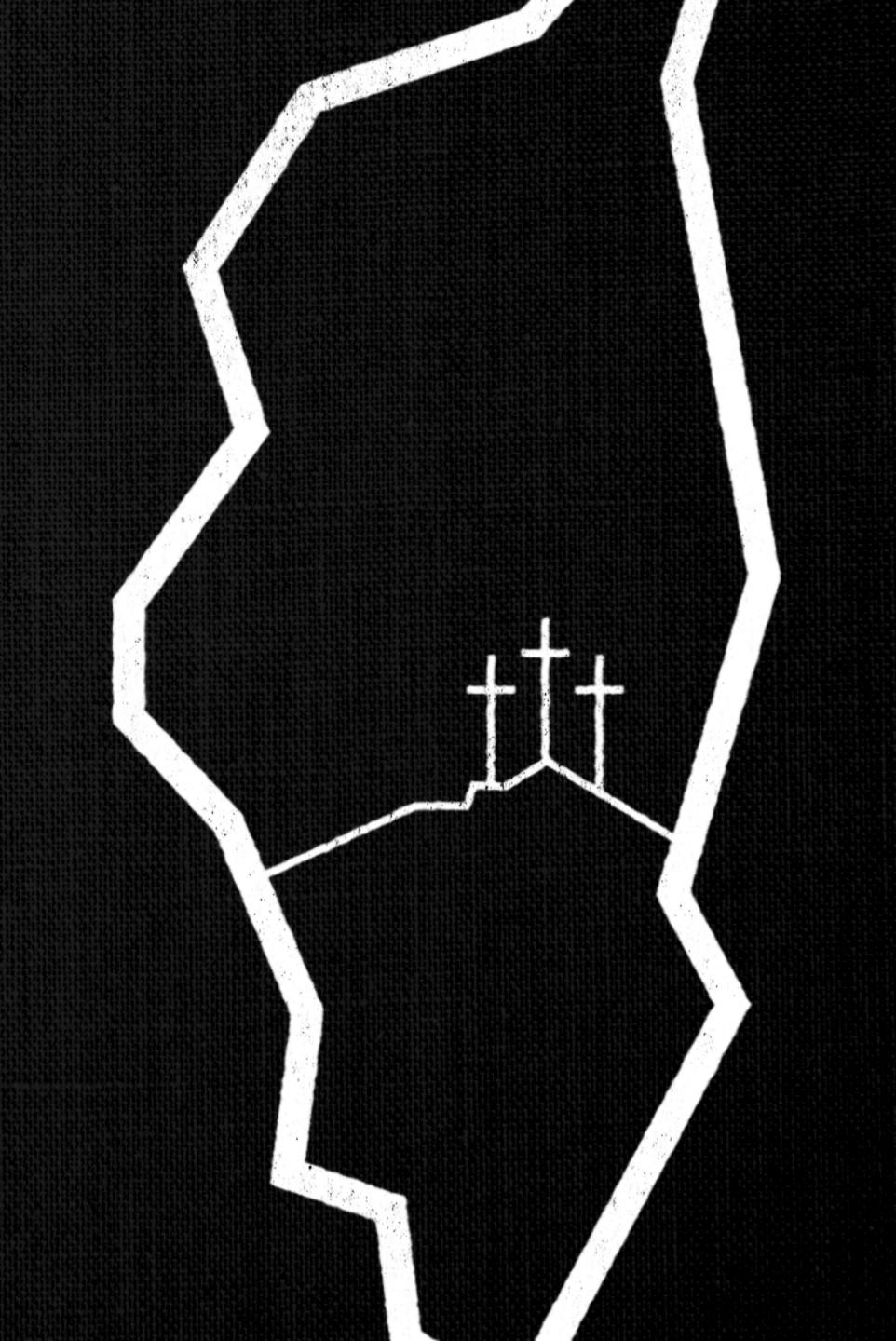
THE VEIL IS TORN





6 Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested.





7 One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising.





8 The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual. 9 "Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?" Pilate asked.





10 (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) 11 But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus.





12 Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?"

13 They shouted back, "Crucify him!"





14 "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?"

But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!"





15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.





THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

16 The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment.





17 They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head.





18 Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" 19 And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship.





20 When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.





THE CRUCIFIXION

21 A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)





22 And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull").23 They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it.





24 Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. 25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.





26 A sign announced the charge against him. It read,

"THE KING OF THE JEWS."

27 Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.





29 The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him.





"You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. **30** Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!"





31 The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself!





32 Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.





THE DEATH OF JESUS

33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"





35 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.
36 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"





37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.





39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"





21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



The veil was torn.



12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.



19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith



with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.



The veil was lifted.



The Son of God.



14 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.



16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

"Before this time God had declared Jesus to be his son and the disciples had eventually come to see the same thing, but this Gentile soldier gets there in one step through seeing Jesus on the cross! It is a great encouragement. The cross was a despised and cruel instrument of execution. It was a great stumbling block in the way of faith in Jesus. How could the son of God die in such a way? But although many were blind and could not see who Jesus was, this pagan soldier came to instant faith. It is a sign of the power of the cross."

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



THE VEIL IS TORN



