

Darkness

Luke 23:44-46



It was almost noon and the sun stopped shining. Darkness covered the whole earth until about 3:00. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. Jesus said, "Father, I am ready to die. I put my spirit into your hands." Then he breathed for the last time.

Closing Prayer

God, this story makes us sad. As we go to sleep tonight, remind us that you are with us, even in the darkness. Remind us of all the times you have told us about resurrection. Help us to believe it, even as we wait. Amen.



An At-Home Liturgy for the Extinguishing of Lights

The word "tenebrae" means darkness. As we worship together, we will read the story of the night Jesus died, turning off lights as we move through the story.

Make sure you have seven lights on in your house. You can use lamps, overhead lights, candles—anything that can be extinguished as you go.

Read each page before turning off each light. Consider singing *Were You There* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLJ0ljLAmOA>) as you move between lights.

Sorrow

Matthew 26:36-41



Crucifixion

Luke 23:33-34



They nailed Jesus to the cross between two criminals. Then Jesus prayed to God. "Father, forgive them, for they do not understand your dream."

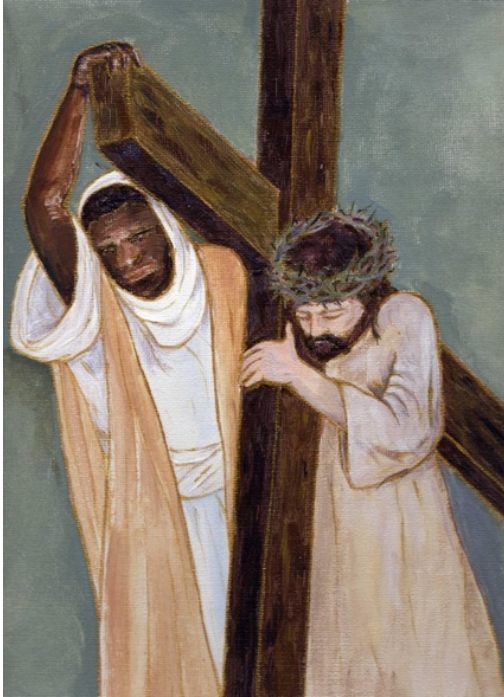
After Jesus' last supper with his disciples, they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, "Sit here and stay awake while I go to pray. I feel very sad."

Jesus went a little distance away and prayed to God for a way out of the terrible things to come. "But I will do what you want me to do," he said.

But the disciples could not stay awake. Three times Jesus asked them to stay awake. Three times they went to sleep instead of waiting for Jesus.

Mocking & Helping

Mark 15:16-21



The soldiers teased Jesus. They beat Jesus. Pretending he was a king they put a crown of thorns on his head and a purple robe around him. When they were done teasing him, they put his own clothes back on him and made him carry a heavy, wooden cross to a hill outside the city.

After the terrible beating, Jesus could hardly walk. He couldn't carry the heavy cross. The soldiers grabbed a man called Simon of Cyrene and made him help.

Betrayal

Mark 14:43-46



While Jesus was praying in the Garden, Judas, one of the disciples, came with a crowd of soldiers and temple police. They came with torches and carried swords and clubs. Judas had given them a sign; they should arrest the man he kissed and take him away.

Judas came right up to Jesus, "Hello, teacher," he said. And he gave Jesus a kiss. They tied Jesus' hands and took him away.

Denial

Matthew 26:69-75



Peter followed the soldiers to the palace and waited in the courtyard. A girl looked at Peter. "Aren't you one of Jesus' friends?" she asked.

"I don't know what you are talking about," said Peter. And he turned his back to the girl.

Then another one of the people looked at Peter. "Hey! You were with Jesus!"

"I don't know him!" Peter shouted.

A short time later those standing there came and said to Peter, "You talk just like Jesus talks. You must be one of his friends."

"I am not," Peter screamed. "I don't know him! I've never heard of him. I'm not his friend!"

Just then, Peter heard the rooster crow. Peter remembered that Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say, 'I don't know him!' three times." Peter began to cry.

Judgment

Mark 15:1-5,15



In the morning they took Jesus to the man who was in charge of the whole country. His name was Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you a king?"

Jesus replied, "That's what you say."

Pilate asked him again, "Are you going to answer?" But Jesus gave no more answers.

Pilate wanted to make the crowds happy so he had Jesus beaten and then handed him over to be crucified.