**THE ORDER OF SERVICE OF PASSION - EASTER**

**FOR SCHOOLS**

*If a priest is present, let her or him be the Officiant.*

*If no priest be invited to officiate at the Service, a Christian teacher may perform the role of the Officiant.*

**PROCESSION**

*The Officiating party will process to the hall.*

*If possible, each one in the Officiating party would carry a palm and wave it during the Procession.*

*All may sing a hymn during the Procession. If there is no singing, instrumental music is recommended.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*All remain standing.*

Officiant Hosanna in the highest;

***People Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

**COLLECT**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

***People And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

*Silence*

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***People Amen.***

*All sit for the readings.*

**THE PASSION NARRATIVE**

*The reading shall accord with the liturgical year.*

*For year A, Matthew 27:11-54*

*Narrator*The Passion Narrative according to St. Matthew.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

*Pilate* “Are you the King of the Jews?”

*Narrator*Jesus said,

*Jesus*You have said so.

*Narrator*But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

*Pilate*Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?

*Narrator*But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

*Pilate*Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

*Narrator*For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

*Pilate’s wife*Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.

*Narrator*Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,

*Pilate*Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

*Narrator*And they said,

*Crowds*Barabbas.

*Narrator*Pilate said to them,

*Pilate*Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

*Narrator*They all said,

*Crowds* Let him be crucified!

*Narrator*And he said,

*Pilate*Why, what evil has he done?

*Narrator*But they shouted all the more,

*Crowds* Let him be crucified!

*Narrator*So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

*Pilate*I am innocent of this man’s blood;see to it yourselves.”

*Narrator*And all the people answered,

*Crowds*His blood be on us and on our children!

*Narrator*Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

*Soldiers* Hail, King of the Jews!

*Narrator*And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,

*Passersby* You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

*Narrator*So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

*Priests, Scribes & elders*He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’

*Narrator*And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

*Jesus* Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

*Narrator*that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

*Bystanders* This man is calling Elijah.

*Narrator*And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

*Bystanders* Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

*Narrator*And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

*At this point, all observe a moment of silence.*

*Narrator*And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

*Centurion*Truly this was the Son of God!

*After the reading,*

Narrator This is the Passion of Christ.

*For year B, Mark 15:1-39*

*Narrator*The Passion Narrative according to St. Luke.

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him,

*Pilate*Are you the King of the Jews?

*Narrator*And he answered him,

*Jesus* You have said so.

*Narrator*And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him,

*Pilate* Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.

*Narrator*But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying,

*Pilate* Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

*Narrator*For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them,

*Pilate*Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews? And they cried out again,

*Crowds* Crucify him.

*Narrator*And Pilate said to them,

*Pilate* Why, what evil has he done?

*Narrator*But they shouted all the more,

*Crowds* Crucify him.

*Narrator*So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him,

*Soldiers* Hail, King of the Jews!

*Narrator*And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, The King of the Jews. And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,

*Passersby* Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

*Narrator*So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying,

*Priests & Scribes* He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.

*Narrator*Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*Jesus* Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

*Narrator*which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And some of the bystanders hearing it said,

*Bystanders* Behold, he is calling Elijah.

*Narrator*And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying,

*Bystanders*Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

*Narrator*And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

*At this point, all observe a moment of silence.*

*Narrator*And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

*Centurion* Truly this man was the Son of God!

*After the reading,*

Narrator This is the Passion of Christ.

*For year C, Luke 23:1-49*

*Narrator*The Passion Narrative according to St. Luke.

Then the whole company of the Jewish Council arose and brought Jesus before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

*Council* We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.

*Narrator* And Pilate asked him,

*Pilate* Are you the King of the Jews?

*Narrator* And he answered him,

*Jesus* You have said so.

*Narrator* Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

*Pilate* I find no guilt in this man.

*Narrator* But they were urgent, saying,

*Crowds* He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.

*Narrator* When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,and said to them,

*Pilate* You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.

*Narrator* But they all cried out together,

*Crowds* Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas—

*Narrator* a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting,

*Crowds* Crucify, crucify him!

*Narrator* A third time he said to them,

*Pilate* Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.

*Narrator* But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said,

*Jesus* Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’, and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

*Narrator* Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said,

*Jesus* Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

*Narrator* And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

*Rulers* He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!

*Narrator* The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying,

*Soldiers* If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

*Narrator* There was also an inscription over him, This is the King of the Jews.

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying,

*Criminal 1* Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

*Narrator* But the other rebuked him, saying,

*Criminal 2* Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.

*Narrator* And he said,

*Criminal 2* Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*Narrator* And Jesus said to him,

*Jesus* Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

*Narrator* It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,

*Jesus* Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!

*At this point, all observe a moment of silence.*

*Narrator* And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying,

*Centurion* Certainly this man was innocent!

*Narrator* And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

*After the reading,*

Narrator This is the Passion of Christ.

**HYMN**

*A hymn relating to the Passion of Christ may be sung.*

*If there is no singing, a moment of silence may be observed instead.*

**THE GOSPEL**

*All stand.*

*Before the Gospel reading, a candle placed beside the pulpit symbolizing the resurrection of Christ shall be lit.*

*A paschal candle is preferable, if it is not available, use a white candle instead.*

*The Gospel to be read shall accord with the liturgical year.*

*For Year A, Matthew 28:1-10*

Now after the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

*After the reading,*

Lector Christ is risen. Alleluia.

***People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

*For Year B, Mark 16:1-8*

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him. just as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*After the reading,*

Lector Christ is risen. Alleluia.

***People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

*For Year A, Luke 24:1-12*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marvelling at what had happened.

*After the reading,*

Lector Christ is risen. Alleluia.

***People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

**HOMILY**

*After the homily, a song of praise proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ may be sung.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*All stand.*

Officiant As Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**All *Our father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, in earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

**INTERCESSIONS**

*It is advisable that a student or a teacher be invited to be leader of the Intercessions.*

*One of the following forms of intercessions may be used.*

***Form 1***

Leader O God, the Creator all things,

***People Have mercy upon us.***

Leader O God, the Redeemer of the world,

***People Have mercy upon us.***

Leader O God, the Spirit of truth and comfort,

***People Have mercy upon us.***

Leader For the beauty and wonder of God’s creation,

***People For your gifts so freely bestowed upon us, Lord, we give you thanks.***

Leader For the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,

***People For his love and redemption, Lord, we give you thanks.***

Leader Grant unto our school and all its members day by day your guidance, help and protection.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

***People Hear our prayer.***

Leader Grant that the love of God, and of His Son, Christ our Lord, may be strengthened in our hearts.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

***People Hear our prayer.***

Leader By the prayers of Jesus, Lord,

***People Teach us how to pray.***

Leader By the gifts of Jesus, Lord,

***People Teach us how to give.***

Leader By the toils of Jesus, Lord,

***People Teach us how to work.***

Leader By the love of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to love.

***People By the cross of Jesus, Lord, teach us how to live.***

Officiant Almighty and ever-living God, who of your tender love towards humankind, sent you Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of His great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His patience, and become partakers of His resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

***People Amen.***

***Form 2***

Leader Blessed are you, eternal God,

***People to be praised and glorified for ever.***

Leader Hear us as we pray for your creation:

***People make us all one, that the world may believe.***

Leader Grant that every member of our school may truly and humble serve you:

***People that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.***

Leader Strengthen all who teach and learn in Christ’s name:

***People give them courage to live up to the faith they profess.***

Leader Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world:

***People guide them in the ways of justice and peace.***

Leader Make us alive to the needs of our community:

***People help us to share each other’s joys and burdens.***

Leader Look with kindness on our homes and families:

***People grant that your love may grow in our hearts.***

Leader Deepen our compassion for all who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble:

***People in your presence may they find their strength.***

Leader Make us instruments of your peace:

***People in your love may your glory be over all the earth.***

Officiant Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***People Amen***.

**BLESSING**

*All remain standing.*

*This is to be said by a priest.*

Officiant Eternal God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

***People Amen.***

*If there is no priest present, the officiant may say the following prayer to conclude the service.*

Officiant May our spirit of rejoicing this day be taken up and sung throughout the world, bringing love and peace and Easter joy to all people.

***People Amen.***

**DISMISSAL**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

**RECESSION**

*The officiating party will recede from the hall accompanied by instrumental music.*