

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. Jesus Christ suffered the torments of the Passion and death, the death of the Cross, for the salvation of the world, in atonement for our sins.

Faith teaches us that by the sin of Adam the entire human race lost the love and favour of God, and that all men are sinners. Now God, who might have punished us as He did the rebellious angels, willed to show us mercy and to pardon our sins. This pardon it was within His power to grant either gratuitously or by exacting as a condition a full satisfaction. It was this second manner He chose: He willed that sin should be expiated. To effect this a victim of infinite dignity was necessary; it was necessary that a Man-God should be immolated for the human race. This is the reason of the sufferings and of the death of Jesus Christ.

Our Lord suffered under Pontius Pilate; that is to say; while that Roman magistrate governed Judea as the viceroy of the Emperor Tiberius Caesar. He died on Good-Friday, the twenty-fifth day of March, in the thirty-third year, of our era.

The night before that is to say, on Holy Thursday, He went with His disciples to the Supper-room, and instituted the sacrifice of the Mass, as a memorial of the bloody sacrifice which He was to offer the following day on the Cross.

From the Supper-room He went to the Garden of Olives, where He endured the anguish of the agony and suffered a bloody sweat. It was here He was betrayed by Judas and delivered into the hands of his enemies, who led Him bound to the tribunal of Caiaphas. Before Caiaphas he was falsely accused, condemned to death by the High Council of the nation, then spat upon, mocked, maltreated in every way.

From Caiaphas He was led to Pilate, who immediately sent Him to Herod, the king of Galilee, residing for the time being at Jerusalem. Herod treated the Divine Prisoner as a fool, and, having put on Him a white garment as a mark of derision, sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate was convinced of His innocence, but did not liberate Him. Owing to the guilty weakness of this magistrate, Jesus was placed on a level with Barabbas, scourged, crowned with thorns, and finally condemned to the death of the Cross.

He Himself bore His cross to Calvary, where He was crucified and died for our salvation between two malefactors. It was three o'clock in the afternoon. About five o'clock His body was taken down from the cross, embalmed, and laid in a new sepulchre, that was hewed in stone. Thus it was that the Son of God suffered and died for us. How great is our debt of gratitude, Christians!