

Palm Passion Sunday Cantata

Jesus: Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

Chancel Choir "Father, Forgive"

ALL He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.

Criminal 1: Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!

Criminal 2: Don't you fear God? We are rightly condemned, we are receiving a sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus: I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.

Choir It was about noon, and the darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle.

Chancel Choir "Stay With Me"

Jesus: Father, into your hands, I entrust my life.

Choir: After this, he breathed for the last time. (*Brief moment of silence*)

Choir: When the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God. All the crowds who came together to see the event returned to their homes beating their chests after they saw what happened. Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council. He was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with the plan. He went to Pilate to ask for Jesus's body. Taking the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid the body in a tomb, which was inside of a rock no one had ever been buried in. The women who had come with Jesus went with Joseph to the rock. They saw the tomb and how Jesus's body was laid inside. They then went away and rested on the Sabbath.

Chancel Choir "I Am Here"

Choir: Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings.

Choir: When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even on a Cross. Therefore God highly honored him,

Choir and gave him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus, everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 27

They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped his clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Mark 17

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!". They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage.

Chancel Choir "When Jesus Wept"

Luke 22:14-23:56

Choir: When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him.

Jesus: I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I won't eat it until it is fulfilled in God's Kingdom. (*Taking the cup*) Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until God's Kingdom has come.

Choir: After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them.

Jesus: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Choir: In the same way, he took the cup after the meal.

Jesus: This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you. But look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table. The Human One goes just as it has been determined. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays him.

Choir: The apostles began to argue about which of them it could possibly be who would do this. An argument broke out among the disciples over which one of them should be regarded as the greatest.

Jesus: The king of the Gentiles rule over their subjects, and those in authority over them are called friends of the people. But that's not the way it will be with you. Instead, the greatest among you must become like a person of lower status and the leader like a servant. Thus, you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and you will sit on thrones overseeing the twelve tribes of Israel.

Peter: I am ready to go with you, to prison and to death!

Jesus: I tell you Peter, the rooster won't crow today before you have denied three times that you know me.

Choir: Jesus left and made his ways to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.

Jesus: Would you betray the Human One with a kiss?

ALL: Lord, should we fight with our swords?

Jesus: Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief? Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you did not arrest me. But this is your time, when darkness rules.

Choir: After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. A woman pointed at Peter and said

Woman: This man was with the King of the Jews!

Peter: Woman, I do not know him!

Choir: A little while later, someone else insisted that Peter was with Jesus. Again, Peter denied the claim. The Lord then looked straight at Peter. Peter then remembered the Lord's words—Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times—and Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Chancel Choir: "The Power of the Cross"

Choir: The men who were holding Jesus in custody taunted him while they beat him. They blindfolded him and insulted him with horrible things. As morning came, the elders of the people, both chief priests and legal experts, came together. Jesus was brought forth.

ALL If you are the Christ, tell us!

Jesus: If I tell you, you won't believe. But from now on, the Human ONE will be seated at the right side of the power of God!

ALL Are you God's son?

Jesus: You say that I am.

ALL Why do we need further testimony? We've heard it from his own lips.

Choir: The whole assembly got up and let Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse him.

ALL We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king.

Pilate: Are you God's Son, then?

Jesus: You say that I am.

Pilate: I find no legal basis for action against this man.

ALL He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here.

Choir: Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was from Herod's district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem. Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him. He was hoping for Jesus to perform some sign.

Chancel Choir "O Christ, You Hang Upon a Cross"

Choir: Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus did not respond. The chief priests and legal experts treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod became friends that day. Before this, they were enemies. Then Pilate called together the assembly, the rulers, and the people.

Pilate: You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in his conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death.

ALL Away with this man!

Choir: Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus.

ALL Crucify him! Crucify him!

Song UMH #285 "To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord"

Pilate: Why? What wrong has this man done? There is no legal basis for the death penalty.

Choir: But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. As they led Jesus away, they grabbed a man named Simon and made him put a cross on his back. He would walk behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed behind Jesus, including women who were weeping and wailing.

Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children.

Choir: They also led two other criminals with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called the Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on His right, the other His left.