Assemble in front of the altar during the last verse of the appointed hymn. On cue from the celebrant, turn and face the congregation. After the Celebrant directs the people to be seated, the narrator begins reading with no introduction.

Narrator       Jesus went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them,

Jesus          Whom do you seek?
Narrator       They answered him,
Reader         Jesus of Nazareth.
Narrator       Jesus said to them,

Jesus          I am he.
Narrator       Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus          Whom do you seek?
Narrator       And they said,
Reader         Jesus of Nazareth.
Narrator       Jesus answered,

Jesus          I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go.
Narrator       This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, “Of those whom you gave me I lost not one.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus          Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?
Narrator       So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that
one man should die for the people. Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter,

Reader Are not you also one of this man's disciples?

Narrator He said, I am not.

Narrator Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

Jesus I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.

Narrator When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

Reader Is that how you answer the high priest?

Narrator Jesus answered him,

Jesus If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

Narrator Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him,

Reader Are not you also one of his disciples?

Narrator He denied it and said,

Reader I am not.

Narrator One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Reader Did I not see you in the garden with him?

Narrator Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed. Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They
themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

Reader What accusation do you bring against this man?
Narrator They answered him,

Crowd If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over.

Narrator Pilate said to them,

Reader Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

Narrator The Jews said to him,

Crowd It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.

Narrator This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him,

Reader Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator Jesus answered,

Jews Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?

Narrator Pilate answered,

Reader Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?

Narrator Jesus answered,

Jews My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world.

Narrator Pilate said to him,

Reader So you are a king?

Narrator Jesus answered,

Jews You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.

Narrator Pilate said to him,

Reader What is truth?
After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them,
I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release
one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the
King of the Jews?"
They cried out again,
Not this man, but Barabbas!
Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged
him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head,
and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying,
Hail, King of the Jews!
and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to
them,
See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no
crime in him.
So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
Pilate said to them,
Behold the man!
When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,
Crucify him, crucify him!
Pilate said to them,
Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.
The Jews answered him,
We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has
made himself the Son of God.
When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the
praetorium again and said to Jesus,
Where are you from?
But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,
You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to
release you, and power to crucify you?
Jesus answered him,
Jesus        You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.

Narrator   Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

Crowd      If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.

Narrator   When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

Reader     Behold your King!

Narrator   They cried out,

Crowd      Away with him, away with him, crucify him!

Narrator   Pilate said to them,

Reader     Shall I crucify your King?

Narrator   The chief priests answered,

Reader     We have no king but Caesar.

Narrator   Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

*All stand.*

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate,

Reader     Do not write, “The King of the Jews,” but, “This man said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’”

Narrator   Pilate answered,

Reader     What I have written I have written.

Narrator   When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another,
Reader  Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.

Narrator  This was to fulfill the scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother,

Jesus  Woman, behold, your son!

Narrator  Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus  Behold, your mother!

Narrator  And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture),

Jesus  I thirst.

Narrator  A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said,

Jesus  It is finished.

Narrator  …and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

All kneel is silent prayer, rising when the Celebrant does.

Narrator  Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of him shall be broken.” And again another scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.” After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred
pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.