

## **Introductions to Scripture Lesson for Sunday, April 5, 2020**

### **Introduction to the Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 27:11-26**

In our gospel reading for Palm Sunday, we read about Jesus' court appearance before Pilate. Listen to a reading from the gospel of Matthew, chapter 27, verses 11-26:

### **Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 27:11-26 Pilate Questions Jesus**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### **Barabbas or Jesus?**

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"<sup>[d]</sup> All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified**

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood;<sup>[e]</sup> see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.