

**Harmonized History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to the Four Evangelists ✠ by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen**

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**THIRD READING**

**Jesus' Suffering at Mount of Olives**

And when they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out, as He was accustomed, across the brook Kidron to the Mount of Olives. And His disciples followed Him. And He said to them: *All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.* But Peter said to Him: Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be. Jesus said to him: *Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.* But he spoke more vehemently: If I have to die with You, I will not deny You! And they all said likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. And Jesus said to them: *Sit here while I go over there and pray.*



And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them: *My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me, so that you do not fall into temptation.* And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down, fell on His face, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from

Him, and He said: *Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.* And He came to His disciples and found them sleeping and said to Peter: *Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.* He went away again a second time and prayed, saying: *O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.* And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy and they did not know what to answer Him. And He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words: *Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.*

And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, He said to them: *Sleep on now and take your rest. It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, he who betrays Me is at hand. But pray lest you enter into temptation.*

And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the

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Twelve, having received a band of soldiers, and officers from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders, went before them, and came with lanterns, torches, with swords and with clubs. And the betrayer had given them a signal, saying: *Whoever I kiss, He is the one; take Him and lead Him away safely.* Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them: *Whom are you seeking?* They answered Him: *Jesus of Nazareth.* Jesus said to them: *I am He.* And Judas who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Then, as soon as He had said to them: *I am He,* they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again: *Whom are you seeking?* And they said: *Jesus of Nazareth.* Jesus answered: *I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,* (that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke: *Of these whom You gave Me I have lost none*).

And Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him, and immediately he went up to Jesus and said: *Greetings, Rabbi!* and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him: *My friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?* Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him: *Lord, shall we strike with the sword?* Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Then Jesus answered and said: *Permit even this.* And He said to Peter: *Put your sword into the sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be thus? And He touched his ear and healed him.*

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come out to Him: *Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness, so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.* And all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

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*(End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Passion History Reading)*

**Responsory** (after the reading)

**P:** ♪ O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!

 **The PSALMODY: Penitential Psalm 102** *Please read responsively* 

*P: <sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you.*

**C: <sup>2</sup> Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.**

*<sup>3</sup> For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers.*

**<sup>4</sup> My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.**

*<sup>5</sup> Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones.*

**<sup>6</sup> I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.**

*<sup>7</sup> I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof.*

**<sup>8</sup> All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse.**

*<sup>9</sup> For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears*

**<sup>10</sup> Because of Your great wrath, for You have taken me up and thrown me aside.**

*<sup>11</sup> My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.*

**<sup>12</sup> But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.**

*<sup>13</sup> You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.*

**<sup>14</sup> For her stones are dear to Your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.**

*<sup>15</sup> The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.*

**<sup>16</sup> For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in His glory.**

*<sup>17</sup> He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.*

**<sup>18</sup> Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:**

*<sup>19</sup> "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from Heaven He viewed the earth,*

**<sup>20</sup> To hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."**

*<sup>21</sup> So the Name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem*

**<sup>22</sup> When the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.**

*<sup>23</sup> In the course of my life He broke my strength; He cut short my days.*

**<sup>24</sup> So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations.**

*<sup>25</sup> In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your Hands.*

**<sup>26</sup> They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment.**

**Like clothing You will change them and they will be discarded.**

*<sup>27</sup> But You remain the same, and Your years will never end.*

**<sup>28</sup> The children of Your servants will live in Your presence; their descendants will be established before You."**

**(All) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
One True God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHIEF HYMN (Over Kedron) "See how in that hour of darkness..." #295, v.5-8**

**EVENING HYMN Now the Light Has Gone Away #570 (5 verses) MÜDE BIN ICH**

### THIRD READING ✕ COMMENTS

There was once a father who knew that something bad was going on with his son. The boy's grades, which had always been very good, suddenly dropped. His relationships with his boyhood friends suddenly ceased, and he started hanging around with trouble-makers instead. He became increasingly hostile, disobedient, and he started doing and saying things that were just stupid. The boy's father was worried, and he decided that the only way to find out what was going on with his son was to tape his telephone conversations. So, he had the phone tapped, with a recorder installed in the outside wall of their home, and he found out very quickly that his son was getting into some fairly serious trouble with drugs. From the taped conversations, the father learned beforehand about all the drug-related plans that the son was making, and he used the information that he overheard to try and steer his son away from trouble as often as possible, redirecting him by giving him things to do that interfered with his plans. They lived like this for some time.

But then, one day, the son happened to find out about the recorder because of a wind storm that blew a piece of paneling off of the side of the house, revealing the recording device that his father had installed. The son felt anger as well as a sense of being betrayed and violated. He continued his drug habit, but, from then on, he cleaned up his act whenever he was on the telephone so as to mislead his father. The relationship of father and son was now completely based on mutual lies and mistrust. The son's plan worked for a while, and he was able to keep up this double life, but eventually the father figured out what was going on and he confronted his son about the whole situation, putting an end to all the lies.

The son knew that his father knew about all the drugs he had been taking, and all the trouble he'd been getting into, and so he expected his father to give out a huge punishment. But the father surprised his son by telling him that there would be no punishment. The only thing that the father asked was that the son would listen to the recordings of himself on the phone with his friends. The son was initially relieved that there was no punishment, but, once he started listening to the tapes, he realized that what his father had done was worse than any punishment could have been. As the son listened to these tapes, he was shocked to find out how much drugs had changed him for the worse. He winced as he heard himself saying things that only a cruel, self-centered, and shallow person would say. It was only then, when he heard with his own ears what drugs had done to him, that he vowed to change his life.

In the Passion history that we read tonight, we saw several very clear pictures of sin. Over and over again, we see Jesus caused to suffer because of crafty, self-preserving mankind. Judas had handed Jesus over for thirty pieces of silver, even though he had known the Savior for three years. Peter denied Jesus because he feared the mob more than God, even though he knew who Jesus was and even though Jesus had predicted that this would happen. The Jewish leaders were having Jesus killed solely in order to preserve their own religious and political power. They continued to prosecute Him with evidence even though they knew that that evidence was completely manufactured. They knew Jesus was innocent, but they went after His death anyway solely out of self-interest.

We see these sins against Jesus and we have to admit that we have much in common with all these characters in the Passion account, and we have them in common with each other too. This is the way things go in this world. We've gotten used to our sin and our world of sin. But then Jesus comes along. It says in the reading that "Jesus looked straight at Peter," and then Peter knew his sin and felt remorse about it. He looks at us, too. We live in a world of lies, filled with sin. As soon as Jesus was born into this world as a man who was holy and blameless, it was really a foregone conclusion that we would eventually kill Him. This is true of us just as much as it is true of the various people who betrayed Jesus.

But there is so much more for us here in Lent than guilt. Guilt makes us feel bad, but Jesus Christ came into this world as God's truth incarnate, even though He *knew* from eternity that the result of His coming would certainly be His death. He did this because He loved us and wanted to save us from our sin. This plan of salvation involves a mind-boggling number of twists and turns throughout Jewish history, as He brought salvation to earth among sinful mankind. God's own Son suffered our punishment so that we would be saved through faith in Him. Through His love, He overcomes our jealousy, hatred, and deceit. In the reading, we heard a reference to the time when the High Priest, Caiaphas, said that it would be better for one man to die for the people. Caiaphas said that out of his own selfish reasons, but God the Father decided to agree with that statement out of love for us, even though we had sinned against Him in every way. That look that Jesus gave to Peter and is meant for us too, but it is not a look of condemnation. It is the look of the Good Shepherd who knows all of us well. He is not surprised by our sins. His look hits us like a thunderbolt that dashes to pieces all of our lies and false-hopes and puts His grace and mercy there instead. He looks at us and we see our Savior.

In the story about the father and son earlier, the son was relieved when his father finally swept away all the lies and made him wake up to the truth. It is the same way with us. Hearing about how God was never fooled by our deceitful scheming is a relief. He knows our sins, and they are not hidden from Him. Those sins are the reason that He has provided for our salvation through His Son. Everyone here who trusts in Christ has been clothed with Christ so that our hope in Him fills this whole sanctuary. He fills our whole lives, even though we remain conscious of the sin in this world, and also of our own sin. He is our hope. We pray that He would work through us to bring the hope that He gives into the lives of others, so that all may know Him, so that all may be one. Thanks be to God. **IJ'N, Amen.**

