

THE DEATH OF JESUS

(based on Mark 15:21-41)

People passing by insulted Jesus. They shook their heads and said, “Come down from the cross and save yourself.”

The chief priests and the teachers of the law jeered at Jesus, saying to each other, “He saved others but he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now and we will believe in him.”

The two who were crucified with him insulted him too. At midday the whole country became dark. This lasted three hours.

At three o’clock, Jesus cried out, “**Eloi, Eloi Lama Sabactani**,” which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’

Some of the people there heard him and said, “Listen, he is calling for **Elijah**.”

Someone soaked a sponge in cheap wine and put it on the end of a stick. He held it to his lips saying, “Let’s see if Elijah will come and take him down from the cross.”

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and died.

When the **centurion**, who was standing opposite saw how he died he said, “This man really was the Son of God.”

Some women were there watching from a distance. They were Mary of Magdala, Mary the Mother of the younger James and of Joseph, and Salome. They had followed Jesus and had helped him when he was in Galilee. Many other women were there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

