

Reading 1: Jesus the King

Jesus and his disciples were on the way to Jerusalem. As they got close, Jesus said to his friends, 'Let's have a parade!' said Jesus to his friends. I want two of you to borrow a donkey, tell the owner I need it. He'll understand.

Soon there were excited people everywhere, They all flocked out of their houses, and waved to Jesus. They didn't have flags, so they found great big leaves off palm trees and waved those instead. Some of them even Some took off their coats and laid them in front of the donkey. They shouted and cheered. They shouted things like - Hooray for the king! Praise to God!

There were hundreds, maybe thousands of people, clapping and dancing and shouting their way through the city gates. It seemed that everyone was happy to see Jesus!

Reading 2

So they decided that they had to get rid of Jesus. In the middle of the night, when the people were asleep, and only the disciples were with him, they sent some soldiers to arrest him. It was very frightening. The soldiers had clubs and sticks.

And right in front was Judas, who had been one of Jesus' friends 'This is the man you want!' said Judas. 'Arrest him!' Jesus looked very sad.

Jesus' friends were scared. Most of them ran away. But not Peter. He pulled out a sword and started swinging it about.

'Put your sword away,' said Jesus. 'This is not the time for fighting. I have to go with them. God wants me to.'

The leaders put him on trial and made up terrible lies about Jesus. By the time the people found out, it was too late. Jesus had been taken away. The soldiers put Jesus on a cross and stood it up in the ground. It hurt Jesus very much to be on the cross. But Jesus asked God to forgive the people. And then, he died.

His disciples took his body, wrapped it up carefully and put it inside a tomb. In those days, they used caves. When they had finished, they rolled a big stone in front of the cave, to make it safe. Then they went home.

Reading 3

For three days, the disciples hid away. They were very sad and very frightened. Jesus, their leader had been killed and his body placed in a rock tomb, which was like a cave, and a big stone had been rolled across the entrance. They

wondered if they would be arrested for being his followers. They shut themselves in the room where they had eaten their last meal with Jesus.

Very early on the Sunday morning, some of the women bravely set out to visit Jesus' grave, and decided to visit the tomb. Just as we might put flowers on a grave, they went with special spices, to make the tomb smell sweeter. They were wondering how they could move the great big stone. They would need help, because it would be too heavy for them to move on their own.

But when they got there, they were staggered. They found that the stone had already been moved! How had that happened? They looked inside, expecting it to be dark and a bit spooky. But instead, the tomb was bright with light. Jesus body was nowhere to be seen, just the sheets he had been wrapped in. And then they saw that the light was coming from two angels. Don't you remember, they said, Jesus said he would come back to life! He has risen, just as he said he would. Go back and tell everyone else about it!

Sure enough, within a few hours, Jesus appeared to the women and the disciples, proving that he had indeed come back to life. So what was bad Friday became Good Friday, because of Easter Sunday. Jesus shows us the way to God, and on Easter Sunday morning, Christians all over the world can say 'Hooray, Jesus is our King! Praise God! Actually, we say Alleluia, Christ is risen!