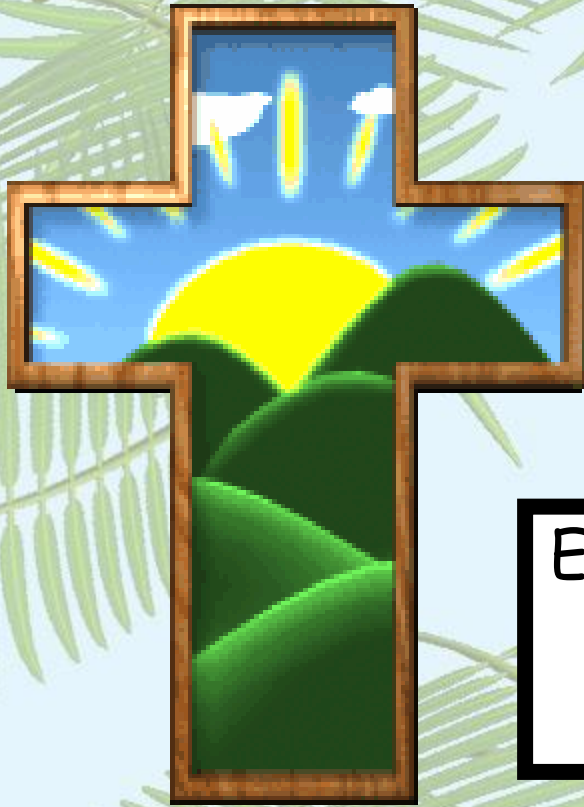




The Easter Story



Easter celebrates new life. It is a happy time and churches hold special celebration services.

Let's look at 'The Easter Story.'



Jesus and two of his friends were travelling to Jerusalem for a celebration called Passover.

Jesus sent his friends to fetch a donkey. Then Jesus and his friends entered Jerusalem. Jesus rode on the donkey.



Many people were there. They took palm branches and waved them at Jesus. Some took off their coats and laid them on the road. They were pleased to see Jesus.



The following day Jesus went to the temple. When He got there, he got very upset because some people were using the temple as a market place.

Jesus told them that the temple was a place of prayer and he threw them out of the temple.



The next few days Jesus continued to teach both his friends and the crowds who came to listen. He continued to speak against the wrong people did.

Many of the religious leaders didn't like what Jesus said since they thought he was talking about them. They decided to find a way to kill Jesus.



While Jesus was talking to the people one of his disciples told the other religious leaders that he would help them capture Jesus. The disciple's name was Judas Iscariot.

The religious leaders gave Judas thirty pieces of silver to make sure he helped them.



The Last Supper

Jesus knew he was going to die so on Thursday evening he shared a special meal with his friends.

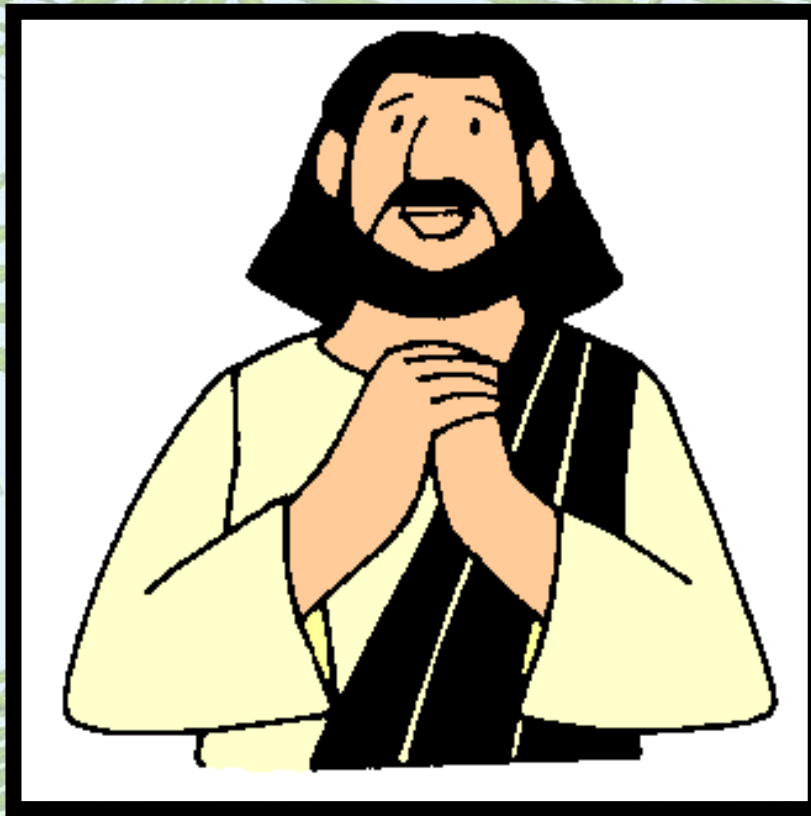
Jesus took bread and blessed it. He gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this, and eat it. This is My body."

He told the disciples that he knew one of them would betray him.



After they had eaten the bread Jesus took a cup and said a prayer. He filled the cup with wine.

He gave it to them and said, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood, the blood of the promise. It is poured out for many people so that sins are forgiven'



When Jesus and his disciples had finished their meal they all walked to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

Jesus prayed three times. Each time when he went back to see his friends they had fallen asleep! He came back the third time and told them to wake up.

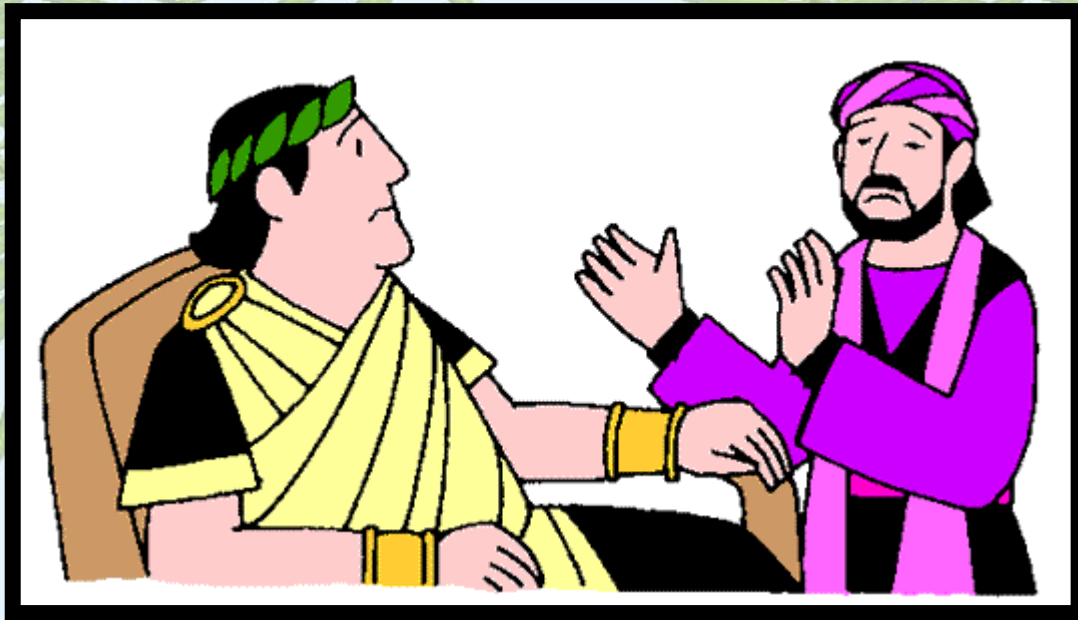


Just then Judas, one of Jesus' followers, came with a large crowd. He came and kissed Jesus on the cheek.

This was a sign to tell the guards who they were to arrest. They came and arrested Jesus. All Jesus' followers ran away.

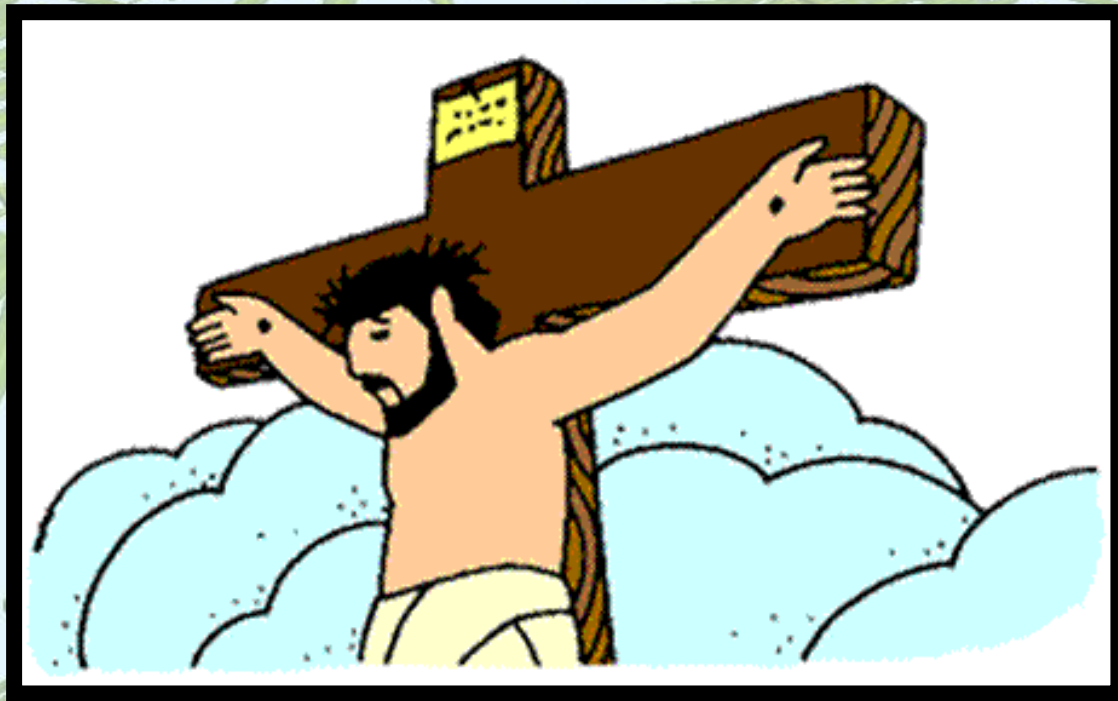


The crowd took Jesus to a trial held by the Jewish religious leaders. Many people told lies about Jesus.

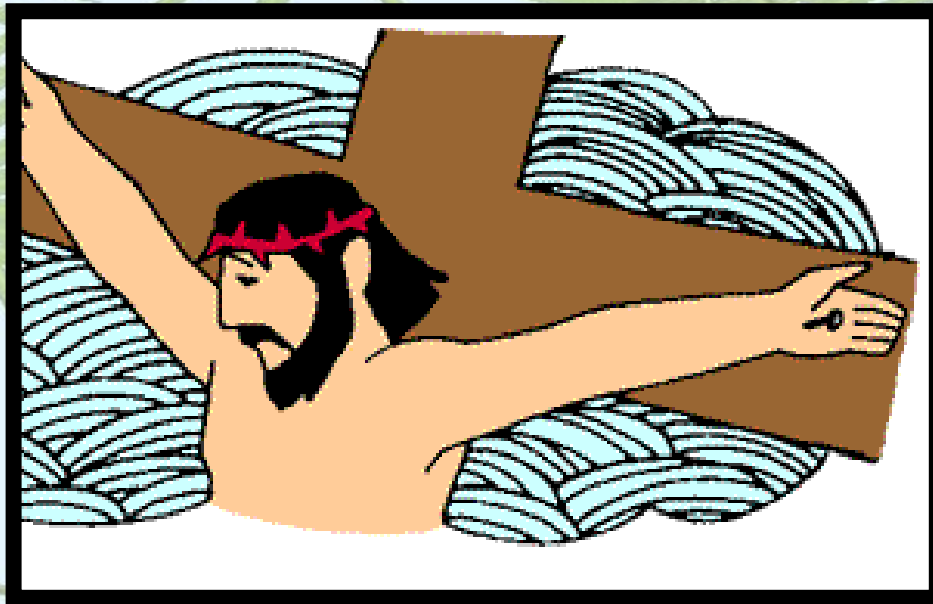


The next day they took Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. They told Pilate that Jesus should die. Pilate finally agreed to allow it. After the soldiers made fun of Jesus, they led Him to Golgotha. That's where they crucified Him.

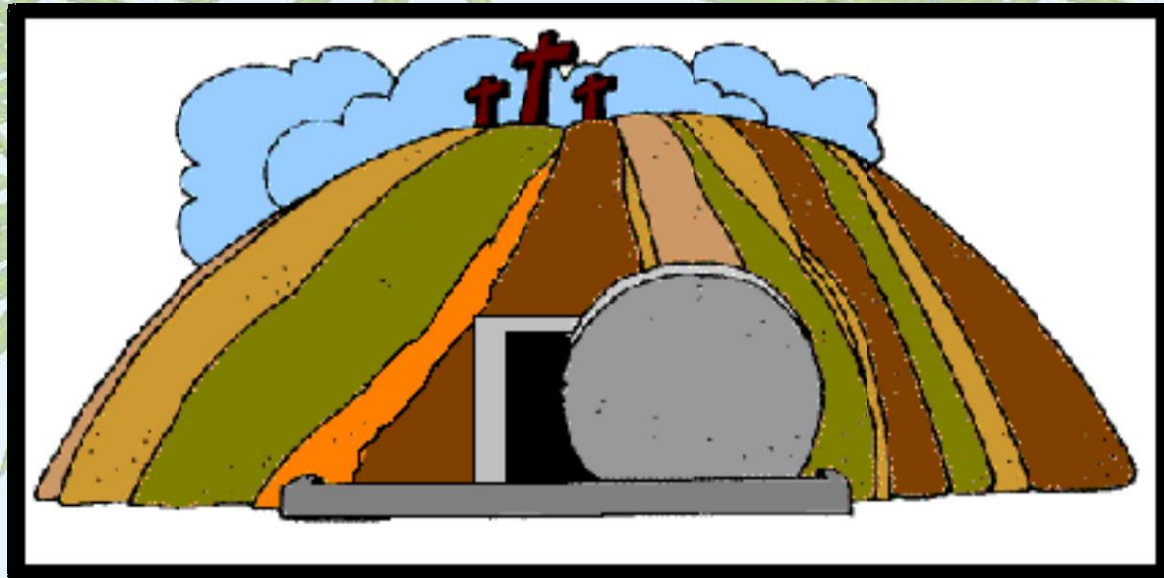




They hung Jesus on the cross with nails pounded through his hands and feet. A criminal hung on each side of him. Jesus suffered terribly and many people made fun of him.

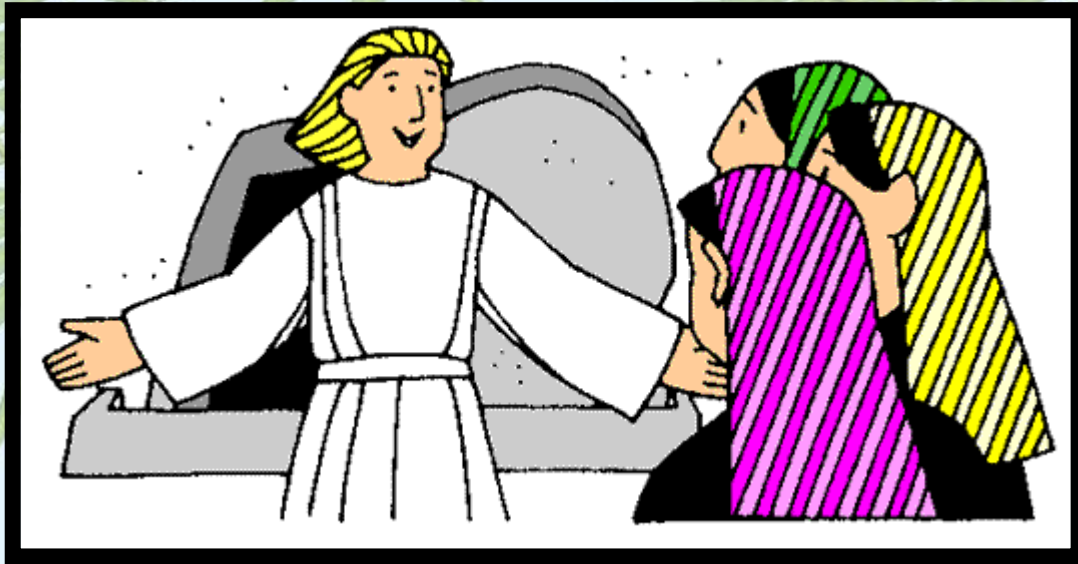


They took Jesus down from the cross. Two of Jesus' friends took him to a tomb one of them had. They buried him there. His friends were very sad.

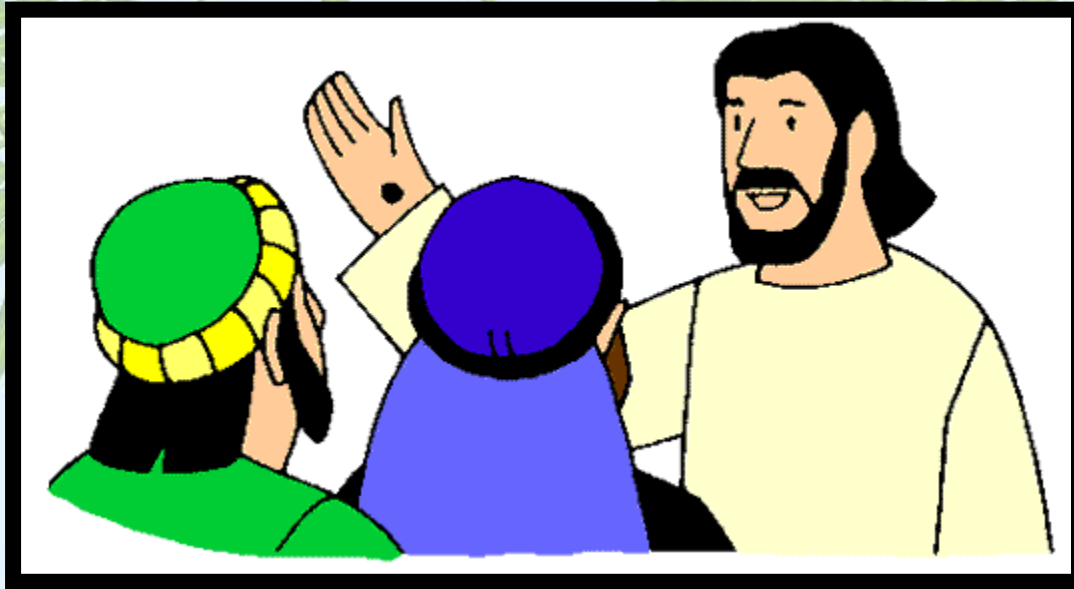


Early on Easter Sunday morning some of Jesus' women friends went to the tomb.

When they got there the tomb was open and Jesus' body was not there.



Then Jesus' women friends saw an angel who told them, "Don't be afraid! I know you're looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has been brought back to life. Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is alive"



As they started to go and tell Jesus' other friends they saw Jesus himself. They fell down to worship him. Jesus told the women to go tell his other friends the good news.



He told the disciples he would be back one day and they must tell people all over the world about him.

After Jesus had spoken to his disciples he was taken up into heaven. This is called 'The Resurrection.'

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