

Empty Spaces Script

PASSION

A low table with a white tablecloth is laid with bread and wine x6 with a jug at the head of the table.

The table may be used to celebrate holy communion using a liturgy familiar to the church's tradition before the DVD is played and the following script read

NOTE TO READER:
Please read gently and slowly as soon as the relevant image starts emerging

Darkness

1. Pub Courtyard to upper window

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, *I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.*

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, *Surely not I, Lord?*

Jesus replied, *The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.*

2. Crucified Christ with 3 women and a man

The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, *Surely not I, Rabbi?*

Jesus answered, *Yes, it is you.*

3. Broken palette

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, *Take and eat; this is my body.*

4. Rose

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, *Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

5. Pub Courtyard

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus told them, *This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

One set of bread and wine
is covered with a small white cloth

Fades to black

6. Tree in Garden at Railway Embankment (part 1 - moving upwards then still)

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, *Sit here while I go over there and pray.* He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.* Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, *My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*

7. Tree in Garden at Railway Embankment (part 2 - zooming out to whole scene)

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: *The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.*

This all took place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Another set of bread and wine
is covered with a small white cloth

Fades to black

8. Gate with Barbed Wire

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

9. Tall gates with cage wire

Finally two came forward and declared, *This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'* Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, *Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?* But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, *I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.*

Yes, it is as you say, Jesus replied. *But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

10. Cross of nails

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, *He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?*

He is worthy of death, they answered.

Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor.

Another set of bread and wine
is covered with a small white cloth

Fades to black

11. Cage gate with tunnel and steps

You are a king, then! said Pilate.

Jesus answered, *You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.*

What is truth? Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, *I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?*

They shouted back, *No, not him! Give us Barabbas!* Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

12. Crown of thorns on Jesus

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, Hail, king of the Jews! And they struck him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, *Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.* When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, *Here is the man!* As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, *Crucify! Crucify!*

But Pilate answered, *You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.*

Another set of bread and wine
is covered with a small white cloth

Fades to black

13. Concrete with cross

Pilate brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. Here is your king, Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, *Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!*

Shall I crucify your king? Pilate asked.

We have no king but Caesar, the chief priests answered.

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

14. Jesus with cross and hand

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

15. Side road with graffiti

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

16. Up Street

Another set of bread and wine is covered with a small white cloth
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17. Past scaffolding

18. Child's drawing of Jesus shouldering the cross

Jesus turned and said to them, *Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.*

19. Crane as gallows

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals— one on his right, the other on his left.

20. Hand with nail in (child's drawing)

21. Lifting the cross

Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

22. Crane and cross on a building

Another set of bread and wine is covered with a small white cloth
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23. Blob cross

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One. The soldiers also came up and mocked him.

24. Graffiti

They offered him wine vinegar and said, *If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.* There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews.

25. Dangerous Structure

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: *Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!*

But the other criminal rebuked him. *Don't you fear God, he said, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.*

26. Crucifix with two shadows

Then he said, *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

Jesus answered him, *I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*

27. Crane gibbet

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, *I am thirsty*. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

28. Stone cross with Jesus on

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, *It is finished*. With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The jug at the head of the table
is covered with a small white cloth

Fades to black

29. Descent from the cross

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

30. Barrow

He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

31. Derelict building with boarded window

Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

Fades to black for around 5 minutes with music

The whole table is covered carefully and ritually with a
large white sheet to create the impression of
the body of Christ lying in the tomb.

People leave in their own time.