the dry one?” Two other men, who were criminals, were also led out to be executed with Him.⁹

When they had come to a place called “Golgotha,” which means “The Place of a Skull,” they offered Him a drink of wine mixed with gall, but, when He had tasted it, He refused to drink it.¹⁰

It was the third hour when they crucified Him.¹¹ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them! For they do not know what they are doing.”¹² They crucified Him with two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.¹³ *The Scripture was then fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with transgressors.”*¹⁴

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His outer garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also the undergarment. The undergarment was without a seam, woven from the top in one piece. Therefore they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but let us throw dice for it, to decide who will get it!”

This happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided My outer garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.”

So that is what the soldiers did.¹⁵

Pilate also wrote a notice and put it on the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Therefore many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice had been written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Therefore the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, “Do not write: ‘The King of the Jews,’ but: ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews”!’”

Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”¹⁶

P: Here ends the reading.
The congregation stands.

³ John 19:4-15

⁴ Matthew 27:24-25

⁵ Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25

⁶ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20

⁷ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20; Luke 23:26; John 19:17

⁸ Mark 15:21

⁹ Luke 23:27-32

¹⁰ Matthew 27:33-34; Mark 15:23

¹¹ Mark 15:25

¹² Luke 23:34

¹³ Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; John:19:18

¹⁴ Luke 22:37

¹⁵ Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24

¹⁶ Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-22