

John 18:1 - 19:42 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ² And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³ Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" ⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. ⁶ Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," ⁹ that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" ¹² Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³ And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. ¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. ¹⁶ But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself. ¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing." ²¹ "Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." ²² And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" ²⁷ Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. ²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. ²⁹ Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" ³⁰ They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." ³¹ Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," ³² that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. ³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. ³⁹ " But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. ^{NKJ} **John 19:1** So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." ⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." ⁸ Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, ⁹ and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" ¹¹ Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." ¹³ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" ¹⁶ Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. ¹⁷ And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, ¹⁸ where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. ¹⁹ Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. ²¹ Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'" " ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." ²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. ²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things. ²⁵ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus

had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. ³¹ Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced." ³⁸ After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.

In 1820 after his Father had died, King George IV took the throne of England. His coronation as King was quite the sight. King George appeared in his coronation robe which besides being made of the finest materials and being embroidered in gold had a train behind it that was 27 feet long. On his head he wore a hat filled with ostrich feathers and a heron's plume. He could not have appeared more elegant. His coronation crown was filled with over 12,000 diamonds. On his left hand, he wore the blue diamond now known as the Hope diamond. On his right hand was a ring made of sapphires and rubies. Anyone who could threaten to ruin the day of his coronation, including the King's estranged wife, were kept outside by armed guards. He walked into the coronation hall on the finest of blue fabric that had been laid over the wood floors. As he walked, herbs and flowers were thrown all around. It took eight men just to carry the train of his robe. When he arrived and after he took his oath, expensive oil was poured out of an eagle-shaped vessel onto his head to mark him as King. The King addressed his loyal audience. Thousands of onlookers cheered the whole event as they waved their hats and handkerchiefs. One historian noted that it was the most grand and magnificence scene that could even be imagined. There was no doubt that the new King had arrived and been given the most proper coronation.

Some eighteen hundred years early King Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the cheers and adorations of His followers. But that is where the glory seemed to end. His coronation went like this. One of His closest friends betrayed Him with a kiss. Those who wished to cause harm to Him were not removed by anyone, but left to have their way with Him. As the King Jesus was brought before the religious leaders of the day, He wore no special robe. He was mocked and was struck in the face when He opened His mouth to proclaim who He was. His closest friends were not by his side. Rather at His coronation the King's closest friends all denied even knowing Him. The King Jesus was brought before the secular authority who released Him back to the Jews for crucifixion. The crown placed on His head bore no jewels but only thorns. The only cheers were those of soldiers who mocked the very idea of Him being King.

A purple robe was placed on Him in jest only later to be removed and torn in four pieces. He was led away to the place of His coronation, a hill called Golgotha, the place of the skulls. He carried not a fancy train embroidered with gold to His coronation but rather a cross only decorated with His own blood. When He arrived, He was seated not high upon a throne, but lifted high upon the cross He had carried. To His right and left were not the royal guards, but rather two criminals. On His right and left hand He bore no ring save the mark made as two nails were pressed through His hands. No large banners proclaiming Him King were waved that day. Only a sign above His head on the cross gave to Him His proper title of King. But with ever proper coronation, the King Jesus did address His audience. His address was but one word in His language and three in ours. "It is finished," He proclaimed. And with this the King Jesus died. As one soldier at the foot of the cross could have told you, "It was the most grand and magnificent scene you could have ever imagined." And even though the day bore none of the marks of a typical coronation, there was no doubt that a new King had arrived.

Tonight, we gather to ponder anew our King Jesus' coronation upon that cross at Golgotha. As with any death, we should take some time to mourn. In fact we have much more to mourn than the simple fact that our King received such an awful coronation. For while we can be angry with the Jewish leaders who campaigned for his death, be disappointed that Pilate did not stand for the truth, but gave into the chants of crucify, and be disturbed by the cruel way in which those Roman soldiers crucified Him, we know that our own hands are not innocent of His blood either. In our Lord's death, we see the results of our sins. We see Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted not because of His own sins, but for our sins. As our Old Testament lesson reminds, "Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ* has caused many people to ask the question, "Who killed Jesus?" We tonight confess our guilt. We admit that be it not for the sin of all humanity, Jesus would never have had to endure such grief as this. Be it not for your sin and mine, Jesus would have simply been allowed to remain in the glory of heaven. Tonight, we confess indeed that His blood is upon our hands. Our guilt was the reason for His death.

But yet in the midst of our godly sorrow, our King Jesus addresses us His audience tonight. He speaks to us those three same words he uttered on the cross, "It is finished." He proclaims that your sin, and my sin though it was

the very cause of His suffering is through that suffering gone forever. The word which Jesus cried out from cross that we translate “it is finished” was the word that would in Jesus’ day be marked upon all debts that were paid. It was the equivalent to our rubber stamping a bill “paid in full.” Indeed, this is what makes Good Friday so good. It was on that cross that Jesus became the source of salvation for all who believe and obey Him. It was there that the Lamb of God took away all of the sins of the world. It was there that the bill of God’s wrath against sin was marked paid in full.

Good Friday is indeed a day of mixed emotions. We mourn that our Savior has died and that because of our sin. We mourn that the true King of Kings received such an improper coronation at His first coming. But we rejoice because we know that in His death we are reconciled to the Father. And we rejoice that while His coronation was not proper it was His coronation. He is our King indeed. For, He has saved us. It is appropriate that we leave in silence tonight in recognition of both our King’s death and our salvation. All Glory Laud and Honor to our King Jesus. Amen.