

Matthew 27 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John 19

1. On the way to the Cross

- Jesus is dressed in His own clothes
- He must carry the cross to the crucifixion site
- Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry Jesus' cross
  - Cyrene = modern day Libya
  - came to the city from the country(side)
  - father of Alexander and Rufus
- Jesus speaks to some women on the way
  - "Weep for yourselves and for your children"
  - a time of terrible judgment is coming
- they arrive at Golgotha
  - "the place of the skull"
  - a place close to Jerusalem
  - quite near a main thoroughfare
- Jesus is offered a sedating drink (wine mixed with gall and myrrh) but He does not take it  
 (Mt 27:31-34; Mk 15:20-23; Lk 23:26-33; Jn 19:17)

2. The first 3 hours on the Cross (Friday 9 am–noon)

- at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour Jesus is nailed to the cross
- He is crucified between 2 criminals, robbers
  - ⇒ "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING"
- the Roman soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes and cast lots to see what each would get
- they sit down and keep watch (guard) over Jesus
- Pilate has a sign put on the cross:
  - the inscription of the charge against Jesus
  - in three languages: Aramaic, Latin and Greek
  - "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews"
  - chief priests want Pilate to change the sign to say: "This man said "I am King of the Jews""
  - Pilate refuses to change the sign
- Jesus on the cross is mocked and insulted:
  - by the passers-by
    - \* "You can destroy the temple? Save Yourself"
    - \* "If You are the Son of God, come down"
  - by the Jewish religious leaders:
    - \* "He saved others – He cannot save Himself"
    - \* "Let Him come down and we'll believe in Him"
    - \* "He trusts in God, let God deliver Him if God takes pleasure in Him" (Mt 27:42-43)
- by the soldiers
- by the two criminals crucified with Him
- all the disciples, except John, seem to be absent
- the women who had come with Him from Galilee were standing at a distance

- one of the robbers believes and receives salvation
  - ⇒ "TRULY I SAY TO YOU, TODAY YOU SHALL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE"
- Jesus entrusts His mother's care to John
  - ⇒ "WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON! BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER"
- Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene standing by the cross  
 (Mt 27:35-44; Mk 15:24-32; Lk 23:33b-43; Jn 19:18-27)

3. The last 3 hours on the cross (Friday noon–3 pm)

- darkness falls over the land
  - ⇒ "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"
- some bystanders thought He was calling for Elijah
  - ⇒ "I AM THIRSTY"
- Jesus is given a sponge of sour wine to drink
  - ⇒ "IT IS FINISHED"
  - ⇒ "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT"
- Jesus gives up His spirit and dies  
 (Mt 27:45-50; Mk 15:33-37; Lk 23:44-46; Jn 19:28-30)

4. Immediately after Jesus' death

- Jesus' side is pierced – blood and water flow out
- there is an earthquake
- tombs break open
- the veil in the temple is torn in two
- the centurion keeping guard over Jesus begins praising God:
  - "Truly, this was the Son of God"
  - "Certainly this man was innocent (righteous)"
- the multitude returns beating their breasts
- Jesus is buried  
 (Mt 27:51-56; Mk 38:41; Lk 23:45-49)