

Scriptures – Good Friday, March 29, 2024

I. Mark 14:53-65

⁵³ They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. ⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn't find any. ⁵⁶ Many brought false testimony against him, but they contradicted each other. ⁵⁷ Some stood to offer false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him saying, 'I will destroy this temple, constructed by humans, and within three days I will build another, one not made by humans.'" ⁵⁹ But their testimonies didn't agree even on this point. ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the gathering and examined Jesus. "Aren't you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?" ⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and didn't answer. Again, the high priest asked, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds." ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴ You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?" They all condemned him. "He deserves to die!" ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him, saying, "Prophecy!" Then the guards took him and beat him.

II. Mark 14:66-72

⁶⁶ Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. A woman, one of the high priest's servants, approached ⁶⁷ and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about. I don't understand what you're saying." And he

went outside into the outer courtyard. A rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ The female servant saw him and began a second time to say to those standing around, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it again. A short time later, those standing around again said to Peter, “You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean.” ⁷¹ But he cursed and swore, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” ⁷² At that very moment, a rooster crowed a second time. Peter remembered what Jesus told him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down, sobbing.

III. Mark 15:1-5

¹ At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. ² Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” ³ The chief priests were accusing him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? What about all these accusations?” ⁵ But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled.

IV. Mark 15:6-15

⁶ During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. ⁷ A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. ⁸ The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. ⁹ Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” ¹⁰ He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. ¹² Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴ Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?” They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he

released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

V. Mark 16-32

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor's headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers.¹⁷ They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. ¹⁸ They saluted him, "Hey! King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. ²⁰ When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place. ²³ They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn't take it. ²⁴ They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The notice of the formal charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews." ²⁷ They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? ³⁰ Save yourself and come down from that cross!" ³¹ In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we'll see and believe." Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him.

VI. Mark 15:33-47

³³ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark.

³⁴ At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani*,” which means, “My God, my God, why have you left me?” ³⁵ After hearing him, some standing there said, “Look! He’s calling Elijah!”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, “Let’s see if Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷ But Jesus let out a loud cry and died. ³⁸ The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹ When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “This man was certainly God’s Son.” ⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹

When Jesus was in Galilee, these women had followed and supported him, along with many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him. ⁴² Since it was late in the afternoon on

Preparation Day, just before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph from Arimathea dared to approach Pilate and ask for Jesus’ body. (Joseph was a prominent council member who also eagerly anticipated the coming of God’s kingdom.) ⁴⁴ Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead.

He called the centurion and asked him whether Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead,

Pilate gave the dead body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ He bought a linen cloth, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was buried.