**The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Introduction:** Good afternoon and welcome to the presentation of our Lord's Passion.

Listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. *(Glory to you, Oh Lord)*

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it.
Then he gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take this and eat it. This is my body.”

Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to his disciples and said, “Take this and drink it. This is my blood, and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins forgiven. From now on I am not going to drink any wine until I drink new wine with you in my Father's kingdom." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

The gospel of the Lord. *(Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ)*

**Scene 1**

*(Jesus, Peter, James, John, 9 other apostles, 3 or 4 Jewish soldiers, Judas).*

 **Reader:** After the Last Supper, Jesus and the apostles entered the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Jesus:** Sit here while I go off to pray. Peter, James, John, you come too. Stay awake and pray with me.

*(Leaves 8* ***apostles****, goes off a short distance with* ***Peter, James*** *and* ***John****, moves from them and kneels to pray).*

Father, if it is possible, take this suffering away from me. Not my will but yours be done.
*(Returns to* ***apostles****, who are asleep)*

Peter, could you not watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not be tested.

*(Goes a short distance and kneels)*

Father, if this suffering cannot pass, your will be done.
*(Returns to* ***apostles****, who are asleep)*

 Get up. Let us go. The person who is going to betray me is near.

**Reader:** Several Jewish guards with Judas approach Jesus. Peter steps forward as Judas walks up to Jesus and kisses him on the cheek.

**Judas:** Hail, Master.

**Jesus:** Friend, do you betray me with a kiss?

**Reader:** The guards take hold of Jesus, putting him in chains. Peter tries to defend Jesus as John and James run away.

**Peter:** '*(waving a sword*) Leave it to me, Master. I will save you.

**Jesus:** Peter, put your sword away. My Father could send armies of angels to defend me. *(to* ***soldiers****)* You have come with swords and clubs to arrest me as if I were a robber. Yet, when I was teaching, you never laid a hand on me. But this is your hour of darkness.

*(The* ***soldiers*** *drag* ***Jesus*** *away)*

**Scene 2**

(*Jesus, Caiaphas, Peter, First Accuser, Second Accuser, Third Accuser, First Woman, Second Woman, Third Woman, 2 Soldiers, All).*

**Reader:** Jesus was brought before the high priest, Caiaphas, and accused by false witnesses, At the same time, in the courtyard, Peter joined people warming themselves at the fire.

**First Accuser:** I heard him say that we must not pay taxes to Caesar!

**Second Accuser:** He has broken the laws of our religion and even works on the Sabbath. He claims he is God's Son. ;

**Caiaphas** *(to* ***Jesus)*:** Have you anything to say? *(Jesus is silent)*

**First Woman** *(in a loud whisper to* ***Peter****):* You were with the man Jesus.

 **Peter:** I was not.

 **Third Accuser:** This man Jesus threw people out of the Temple. He said he could destroy it and in three days rebuild it.

 **Second Woman** *(to* ***Peter****)***:** You are one of his followers. You talk like him.

**Peter:** I don't know anything about him.

 **Caiaphas:** Answer. Are you God's Son?

**Third Woman** *(to* ***Peter****)***:** I'm sure you are one of his followers. I've seen you with him.

 **Peter:** I tell you, I don't know the man!

 **Jesus:** You ask me whether I am the Son of God. It is as you say.

 **Caiaphas:** You hear him. He calls himself God. What is the verdict?

 **All:** He must be put to death!

 **Reader:** As Jesus was led out, he looked at Peter with love and forgiveness. Peter went out and cried.

**Scene 3**

(*Jesus, Pilate, Caiaphas, 2 or 3 Priests, 3 or 4 Soldiers, 2 Servants, All).*

**Reader:** Jesus was put on trial before Pontius Pilate. Caiaphas, other priests, and soldiers were present.

**Pilate:** What charge do you bring against this man?

**Caiaphas:** He is a criminal, or we would not have brought him to you.

**Pilate:** Take him and judge him according to your own laws.

**Caiaphas:** We don't have the power to put anyone to death.

**Pilate:** Does he deserve death?

**Caiaphas:** He has roused the people by saying he is king.

**Pilate** (*to* ***Jesus***): Are you king of the Jews?

**Jesus:** My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would be fighting for me.

**Pilate:** Are you a king then?

**Jesus:** It is as you say. I am a king. I came into the world to proclaim the truth.

**Pilate:** I find nothing wrong with this man. I will just have him scourged.
(*soldiers lead Jesus away*)

**Caiaphas:** If you let him go, you are not a friend of Caesar.

**Pilate:** You have a tradition of receiving back a prisoner at the Passover feast. Bring out the prisoners!

*(soldiers bring out Jesus (with crown of thorns and scarlet cloak) and Barabbas).*

**Pilate:** Shall I release Jesus? Or Barabbas?

**All:** Barabbas, not this one!

**Pilate:** But Barabbas is a murderer.

**All:** We want Barabbas! We want Barabbas!

**Pilate:** What shall I do with Jesus?

**All:** Crucify him!

**Pilate:** Look at the man!

**All:** Crucify him! Crucify him! (crowd members raise fist on second chant)

**Pilate:** Shall I crucify your king?

**All:** We have no king but Caesar. (*Two* ***servants*** *enter with basin and water)*

**Pilate** (*washing hands)***:** I wash my hands of the blood of this innocent man.

**Scene 4**

*(Jesus, 2 Soldiers, Mary, Simon, Veronica, women and children, laughing crowd of people, John)*

**Reader:** Jesus was led out of Pilate’s house. A large cross was placed upon His shoulder. People mocked and laughed at Him.

*(A crowd behind Jesus points and laughs as he slowly carries the cross)*

**Soldier** (*to Jesus who is struggling*)**:** Move it your Highness! We haven't got all day!

**Reader:** Jesus continued his difficult walk to Calvary, carrying the heavy cross. Along the way he saw His mother Mary.

**Mary** (*crying and sobbing at Jesus' feet*)**:** My son! *(soldiers push Jesus away from her)*

**Reader:** As they walked, Jesus continued to struggle with the cross and fell again. A Roman soldier forces a man named Simon to help him, making him carry the cross.

**Soldier:** You! (*pointing at Simon ... Simon looks away)* Yes, you. Come here! Help him!

**Simon:** I don't know this man. This is none of my business. *(the soldier grabs him and forces him to the cross ... Simon carries the cross with Jesus)*

**Reader:** All during his life, Jesus showed how He loved other people. While on his way to be crucified, a young woman named Veronica imitated His example and came out of the crowd to wipe his face to make him feel better.

**Veronica:** Permit me, My Lord.

**Reader:** She wipes his face with her veil and opens it up to reveal Jesus’ face on it.

**Reader:** Jesus soon came upon some women and children who turned away and cried. Jesus did not want them to feel sorry for Him, so He told them to pray for themselves and their children who would have to suffer.

**Reader:** Once Jesus reached the hill, the soldiers pulled off his garments ... then they nailed him to the cross.

*(soldiers remove garments and nail Jesus to the cross)*

**Reader:** Then upon the cross were placed words which read, “Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.”

*(Mary and John mournfully kneel on either side of Jesus).*

**Jesus:** Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing. (*He looks at Mary)*  Mother, behold your son. (*He looks at John*) Behold your mother.

*(pause)*

**Jesus:** It is finished.

**Reader:** Jesus had done everything His Father wanted Him to do for the world. He bowed his head and died.

*(Jesus bows his head)*

*(Curtains close)*

**Reader:** Please bow your heads and think about what Jesus did for all of us when He died on the cross.

Several reflections will then be read. “Jesus, thank you for.................. Jesus, remember me when I come into your Kingdom.”

End with the Apostle’s Creed.

**Passion Play Roles:**

**Speaking parts:**

**Jesus\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Caiaphas:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pilate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mary\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Soldier\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Judas\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Simon:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First Accuser\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Second Accuser\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Third Accuser\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First Woman (huddled by the fire)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Second Woman (fire)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Third Woman (fire)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Veronica\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reader (narrator):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Introduction Reader\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Non-Speaking Roles:**

**James\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**John\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The other 9 Apostles\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Barabbas\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3 or 4 Jewish Soldiers (more, if nec).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2 Servants\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2 background priests\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Women and Children (scene 4, usually 2 grade 5 girls and 2 kindergarteners)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Laughing Crowd (scene 4, as many leftover students as possible can be part of this crowd. Be mindful of space on the stage, usually 10-15 students)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reflection Readers (“Thank you, Jesus….”). Usually 5-6 students: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Apostle’s Creed Reader:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**