

Gospel

John 19:17–18. 25–30

*Bowing his head he gave up his spirit*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Carrying his own cross,  
Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull  
or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha,  
where they crucified him with two others,  
one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.  
Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her,  
Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.'  
Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed,  
and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty.'

A jar full of vinegar stood there,  
so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick  
they held it up to his mouth.  
After Jesus had taken the vinegar  
he said, 'It is accomplished';  
and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

It was Preparation Day,  
and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during sabbath  
—since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity—  
the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken  
and the bodies taken away.

Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs  
of the first man who had been crucified with him  
and then of the other.

When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead,  
and so instead of breaking his legs  
one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance;  
and immediately there came out blood and water.  
This is the evidence of one who saw it  
— trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth —  
and he gives it so that you may believe as well.  
Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture:  
    Not one bone of his will be broken;  
and again, in another place scripture says:  
    They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus  
— though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews —  
asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus.  
Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away.  
Nicodemus came as well  
— the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time —  
and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes  
weighing about a hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.