

# THE GOOD FRIDAY NARRATIVE

According to the Gospel of John:

After Jesus and his disciples shared his last supper, they went to a garden.

While they were in the garden, Judas betrayed Jesus and the Lord was taken prisoner. The guards first took Jesus to the house of the High Priest.

Peter and another disciple followed them. While the two disciples waited in the courtyard of the High Priest's house, Peter was repeatedly accused of being a disciple of Jesus. Peter denied the accusation and after the third denial a rooster crowed – in fulfillment of what Jesus had said to him.

When the Jewish authorities finished questioning Jesus, they sent him to the Roman Governor, Pontus Pilate, for judgment. The Jewish authorities told Pilate they wanted him to judge and sentence Jesus because the Jewish authorities were not allowed to execute anyone.

Pilate repeatedly questioned Jesus and did not find any fault in him, so the Governor sought to set Jesus free by offering to the crowd that Jesus be

released in accordance with the tradition of liberating a prisoner prior to the Passover Festival. The Jewish authorities led the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the crucifying of Jesus. The Jewish authorities also threatened the Governor by saying he was no friend of the Emperor, if he set Jesus free, since Jesus supposedly claimed he was King of the Jews.

Pilate handed Jesus over to be executed and he was crucified at Golgatha, the place of the Skull. As Jesus was hanging on the cross, he turned the responsibility for the welfare of his mother over to a beloved disciple. Just before Jesus died, he said, *“It is finished!”* At 3 p.m. – the time when the Passover Lambs were slaughtered, he gave up his Spirit. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were allowed to bury Jesus’ body in a new tomb nearby. Amen.