

A reading from Philippians chapter 2 verses 5 through 11. You can find this reading on page 980 of your pew Bible.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 118.

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

**People: This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**People: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

Leader: This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**People: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Save us, we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us success!

**People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

Leader: The Lord is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**People: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!**

Leader: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

**People: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reader: The Passion of our Lord according to Mark.

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. He perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Jesus up. As the chief priests were stirring up the people, Pilate asked, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

People: No! Give us Barabbas

Reader: Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

People: Crucify him.

Reader: Why? What evil has he done?

People: Crucify him!

Reader: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the

Jews!” And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

Leader: You are dismissed.