

Nahuatl Passion Play from Amacuitlapilco, Jonacatepec, Morelos, Mexico, 1732
Nican pehua in pasión in ipantzinco omochiuh in totecuiyo Jesucristo
Archivo General de la Nación, Indiferente Virreinal, Clero Regular y Secular, Exp. 040,
Caja 6610
English translation by Louise M. Burkhart

Version of August 1, 2023

[1r] Year of 1757. The reverend father and priest, minister fray Miguel de Torres, remitted these six notebooks, and they are from his jurisdiction of Jonacatepec.

[2r] Today, Thursday, September 11, 1732

Here begins the Passion that was done to our lord Jesus Christ as he entered the altepetl¹ of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Here everything is visible, all the torments that happened to our lord Jesus Christ, by which he saved for us our life forces, our souls, we people of the world.

[on attached slip of paper: From the town of Amacuitlapilco.]

Amacuitlapilco de Jonacatepec

[2v] *Christ will come out, and all the apostles. Each one will be in order.*

CHRIST

Please come here, you my dear students, you my chosen ones in the world. My beloved father, God, has blessed you. Now please listen. It is now time, the time has arrived for what the prophets, the foretellers, left uttered to come true, to happen. All the things will happen to the beloved child of the maiden Saint Mary. And you, Simon Peter, do not grow faint with your belief, as I will take you (all)² over into the altepetl of Jerusalem. You are to fortify your hearts well, so that you will see, you will marvel at all the torments. Only for a few days will I live here beside you.

SAINT PETER

What are you saying to us, O our teacher? [3r] Do not desire to go into the altepetl of Jerusalem. because the Jews hate you very much. Don't fall into their hands. Where will you go off to and leave us, we your children?

CHRIST

That is how my beloved father, God, desires it, so that I will save all my creations, the people of the world, so that the fierce beast in the place of the dead won't eat them, won't swallow them.

¹ An Indigenous corporate community with its own governing body.

² "(all)" is inserted where the use of a second-person plural verb is not otherwise evident.

SAINT JOHN

How very saddening are your precious words, everything you utter, that will happen to you. Why, for what reason? You are a deity, you are a ruler. Let us be the ones it happens to, because you are our benefactor

SAINT PHILIP³

O my beloved teacher, where will you go? Now you are bidding us farewell, we your children. All [3v] the time that you brought us up you never left us. And now you want to leave us. Don't think such a thing, O my beloved teacher.

CHRIST

Listen, O my beloved students. That which will come true first is the precious and revered words, the will, of my beloved father, God. Now it will come true, how I came to become a person here on earth. Everything that lies written about me in the sacred book I will now show to you. Even though I will go, I will abandon you, I will not leave you. When I am on the verge of death, when my enemies the Jews arrest me, I will pray to my beloved father for your sake. He will take care of you. Do not grow faint. Fortify your hearts. Here is what I am going to command you, before I die. Love one another well, like I used to always love you. In just the same way you will do it. [4r] You will love one another.

SAINT JAMES

We thank you very much for all that you are bequeathing to us, your precious and revered words. We strongly beseech you, all of us, O our beloved teacher, do not desire to abandon your beloved mother. Do not desire that you go over into the altepetl of Jerusalem, because the Jews detest you very much.

SAINT PETER

I throw myself face down in front of you, O my deity, O my ruler! May it not be that you will abandon us. We will perish, we your creations.

CHRIST

You have heard all my words that I commanded you. It is just a few days that I will live here with you. You are not to forget my words, with which I leave you tied, I leave you tightly bound. You will carry out my words, you will make them come true.

When it is over with, Saint Mary will come out, and Magdalene. [4v]

CHRIST

You who are supreme, you beloved noblewoman, you my beloved mother, you beloved daughter of God the father, you who are a very humble one, may you know, O my beloved and revered mother, that it is time, it is the moment, the time has arrived when I am to die so that all the people of the world will be saved, and all the good ones, the proper ones, who are in the great sacred commands. It is just for their sake that I came, I came down from heaven. And it is essential that what the foretellers, the prophets, left said about me will come true,

³ This name was excised and replaced with Saint James. Saint Andrew is also written in above.

that I will die, that I will purify the world. It is time for me to take leave of you, so that I will go into the altepetl of Jerusalem.

SAINT MARY

You my beloved child, what are you saying to me? Don't think such a thing. Why, for what reason, do you want to abandon me, I who am your mother? I couldn't abandon you. I will be forever by your side. [5r] Do not desire that you go over into the altepetl of Jerusalem. I implore you, let me benefit from⁴ your precious mercy so that I will be here beside you, as Pascua is observed. Do it just because I raised you. Let it be for my milk that you obey me. Please listen well, you my jade only child. If you go into the altepetl of Jerusalem, you will be taken into custody.

CHRIST

May you know, O my beloved noblewoman, O my beloved mother, that everything that my beloved ones the prophets, his spokespersons, left written, left uttered, in the sacred book, all the prophecies that are written in the sacred book, that are uttered about me, will come true, will be done. Don't be sad, O my beloved mother. I will make the words of my beloved father, God, come true.

SAINT MARY

How very tear-inducing, saddening, is the way you answer me, you my beloved child. [5v] Don't you know, don't you remember, how I carried you in my arms? And don't you remember when I went to hide you in Egypt, when Herod was searching for you? He forcefully commanded that his warriors. They would have killed you if they had found you. And don't you remember when I lost you for three days in the temple in Jerusalem? Very great was the worry that I had for your sake. Because of that, obey me. And so that the world will be purified, desire some other thing. Think of what its return will be. And I say to you, O my beloved child, let this become its price, so that the sins in the world will be destroyed: your fasting, your sleeplessness. Or let its price become when they cut your male flesh from you, how your heart ached as you went around teaching people everywhere in the altepetl. With these things may you pacify your beloved father. I implore you, you my beloved child. [6r]

CHRIST

May you know well, O my beloved mother, that what is written in the sacred book, all the torments, will be done to me. The Jews will tie me to a stone column. They will flog me. And they will make me carry on my shoulder a very large crossed-wood device, a cross, on which I will be made to stretch my arms, so that I will die. That is how all my creations in the world will be saved. Everything will come true in front of you, all my torments.

Then Saint Mary will faint. She will fall on the ground.

MAGDALENE

O my beloved teacher, don't say such things. You beloved mother has fainted! Help her, so that she will revive.

⁴ Tentative, reading *yc ninotlamati* as *ic ninotlamachtih*.

CHRIST

O my beloved mother, with God's help, revive.

Magdalene will grab hold of Saint Mary.

MAGDALENE

O beloved noblewoman, be strong for the sake of your beloved only child, [6v] our teacher. It is for our sake that he will go now to Jerusalem, so that he will save our life forces, our souls.
[To Christ:] You my savior, obey your beloved mother. Spend Pascua here with her. Don't go over to Jerusalem.

CHRIST

Revive, you blessed maiden, you my beloved mother. It is time, the time has come for me to die. May it be that I go. Give me your blessing because you are my beloved mother. You gave birth to me on earth. It is you who will bless me, O my beloved mother.

Then Saint Mary will stand up.

SAINT MARY

May he who always and forever sheds light for people, our lord God, go leading you, as you are a man. But before you go, you my beloved child, embrace me and give me your blessing, you my jade only child. [7r]

Christ then will embrace his beloved mother.

CHRIST

O my beloved mother, I bless you in the name of my beloved father, God, and me, and the Holy Spirit. May you always and forever be a blessed one, as you are praiseworthy. Your beloved soul is always and forever filled with the Holy Spirit, grace. Now I am going to go, O my beloved mother.

Saint Mary will go inside, along with Magdalene.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, here is what I say to you. Come here, you, John, and you, James. I am sending you over there. Go into the altepctl of Jerusalem. Go straight there. When you have arrived, you will see a little house. Directly in the door is tied a donkey, with her child. Then untie her. You are to bring her to me. If someone says something to you, you are to tell them, "The teacher needs her. He's the one who sent us."

SAINT JOHN

O our beloved teacher, may it be done [7v] according to your will. We are just waiting for your precious and revered words. We will carry out your sacred command right away.

SAINT JAMES

It will be carried out immediately, as you command me, O our beloved teacher.

Christ will go inside, [and] all the apostles. Saint John and Saint James will remain on the stage.

SAINT JOHN

O my beloved younger brother, let us hurry to where our beloved teacher sends us.

They will go to where a donkey will be tied up. When they have arrived, First Jew and Centurion will come out on stage.

SAINT JOHN

We have arrived here where we were sent. The donkey is standing there, with her child.

SAINT JAMES

That's the donkey! Untie her. Let's take her, quickly. Now we have come and carried out the sacred command of our beloved teacher. Let's go.

Then they will untie the donkey. While they are untying her, First Jew will speak on the edge of the stage.

FIRST JEW

Why are you untying the donkey? Don't you know that she belongs here in Jerusalem?

SAINT JOHN

The teacher sent us. [8r] He has need of her.

FIRST JEW

We have heard your words. Take her.

CENTURION

What teacher, crazy people? Move aside. Maybe you are bewildered.

Then they will take the donkey before Christ and all the apostles. First Jew will go inside, along with Centurion.

SAINT JOHN

O our lord, all-powerful one, we went to carry out your precious will. O our beloved teacher, we have brought the donkey.

CHRIST

I exalt your obedience. Come here, O my beloved children.

SAINT JAMES

Everything that you will command us, we will carry it all out, because our hearts know well that you will have mercy on us, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, today we go enter into the altepel of Jerusalem, so that the maiden's beloved child will be killed, will be tormented there. Now, each of you take an olive branch and a palm frond, which will go in your hands as we enter into Jerusalem. By that the Jews will recognize you [8v] as my children.

SAINT PHILIP⁵

Let us carry out your wishes, as you command us, O our teacher.

Then they all will each grasp a palm frond and a branch. Thus will they go leading Christ.

SAINT ANDREW

How will you go on the donkey just like this? It is going without a saddle. And you are all-powerful and you are revered inside heaven and you are ruler everywhere in the world. Let us take out our cloaks. We will saddle the donkey on which you will go. Oh! O people of the world, whoever you are, you who are seated here, doesn't anything happen to your heart as you see in what a very saddening way your deity, your ruler, is going to Jerusalem, in order to save your life forces, your souls, for you? He is going now to die for your sake. Stop everything regarding all that is not good and right, that is an offense to our lord God.

Then they will saddle the donkey. Then Christ will get up on it. Saint John will bring a white cloak and Saint Andrew will bring [9r] a taffeta. They will saddle the donkey.

SAINT PETER

We have saddled the donkey. Let us raise you up, O our beloved teacher.

Then all the apostles will raise Christ up onto the donkey.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, give me the palm fronds.

SAINT PETER

Here they are, O our beloved teacher.

CHRIST⁶

You are my beloved children.

Then they will walk a little way. They will be spread out there. Then four small children will meet the others. And Simeon will accompany them, and Centurion.

FIRST SMALL CHILD

You completely good one, you ruler, you have endured fatigue as you came to save me. How is it possible that we deserve, that we merit, we your creations, that you have come to know your home, Jerusalem, where we are waiting upon your words? Let us accompany you.

⁵ Excised and replaced with another excised name (Saint Andrew?) and then Saint James.

⁶ This brief response was added to the script later.

SECOND SMALL CHILD

You great ruler, have compassion for us, you child of David. How can it be that you have followed behind us, by God the father's command? [9v]

THIRD SMALL CHILD

You deity of the world, you ruler of Israel, save our life forces, our souls, for us.

FOURTH SMALL CHILD

It is true that you are a man and you are a deity and you are the savior, you are the child of David. May it be that you will show us favor, so that we will go to heaven.

SIMEON

O teacher, don't you hear the little children? What are they saying to you? Make them stop. Let them not speak in this way. Won't you be spoken ill of? Won't you be laughed at? They praise you as a deity everywhere.

CHRIST

You, O my beloved children, have you never read what is said in the sacred words: that the little children, how they praise one, how they revere one, they will be the first to believe, because in the world it starts with them, how they revere one, how they praise one, because they are not yet two-hearted. They still devote their suckling to me. They do not yet speak well. However, today they uttered praises, just by the will of my beloved father, God. If perhaps they did not acknowledge me, if they did not declare me, [10r] who is their deity, their ruler? Is it not I? And every mountain, tree, and other things that do not hear, that are not prudent, they would all acknowledge me, they would declare me. And you, you can see, you can hear, but you will not acknowledge me, you will not recognize me.

CENTURION

We do not recognize you. What did you come here to say? Will you overcome our chief priests, who are in charge here in Jerusalem?

SIMEON

And who are you? Where are you a ruler of, if that is so? And in Jerusalem, aren't there nobles, rulers, who govern the altepetl? Where is your home? What did you come here to say, O teacher?

Everyone will walk on. When Christ has reached the edge of the stage, Samuel will come out. He will speak. While he is speaking the four small children will go inside. They will go with Simeon and Centurion. They all will go inside.

SAMUEL

Here in the supremely good altepetl [10v] of Jerusalem, very great is the lordship, the rulership, the mat, the seat, the royal place. It cannot yield its place in the world. There is our own honor and the honor of the ruler President Pontius Pilate. Nothing lies destroyed. And now it is as if something worrisome is about to go into the royal altepetl of Jerusalem. Maybe

it cannot happen thus. The chief priests are seated in honor, and the great ruler, the president, is seated in honor. He will be strong, and we will be strong, so that no one will overcome us.

Samuel will go inside. Christ will get down off the donkey. Christ will speak there on the ground.

CHRIST

Jerusalem, you did not show favor as I came to enter upon you. You were just especially proud. Truly I say to you, if you knew what is going to happen to you, you would have wept. You will see that your enemies the people of Rome will come upon you. They will come to destroy your realms. They will put you on the ground, and your children will just gnaw on one another. [11r]

Christ will get up on the stage [along with] all the apostles. He will go inside the building. When Christ has gone inside the building, then all the chief priests will come out. They will sit on a bench. And the Jews will spread out. They will be in a row.

SAMUEL

You are seated in honor, you chief priests, and here are all the Pharisees. I say in your royal presence, what are we up to? What are we doing? It is as if I see something worrisome that is about to go upon the royal altepetl of Jerusalem in regard to Jesus, whom the macehualtin⁷ call Christ. How did he dare to come and enter here? He sees you as nothing and he sees your honor as nothing.

CAIAPHAS

What are you saying? It's as if you are a crazy person. As long as we will live, our fame, our honor, will forever be exalted. One person must die for the sake of the macehualtin, so that everyone does not become bewildered, those of the water, those of the hill, the people here in Jerusalem, so that our rulership won't be ruined. No one whatsoever will overcome us. [11v]

ANNAS

If our lords, our rulers, the people of Rome find out, won't they be angry with us? They will come to take from us our mat, our royal seat. Won't they shame us very much? Let us deliberate very much as to how it can be done in regard to Christ, as he thinks nothing of rulership, he sees it as nothing. Will Christ overcome us? Let me hear your words as to how it can be done. Let us be united.

CAIAPHAS

What you say is correct, you great priest Annas. Now come, you elders, you Jews. It is as if you are shameless, as if you are crazy. Let us take counsel as to how the deceiver can fall into our hands.

CENTURION

We are just waiting on your priestly command. If you want, we will go to look for him right away, where he is housing himself, the bewilderer Christ. Then we will destroy him. [12r]

⁷ *Macehualli* (plural *macehualtin*) was the word for a person of commoner class. By this time it had become a term for Indigenous people (which it retains today).

SIMEON

Your words are very good, the way you say that the deceiver will die, will be destroyed. Likewise, we say, let us sentence him to death, for he is really bewildering our subjects. We absolutely must sentence him to death. Quickly, say how we will arrest the scoundrel.

SAMUEL

Know, O rulers, here is how I assist you. I say, let's not go seize him on the festival, so that we don't stir up the macehualtin, so they do not engage in war. Let it be on an ordinary day that you arrest the bewilderer Christ.

MALCHUS

O rulers, what you are thinking is very splendid. It is quite necessary that it be on an ordinary day that we arrest, that we seize, the bewilderer, so that the macehualtin won't know it, so that we don't stir up those of the altepetl.

SECOND JEW

Quickly, deliberate on the judging of the bewilderer Christ. He goes around bewildering people in a great many ways, as he goes around lying to people. [12v] Please listen well. As he came to enter here in the altepetl of Jerusalem, he was greatly honored, he was considered as a deity. The macehualtin scattered many flowers, as they led him this way, and there were palm fronds in their hands as he came to enter, and the little Hebrew children behaved ominously to people. They all praised him.

JOSEPH

You royal nobles, you are seated in honor, do not let me anger you as I go to utter my words before you. I say that in all the time that you have lived, have you seen a prophet perform marvelous things like we see now, the marvels that Christ performs? Do not think in this way, that you want to sentence him to death. What Jesus goes about doing is all very good and proper. He heals our sick. He makes the lame walk. He makes the blind see. He loves our subjects very much. Didn't you know that not long ago he revived the noble Lazarus? He had been dead for four days. They already buried [13r] his body. But when the teacher found out, then he went there where they buried his body. He cried out for him, so he came out from under the ground. It was Christ who revived Lazarus. Many people saw it. It didn't happen in secret. And the prophet Isaiah left it said that the beloved son of God will come, he will come to perform many marvels, the savior of the world. He will come to heal those who have leprosy. That is how it will be evident that he is the savior who has been awaited for a long time. If, perhaps, he is not the savior, what harm has he done to you that you want to sentence him to death? Consider carefully how you will be able to do it. My heart is not this way.⁸ If you are to kill him, I save myself, before your royal presence.

CAIAPHAS

I know well and I see well your words. You are a prudent person,⁹ you, Joseph, so you could have deliberated with us as to what we will do. But you turn yourself over to Christ, the

⁸ That is, "I do not agree."

⁹ Excised here: "you are a keeper of the five palaces," found in the Axochiapan play (11r).

bewilderer. We will not desist for that. [13v] Our royal command will be carried out, will be done. We will destroy Christ.

JOSEPH

As for me, I have not seen any one of our subjects whom he bewildered. What I saw is that he healed many of our sick people and revived the dead.

SAMUEL

Your lordship, your honor, is about to be destroyed here in the altepetl. The ruler President Pontius Pilate is no longer seen as anything. His fame, his honor, is about to be destroyed. Strengthen yourselves, you chief priests.

JOSEPH

Consider well how you will carry out your decision. Even though you hate the teacher, he goes about helping our subjects very much. He has mercy on all the poor people.

CAIAPHAS

With your words you make yourself appear, you, Joseph, that you turn yourself over to him. And are you his student? We will not let him go. Not thus will our royal decision¹⁰ be destroyed. [14r] We will carry it out. Come, Notary. Put down our royal command. We chief priests all command in regard to the so-called Christ of Nazareth, no one is to bring him into their home, no one is to befriend him. We command that anyone who brings him into their home, or befriends him, they too will be arrested, seized, sentenced to death. So that our royal command can be carried out, we also command that anyone who sees where he is housing himself will then come to tell the chief priests. They will pay them many [pieces of] silver and they will be greatly loved.

NOTARY

Let me carry out your royal command, you chief priests.

Then he will sit at a table. He will write something. When he has put down the document, then he will show it to the others.

NOTARY

I have carried out your priestly command. Now the town crier will call out everywhere in the streets. Let them hear it, all [14v] the macehualtin so that they all will know it, those of the water, those of the hill, here in the altepetl of Jerusalem.

Notary will lay the document on the table.

ANNAS

Go, Town Crier. Here is this document, our royal command. Make our subjects hear it everywhere in the streets.

TOWN CRIER

¹⁰ "Decision" was later excised and replaced with "will."

May it so be done. Let me carry out your royal command. Let me make all the macehualtin hear it.

Then Town Crier will take the document. He will go to the edge of the stage. He will give the orders, he will call out in three directions, thus he will read the royal command. When he has gone to arrive at a particular place on the edge of the stage, the trumpeter will play. Afterwards he will read the paper.

TOWN CRIER

The chief priests issue a command. They say, in regard to the so-called Christ of Nazareth who bewilders the macehualtin with a great many things, that no one is to bring him into their home, no one is to befriend him. Anyone who brings him into their home [15r] or befriends him will also be arrested, seized, punished with stones and sticks, then sentenced to death, so that the royal command will not be damaged. And anyone who sees where Christ is housing himself, will then come, in good manner will come to tell the chief priests. They will pay him many [pieces of] silver and they will be greatly loved.

When Town Crier has gone to make people hear in three directions, along with the trumpeter, then the chief priests will come to command them.

TOWN CRIER

I have gone and carried out your royal command. I went to make all the macehualtin hear it everywhere in the streets.

CAIAPHAS

Now let us go. And you, Leader, you, war leader, I firmly command you, look for Christ. And all of you who are here, you elders, you pharisees, I firmly command you, look for him, all of you, and consider well how you will be able to arrest him, [15v] to seize him. Be cautious. If someone comes to tell you where he is housing himself, then you will tell us.

LEADER

Do not let it worry you. Now we will consult with one another on how we will do it. He goes around making all of us very angry. For a long time, we have gone about waiting for your royal command. We are very happy and delighted with it.

The trumpet will be played. Everyone will go inside. The Jews will go in front, they will go playing wind instruments. The rulers will follow. Then Christ will come out, along with all the apostles.

Magdalene will come out. She will bring an unguent. She will kneel three times.

MAGDALENE

Here is a sacred cross, O my beloved teacher. I bow at your feet and I beseech you, have compassion for me, pardon my sins for me, because I am a great sinner. [16r]

CHRIST

You, Magdalene, I have seen your weeping, your sadness, how you are now resolved. Before me you washed my feet with your tears. And here is a precious unguent, which I will spread on your head, in order to show you that my mercy is very great. One who is a sinner, whose sins make them weep, make them sad, I will never again think of how they offended my beloved father, God.

Magdalene will go inside.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, your faces, your hearts are already aware, you already know, that the very day after tomorrow will be Pascua, at which time the Jews in the great altepetl of Jerusalem will celebrate a festival. And the maiden's beloved child will be arrested there, will be seized, will be betrayed to the sinners. They will make him stretch his arms upon the cross. And now I am going to send you there, you, John, and you, James. Go and prepare my festival food for me.

SAINT JOHN

O my beloved teacher, where does your heart concede that we go to make preparations? [16v]

CHRIST

Listen, O my students.¹¹ Go directly over into the great altepetl of Jerusalem. When you have arrived, you will see a certain water person, going carrying his water jug on his back. When you have seen him, go follow him to where he goes indoors. You will go inside there. You will say to the householder, "The teacher says, 'It is time, the time has come for my work to come to an end, so that I will rest. I will spend Pascua there in his home, and today I will feed my students there, I will give them refreshment there.'" Then he will show you a large house. And when he has shown it to you, then make preparations there so that it will be my place of waiting, so that I will rest there.

SAINT JAMES

Let's go and carry out very quickly everything that you will command us, because you are our savior.

Christ will go inside, along with the apostles. And Saint John and Saint James will remain on the stage. And Judas will go and separate himself from them at the edge of the house. [17r]

JUDAS

O teacher, why did you want the very good, precious unguent to be wasted?¹² I think you just want to give me problems thereby. But nevertheless, you will pay the price of it. If not, let my name not be Judas Iscariot.

Judas will go inside.

SAINT JOHN

¹¹ This opening of the speech was added later.

¹² This sentence, but not the rest of the speech, was later changed from direct address to a third-person statement.

Let's go where our beloved teacher is sending us. Let's hurry so we can return quickly.

Saint John and Saint James will go inside. Gamaliel will come out.

GAMALIEL

Now where is the teacher, the Messiah, God's beloved child, my great benefactor? Where will he spend Pascua? I am very worried and distressed over it. And our rulers, the chief priests, have commanded that anyone whose home he enters, or who befriends him, will be sentenced to death. I say, let me be so fortunate, so favored, that he may come into my home today on Pascua. I desire wholeheartedly that he come to rest in my home, my benefactor.

Gamaliel will go inside. Water Carrier will come out. [17v] He will carry his jug on his back. He will go where water will be lying. When he has reached the place where the water lies, Water Carrier will take down his jug. He will collect water with a gourd vessel that is inside of it. He will keep pouring it into his jug. When he has filled it, afterwards he will speak.

WATER CARRIER

I am tarrying a long time since I came to get water. Maybe the people of my household will scold me. Let me go. How is it possible that it took me so long?

Water Carrier will go grasp his jug. He will go. When he has gone a long way, he will turn around. He will see the two apostles, Christ's messengers. Saint John and Saint James will come out.

WATER CARRIER

Who are they who are coming here? They're coming following right behind me! I think they're coming to my home. I'd better get going!

Water Carrier will walk on a little bit.

SAINT JOHN

That's the water person our teacher commanded us [about]. He goes carrying his jug. Do let's follow him. Where will he go inside?

Water Carrier will go inside. And when Saint James and Saint John have gone to arrive where Water Carry will go inside, then Gamaliel will come out.

SAINT JOHN

O ruler, be joyful. [18r] Our teacher sent us here to you. He says, "I have now come near to it, it is now time, the time has come, for me to rest, for my work to come to an end. Tell the noble¹³ that by his leave I will rest, I will spend Pascua in his home, and I will feed my students there, I will give them refreshment there. And he will show you a house, where my waiting place will be." Those are all the precious and revered words of our benefactor that we have brought.

¹³ "The noble" was later excised.

GAMALIEL

You have endured fatigue, you honored ones, you personages. Come here. The teacher¹⁴ has shown me favor. His precious and revered heart has conceded that he thought of me. I am most delighted. I thank my benefactor for his precious and revered words. Come here. I will wait here for the great teacher's words. I have already prepared his house, so that he will come to rest there. Make the preparations. I will give you whatever is needed.

GAMALIEL

O my servants, come out. Let us all make preparations where God's beloved child will come to rest. We do not merit or deserve that he will spend Pascua in our home. [18v]

Then a table will be set up and many flowers will be scattered. Everyone will place things [on it], Gamaliel's servant and the two apostles. Oranges, bananas, lettuce, watermelon will be placed on the table, and twelve small breads. And one will be placed in the middle, from which will be taken what Christ will cause the apostles to receive. And a chalice will be placed on the table, in which the wine will go, and wax candles will be lighted. When the preparations have been made, then Saint John will speak.

SAINT JOHN

Now we are going. We will announce to our beloved teacher how we have made preparations.

GAMALIEL

May it so be done. I am here awaiting the great teacher. Tell him how we have made preparations.

Saint John and Saint James will go. They will go to assure Christ. Saint John and Saint James will walk along. All the apostles will come out, they will come leading Christ. Judas will always come in the lead. When the two apostles have arrived among the others, then Saint John will speak.

SAINT JOHN

O our teacher, we went to make preparations where you sent us. The householder says, "Tell the great teacher that I am waiting for him here." [19r]

CHRIST¹⁵

He has shown us favor. Let us go, O my beloved children, it is high time, the time has come to arrive. My beloved servant has made preparations for us.

SAINT PETER

May your desire be fulfilled. Let us go leading you, O our beloved teacher. Take to your feet.

SAINT JAMES

Let us all go leading you, you who are our benefactor. It is just by your help that we live here on earth.

¹⁴ Later excised and replaced with "my benefactor."

¹⁵ The later redactor added another "Let us go, O my beloved children" at the beginning of this speech.

Then Saint Peter will go in the lead, along with all the apostles. Everyone will go to Gamaliel's home. When Christ has reached the table, then Gamaliel and all his servants will kneel. Gamaliel will walk kneeling as he meets Christ.

GAMALIEL

O my beloved savior, you who are the true deity, you who are ruler, you who are my benefactor, how is it possible that I am so favored and fortunate that you will rest in my humble shack, where I am waiting for your words? Rest. I have made preparations, I your creation.

CHRIST

I am very grateful for your love, you, Gamaliel.¹⁶ You have shown me favor [with] your love. May we be deserving of it.

Gamaliel will stand up. He will lead the others. Everyone will be spread out.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, sit down. Rest. [19v]

All the apostles will sit down. Six will be on each side. Christ will sit in the middle. Saint Peter will be at his right hand. And Saint John will be at his left hand. And Judas will just be at the end. When everyone is seated, then Judas will begin to eat.

CHRIST

For all this time I have desired, I have longed, to eat with you today on Pascua, before the torment is done to me. Truly I say to you, that this is the only time, now, that I will eat with you until when once again it will be on his mat, in his royal place, my beloved father, God.

Then Christ will make a blessing in his precious and revered name.¹⁷

CHRIST

Eat, O my beloved children.¹⁸

Then all the apostles will eat. When they have been eating for a long time, Christ will speak.

CHRIST

O my beloved students,¹⁹ even though you are eating here with me, you are rejoicing, truly I say to you that here at the table with me is the one who will sell me, will betray me to the Jews. O how wretched he is! It would have been good if he had not been born. And as for the maiden's child, it is necessary that everything that lies written in the sacred words, in the books, be done to him.

¹⁶ "you, Gamaliel" later excised.

¹⁷ "in his precious and revered name" added later.

¹⁸ This sentence was later excised and replaced with "O my beloved students, know that you are my students."

¹⁹ "O my beloved students" added later.

Each of the apostles will ask a question. The very last [20r] who will ask a question will be Judas.

SAINT PETER

Is it me, O my teacher?

CHRIST

It is not you. Be at rest.

They all will ask a question like this When Judas asks, he will leap up.

JUDAS

Is it me, O my teacher?

CHRIST

It is you who said it. Bring your words to completion.

CHRIST

Now you have eaten. One other thing is lacking. Give me water, along with a bowl. I will wash my students' feet.²⁰

Then Gamaliel will go to fetch water with a large round vessel.²¹ He will come to give it to Christ.

GAMALIEL

Here is the water you are asking for, O my deity, O my ruler.

Then they will move the benches on which everyone ate a little bit aside. It will be opened a little so that he will wash each one's feet there. They will give Christ towels, which he will drape over his shoulder,²² with which he will wash the feet of his students.

CHRIST

Strip your feet, O my beloved child,²³ O Peter. I will wash your feet.

SAINT PETER

Me? You will wash my feet? You are my deity. You are my ruler. It cannot happen. I will not permit you to wash my feet.

CHRIST

²⁰ This entire speech was later crossed out.

²¹ See Abelardo de la Cruz's note on this term in the standardized transcription.

²² See Abelardo de la Cruz's note here in the standardized transcription.

²³ Later excised and replaced with *Amotzin nopiltzintzinne tlatohuanie* 'No, O my noble, O ruler' (tentative transcription).

That which I will do today [20v] you won't understand. You will understand it at some later time.

SAINT PETER

In all the time that we have yet to see, it will never be possible that you will wash my feet, because you are my deity, you are my ruler.

CHRIST

Please listen, O Peter. If I do not wash your feet, you will not merit life in heaven.

SAINT PETER

O my lord, O my ruler, may I be deserving of your mercy. Don't let my feet be all that you will wash. Do my head as well.

CHRIST

O Peter,²⁴ one who is clean with belief does not need to bathe himself but only to wash their feet. But you, Simon Peter, you are clean in regard to your belief. You are not dirty, you are not muddy. And you all, you are clean. But not all of you. I know who my chosen ones are.

Then Gamaliel will move the water over by Saint Peter's feet. It will start with him. Christ will wash his feet, then all the apostles. When they have²⁵ washed Judas's feet, he will also kiss their feet for them, both of them, he will kiss their feet for them three times. But Judas will just turn around at a distance, in front of people.²⁶ When they are finished, all the apostles have had their feet washed, then Christ will sit down. He will speak.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, you have seen what I did to you, how I washed your feet. By that [21r] I showed you my love. Please listen. You call me your teacher. What you are saying is correct. It is the truth. I am your teacher, I am your ruler. Even though I am your teacher, I bowed down at your feet, as I washed your feet for you. In just the same way you are to do it, you are to wash one another's feet. It is a sign, a model, that I have set down for you. How I have done it, you are to do it in just the same way. Truly I say to you, someone's servant²⁷ cannot surpass their lord, their ruler. Likewise the student cannot surpass the master, their teacher. If you will do this, like I command you, you will be rewarded very greatly. However, not all of you: I know those whom I have chosen, my chosen ones. Therefore, what lies written in the sacred words, in the sacred book of the prophet David, must come true. He says that one who eats with me and drinks with me, that same one will kick me, will offend me. And you (all), do not forget my words, for I am about to leave you. Here is a new command, with which I command you: [21v] love one another like I was loving you all the time that I was living here among you. If you love one another well, that is how the people on earth will

²⁴ Added later.

²⁵ Plural, non-reverential; perhaps referring to Christ and Gamaliel?

²⁶ This seems to indicate that Judas turns away from the group and avoids having his feet kissed, in such a way that the audience can see what he does. The scriptwriter often uses the word *teixpan* 'in front of people' or 'in public' to indicate that the audience should have a good view of the actions so designated.

²⁷ *Macehualli* in possessed form refers to someone's vassal or servant.

recognize you, that you truly are my students. But if the people on earth scorn you, you are not to be discouraged by it. Remember that first it was me whom they hated, whom they scorned, I who am your teacher. Painful and afflicting things will have to happen to you. Truly I say to you that you will weep, you will be sad. And the people on earth will go around being happy, will go around enjoying themselves. But your tears, your sadness, will turn into very great happiness. It will never end, it will never be finished. And as for you, Simon Peter, do not be discouraged, do not grow faint. Truly I say to you (all) that the demon has asked for you in order to scatter you like dried maize kernels, wheat, are scattered. But as for me, I have prayed to my beloved father, God, on your behalf, so that your faith will not perish. It is what you, Peter, knew very well, when you gave yourself breath. You are not to be discouraged, you are not to abandon [22r] your younger brothers. Encourage them. And now I am going to leave for you my body. Now I will bless the pure tortilla. It will become my localized embodiment so that I will be with you forever. And now I will bless the wine. It will be considered as my precious blood. Always, forever, it will be my localized embodiment, as long as the world remains alive.

Then he will bless a pure tortilla. When he has blessed it, he will break it inside a silver²⁸ plate, so that he will cause everyone to receive something, each of the apostles. He will start with Saint Peter.

CHRIST

Obtain, eat, this tortilla that I have blessed. My body arises in it.

When they have finished, he has caused them all to receive something, then he will bless the wine. He will also cause each one to drink it.

CHRIST

Drink the wine that I have blessed. It will be considered as my precious blood. Your belief will be greatly strengthened by it. And all the people of the world, their life forces, their souls, will be purified with it.

Then he will cause them all to drink the wine. When they are finished with him causing them to drink, Christ will sit down. Saint Peter will stand up. He will speak.

SAINT PETER

O my beloved teacher, you have shown us favor. [22v] I am very grateful for all of your words and your love that you are bequeathing to us. The only thing that worries me is: where are you going, that you are about to leave us behind?

CHRIST

Where I am going you cannot yet go. Someday you will go there.

SAINT PETER

Why can I not go with you, you my deity, you my ruler?²⁹

²⁸ Or gold.

²⁹ Later written in above: *auh [?] yehuel onpa niyaas ca nimitz* ‘and why can’t[?] I go there, I you.’

CHRIST

O my beloved students, please listen. It is high time, it is the time when all of you will disperse, you will leave me all by myself. But I will not be all alone. My beloved father, God, will remain by my side. Moreover, you will endure suffering on earth. You will not become faint from it. Let your hearts be thus assured. As for me, I reached and passed beyond the earth. But tonight, all of you will be bewildered in regard to me. As it is written in the sacred words, it is said that I will beat, I will afflict, the shepherd, so that the sheep will be scattered. But on the third day I will revive. You will see me in Galilee.³⁰ [23r]

SAINT PETER

O my teacher, if my younger brothers become bewildered, as for me, it is not possible that I will be bewildered. I will be strong in regard to my faith.

CHRIST

Truly I say to you, Simon Peter, tonight before the rooster cries out, three times you won't acknowledge me, you will deny me.

SAINT PETER

Truly I say, O my teacher, I will not abandon you. If you are imprisoned, whatever happens to you, let me suffer along with you. If necessary, I will die with you. It is not possible that I will leave you.

CHRIST

Arise, O my beloved children. Let us go over to the garden, my grandfather David's walled garden. Go ahead of me. Let us go.

SAINT JAMES

Let it so be done. Let us lead you, you our benefactor, who alone will truly have mercy on us tomorrow, the day after tomorrow.

All the apostles will stand up. They will lead the others. Christ will go inside, [along with] all the apostles. Judas will remain on the stage. Judas will go keeping an ear out for Christ.³¹ He will look at the others three times. [23v] When all have gone inside, then he will sit on a bench. He will leap up to speak.

JUDAS

Now I am mulling it over, I am thinking and saying inside my heart, how I ate a little bit apart, and the teacher singles me out,³² as if he no longer wants to acknowledge me, as if he no longer wants to recognize me. Truly my face, my heart, are in great pain. And what's to

³⁰ See Matthew 26:31–32.

³¹ Alternatively, Christ could be listening for Judas. The verb *nahnacaztia* could mean “to provide someone with ears,” “make someone your ears,” or “cause someone to be heard”; the exact intention here is not clear (comments by John Sullian and Agnieszka Brylak, Northeast Group of Nahuatl Scholars conference, 6 May 2021).

³² I am reading this as *nechixquetza*, as in the Tlatlahuquitepec play (4r), rather than *nechquetza* ‘he raises me’ or ‘he detains me’; Judas feels he is set apart from the other apostles.

become of me? However, how wretched I am! He really tosses in my face that I am to carry it out, something that for a long time has gone about in the chambers of my heart. Alas! What's to become of me? I say that now I have to sell him, that I truly will carry it out. What in the world is this foolishness of mine that I am about to do? And if I carry out my task in this way, it is true³³ that I am a wretch. My reward is really the scoundrel.³⁴ I am a great sinner on earth. Moreover, how will I be able to do it? My teacher's head, his chest, have become stiff³⁵ as he has taught me a word of his teachings, which are very agreeable. And besides, he is my benefactor. He loved me, he brought me up, he showed me his love. I used to live right beside him, with him. There is no one else whom he loved like me. Now I want to sell him. What did he take from me, how [24r] did he afflict me? He favored me in many ways. Oh, what task am I about to carry out? It is not just a joke, not just a boast. No one takes on this task, no one thinks like this, like I think, like I am about to do. What's to become of me? What will I get if I sell him? Truly I say that eternal suffering in the place of the dead will be my reward, my recompense. What might become of me? Will I perhaps just leave it like this? Or will it be like this? Why am I just uselessly afflicting my face, my heart? Moreover, it worries me a great deal that he is a great teacher, he is a benefactor of the Jews. And the chief priests, won't they just rescue him? The macehualtin will all speak up for him. What will the rulers do to him? Won't it be just for a few days that he will be imprisoned? Won't they just release him? And he is all-powerful. God will save him. Or maybe they won't be able to arrest him. Let me give it a try after all.

Let it be that I will betray him, especially since I'm delaying so much. What in the world am I thinking? Just with this I will be consoled, with this I will be satisfied. For all this time I am suffering pain, I am hurting, I am doing penance. All he does is send me on errands. I don't cast aside any of his words. I always just obey him. I don't earn anything from it. [24v] I just go around naked, I just go around in my rags. The cold rises right up against me and rampages over the earth. The people of my household go about suffering pain.³⁶ Their dinner, their breakfast, cannot be found. They go about discontented, really afflicted. Poverty is always near them. I have no house. I have no field. Who will, perhaps, truly offer me relief? Who will feel compassion for me? For I go thinking, who am I waiting for on earth? Will I perhaps still just stop it? What's intimidating me? What's holding me back? I think that if I betray him to the lords, the rulers, the Jews, then the chief priests will love me very much. They will favor me with lots of silver. They will pay me. But as for him, he gives me nothing at all, I get nothing from him. He just keeps me in poverty, so that I will suffer. But is that how I serve him? What in the world did I say? My teacher, my ruler, will show me favor and through him I will rest. He favors me with nothing!

Here is what is very distressing: how it was on a wretched little woman's head that he spread the precious unguent. If it had just been sold, its price would have been more than three hundred pesos. It all spilled on the ground. He should have said, "My children are poor. I will buy them something with it." I have no confidence at all in him [25r] on earth. But maybe nothing will happen to me. However I am to perish, today I will sell my teacher. [The time] has truly arrived now. Let me go. Let me go to see the chief priests, let me give it a try in front of them. Where will I see them?

³³ *an* (in *anca*) is excised.

³⁴ Here, the term alludes to the devil.

³⁵ He has worn himself out.

³⁶ The phrase "go about suffering pain" was later excised.

Then all the chief priests will come out, and the Jews. The chief priests will sit on a bench. And the Jews will just be spread out. And Reuben will stand at a distance, on the edge of the stage. Judas will go there. He will walk around. He will move aside, by Reuben.

REUBEN

O young man, what have you come to do? What are you looking for, that you have come here? You look to me like you come very worried. From your face it is obvious that your problem is very great.

JUDAS

What you say to me is correct. But it is not to you that I will speak of my problem. All I ask of you is, where are the chief priests? I want to see them. It is to them that I will tell, that I will explain the painful matter about which I've come.

REUBEN

You have endured fatigue.³⁷ You will come to the right place. Our lords, the chief priests, are here. Let me tell them. Wait for me here. [25v]

Then Reuben will go in front of the chief priests. First he will bow. Afterwards he will speak.

REUBEN

May you be seated in honor, O our lords, O rulers. I have come before you, I have come to tell you that a certain person has come here. A certain young man wants to see you. As he says, "I have come to present a humble word of mine to the rulers." Shall he come in?

ANNAS

Find out who that is. Maybe he is just an imposter. And find out why he has come.

REUBEN

May your command thus be done. Let me ask him why he has come.

Reuben will go next to Judas.

REUBEN

Please listen, O young man. The lords, the rulers, have been informed. They say that maybe your heart is not good, maybe you are somebody's servant. I am to find out who you are. Tell me.

JUDAS

May the chief priests be informed that I am a student of Christ's. But today I have abandoned him. The reason why³⁸ I came before the chief priests, the pontiffs, is that I found out what is worrying them. I know very well how it will be done. [26r]

³⁷ Partially excised later and replaced with [oti]mociamiquiti, 'you have become weary.'

³⁸ yn nican later altered to ypampan.

REUBEN

Very well. Wait a bit. Let me go and tell the chief priests. Rest for a little while.

Reuben will go once again before the chief priests. First he will bow. Afterwards he will speak.

REUBEN

O rulers, he says, "I am a student of Christ's. But today I have abandoned him. And I found out what is worrying you. I know how it can be done."

CAIAPHAS

Very well. Call him. Let him come inside here.

REUBEN

Very well, O ruler. Let me call him young man so that he will come inside here.

Reuben will once again go next to Judas. He will speak.

REUBEN

O young man, the chief priests are summoning you. Come, come inside here.

JUDAS

May it so be done. You have shown me favor, O ruler.

Then Judas will go before the chief priests. He will bow as he approaches them. And Reuben will then go among the Jews.

JUDAS

O our lords, O rulers, I have come to greet your royal honors, you who govern [26v] the royal and revered altempetl of Jerusalem. Exert all your effort! I have come here before you, I have come to see you, for they told me some days ago about your problem concerning Christ. And he was my teacher. Today I have abandoned him. The reason why I have come before you is that I have come to leave him in your hands. If you arrest him, what will you pay me, since I will betray him to you, I will make him known to you?

CAIAPHAS

That is indeed what we are in, what is worrying us, what you came for. And this has been worrying us very much: how we will be able to arrest him. Wait a bit, sit down, rest. Wait for our words.

SIMEON

O rulers, the words that have come to reach you are very good. We are very happy about it. But now, deliberate quickly. Let the young man be given whatever payment he asks for, maybe silver, or maybe some other goods. Let it be given.

CAIAPHAS

May it so be done. Don't worry. We will consult as rulers about our problem.

Judas will go to the edge of the stage while the chief priests consult with one another. He will go. He will go and speak over there. [27r]

JUDAS

Now it is very good that I went and did it. I went and put my problem before the chief priests. It was as if it was a burden, which no longer weighs upon me. And now, it is very good, how the rulers replied to me. My heart is sure that now I will be fortunate. I will no longer go around thinking about tomorrow or the day after. All [I will do] is just drink and eat.

ANNAS

Come, you Pharisees, you prudent ones. We will consult with one another. We say, let us give twenty pieces of silver to the young man who has come.

SAMUEL

Maybe he will be satisfied with that. Let us call the young man. Call him, porter.³⁹ Let him come inside here.

REUBEN

May it so be done. Let me call the young man. Let him come inside, before your rulerships.

Reuben will go. He will go to call Judas.

REUBEN

Come here, O young man. The chief priests are calling you. You will come inside the house.⁴⁰

JUDAS

May it so be done, O my noble, O ruler.

Then Judas will go before the chief priests. Reuben will lead him. When he arrived in front of the chief priests, then [Simeon] will address to him.

SIMEON

The chief priests say that they are giving you twenty pieces of silver. How do you see it, O young man? [27v]

JUDAS

I deserve a great deal for what I am doing before your rulerships, you beloved nobles. What will I do with twenty pieces of silver? That is not his price. Did I come before your rulerships for just any thing? It is the honor of your altepetyl, your reputation. If you do not want to give me something, let me take leave of you.

SAMUEL

³⁹ This sentence was later excised.

⁴⁰ This sentence was later excised.

Don't worry! We'll give you whatever you ask for, however much it is.⁴¹

Samuel will jump up. He will be angry. He will strike the table.

SAMUEL

You lords, you rulers who are seated in honor, what are you doing? What will the silver be? Give him as much as he wants. Did he come for just any thing?

CAIAPHAS

That will be good. Let us give him thirty pieces of silver. Call the young man.

SAMUEL

Come, O young man. They are giving you thirty pieces of silver. Come here in front of the others. Give the young man his payment.

MAJORDOMO

Very well, O ruler. I am just waiting for your command. If some more silver is needed, I have it here.

MAJORDOMO

Come, O young man. Here is the silver. [28r]. Receive it.

JUDAS

May I be worthy of it, O young man.⁴² Right here.

Then they will count the money for Judas. Mayordomo will count thirty pieces.

MAJORDOMO

O young man, I have counted the money for you. May you be comforted by it.

*Then in front of people Judas will put the money in a sack.*⁴³

JUDAS

O my lords, O rulers, you have been generous. I am satisfied with this silver that you gave me. And now, give commands to the warriors, the strong soldiers whom I will bring with me. Let them prepare for war with metal [weapons], and give them firm commands not to let the very great scoundrel get away. I'm the one who knows him. I will lead them, I will take them, I will make him known to them, I will leave him in their hands. I know where we will go and come upon him.

CAIAPHAS

⁴¹ "however much it is" was later excised, and "silver, O young man" was written in.

⁴² The more appropriate "O ruler" is added above.

⁴³ Spanish *costal* (as *coxtal*), combined with the verb *quetzal*, meaning to put in a sack. See Abelardo de la Cruz's note in the standardized transcription.

Come, you, you Jews. Give the commands to one another. And you, war captain, you, Leader, I command you to select the really strong warriors so that you will go with the young man. Don't let the deceiver, Christ, get away. Exert all your effort. Bring chains [28v] to tie him up with.

LEADER

I have heard your words. Now I will choose really strong warriors so that we will go with the young man, so that we will go to arrest the bewilderer, Christ.

All the chief priests will go inside. The Jews will go playing wind instruments. They will go in the lead. They will all go inside. And Judas will remain on the stage.

JUDAS

O, it's thirty pieces of silver that the chief priests have given me because I sold Christ. Now I will go about happy. I have been comforted. I will devote myself to drinking, to eating, and I will buy many things, my goods, my possessions. Now the people of my household will prosper, will go about happy.

Judas will go inside. Then Christ will come out. Saint Peter will lead the way, and Saint John and Saint James.

CHRIST

O my beloved children, my soul is very troubled. Wait for me here. Pray to my beloved father, God, so that temptation will not come upon you. [29r]

SAINT PETER

Let us carry out your command, as you command us. Let us wait for you here.

Saint Peter and Saint John and Saint James will remain at the edge of the stage. They will sleep. And Christ will go, he will go to pray over in the walled garden.

CHRIST

O my beloved and revered father, O merciful one, will it be possible that I not die, that the suffering just pass me by? But it is not for me to say. It is not what I ask for, what I want, that will be done. It is just your will that will be done, you my beloved father.

Christ will stand up. He will go to look at his students where they are.

CHRIST

What are you doing, O my children? Can't you keep vigil, stay awake, here as well for just a little while? Get up. Pray to my beloved father, God, so that what is not good, temptation, will not come upon you.

The apostles will not speak. They will just be dozing. Christ will go once again. Christ will go to pray in the walled garden. [29v]

CHRIST

O my beloved father, will it be possible that I not die? May the suffering pass me by. But it is not my will that will be done. It is just your will that will be done, you my beloved father.

Then an angel will appear.

ANGEL

Exert all your breath, your effort, O my deity, O my ruler! Do not lose your breath, O Jesus Christ. Now, please listen. We have bowed before your beloved father, God, all of us who live in heaven. I have placed before him your precious blood, your red dye, with which you sweated for the sake of the people of the world, your creations. All of us who are residents of heaven humbly implored your beloved father that you not suffer, that you not die. He said to us, "My beloved child, Jesus Christ, knows well that the people of the world will be saved with his death, with his blood, with his red dye. Later, my beloved child will be saved. That is he wants, [30r] that he will die for the sake of the people of earth." And now, how do you want it to be, O my beloved father?

CHRIST

I greatly desire the salvation of the souls of all people of the world. That is what I very much strive for, so that with my death I will save them. May the will of my beloved father, God, so be done.

ANGEL

O my beloved father, be strong! Exert all your effort! You are great, you are valiant. And very great are the pain, the torment, that you will suffer for the sake of the people of the world. That is what you came to be born here on earth for. Be strong-hearted. It will not last long. Your suffering will pass quickly. And when it has quickly passed, then you will attain eternal happiness. And your beloved father, God, will not leave you. He will always be beside you. And as for your students, he will take care of them, along with your beloved mother. You will see them just as they are Nothing will happen to them. You will see them just as they are.

The angel will disappear. Christ will stand up. He will go next to [30v] his students. Then all the Jews will come out. They will be very much arrayed for war. Judas will go in the lead. When all the Jews are on the stage, then Judas will speak.

JUDAS

We're taking a long time, O our lords, O rulers. Come on! Let's go!

SAMUEL

Here are the soldiers, the warriors, the ruddy ones, whom you will go with. Don't be careless with us, O young man. And you Jews, go and follow him. You're not to forget anything. Are you bringing the chains? Listen well to what the young man will tell⁴⁴ you. You are to do thusly. You're not to let the bewilderer get away.

LEADER

⁴⁴ Later excised and replaced with "command."

We hear your breath, your words. Don't worry. As for us, we know how we will seize the bewilderer.

CENTURION

Now you will see what we'll do to the deceiver, Christ. We've been going around looking for him for a long time.

JUDAS

Please listen. Here is what I command you. You're not to go the wrong way. Listen well. There is a student of his who is just like him. Listen. The one [31r] whose face⁴⁵ I will kiss, he is the one you are to arrest, you are to seize.⁴⁶ You are not to let him get away. It will no longer be my fault. You know it.

CHRIST

Get up. You've slept now, O my beloved children. The one who will betray me has come, has come to arrive.

The apostles who were sleeping will stand up. Then Judas will go next to Christ. He will embrace him with a kiss.

JUDAS

Let it be all your breath, O teacher.

CHRIST

Why is it with a kiss that you betray the maiden's child?

Then Judas will go inside.

CHRIST

And as for you (all), who are you looking for?

All the Jews will reply:

[JEWS]

He who is Jesus of Nazareth.

They will all fall on the ground.

CHRIST

Get up. Who are you looking for?

The Jews will reply,

[JEWS:]

⁴⁵ Later excised and replaced with "foot" or "feet," a more respectful and less intimate e\|

⁴⁶ The phrase "What do you know?" follows here and was excised. It does not suit the context.

He who is Jesus of Nazareth.

CHRIST

Get up. Who are you looking for?

[JEWS:]

He who is Jesus of Nazareth.

CHRIST

I am he. Get up. If you are to arrest me, arrest me, seize me. Just leave my students be. Let [31v] them go.

LEADER

Arrest him, seize him, O our friends! He is the one we're going around looking for. Bring the chains. Tie the bewilderer up with them. He is what we bought.

Then they will tie Christ's neck with chains and they will tie his hands.

SAINT PETER

O my teacher,⁴⁷ O our lord, shall we fight? We are beating the Jews.

Saint Peter will draw out his metal hand-stick.⁴⁸ He will cut off Malchus's ear with it. Then he⁴⁹ will fall on the ground.

MALCHUS

Ay! See, O soldiers, who cut off my ear!

CHRIST

O Peter, put away your metal hand-stick. Don't you want me to suffer, like my beloved father, God, wants? How will everything that lies written in the sacred words come true? If I wanted to help myself, wouldn't I beseech my beloved father, God, that he send me more than a million and a half⁵⁰ warriors from heaven who would help me, so that I would not be betrayed to the Jews? Bring his ear. I will stick it on for the poor man.

Saint Peter will pick up [32r] Malchus's ear from the ground. He will give it to Christ. They will stick on his ear. He will get right up. He will slap Christ in the face repeatedly.

MALCHUS

⁴⁷ Added later.

⁴⁸ *Macuahuitl* 'hand-stick' was the wooden weapon with obsidian blades inserted into its sides used in Indigenous warfare. A metal one is a sword. The retention of the old term here is an archaism.

⁴⁹ Alternatively, the ear, but as Malcho later is to get up, it seems he does fall on the ground.

⁵⁰ Or, more than ten times twenty times 8,000, making 1,600,000 plus. In Matthew 26:53, Christ refers to twelve legions of angels. The Nahuatl here reduces this to ten and equates a Roman legion (a variable number, but several thousand) with *xiquipilli*, a unit of 8,000, but also multiplies by twenty by using the enumerator *tlatecpantli*, or file of twenty.

Will we let you go for that, O scoundrel? Seize the bewilderer, O soldiers! You're not to let him go.

LEADER

Good. Seize him, O soldiers. He is our purchase, the deceiver.

Then they will take Christ to Annas's home. They will go dragging him. All the Jews will beat their lips. Saint Peter and Saint John will follow the others from a distance. Saint James will go inside with them. Annas will come out. He will sit on his seat.

LEADER

Be joyful, you chief priest. We have brought the deceiver, Christ, here in front of you. Take a look at him. He comes tied up here.

ANNAS

Come here. You (all) have endured fatigue.

CENTURION

We went to carry out your royal command. [32v] We went to tie up the one who goes around lying to people, who goes around bewildering our subjects. He goes around belittling them here in the altepetl of Jerusalem here.

ANNAS

Come here. Are you the one who calls yourself a teacher? What do you go around teaching the macehualtin? You bewilderer, tell me, reveal before me, who are your students? Let me see them.

CHRIST⁵¹

As for me, it was in broad daylight, in front of everyone, that I would teach, that I would gather together all the macehualtin. There was nothing secret, nothing in corners, that I used to say to people. Why are you questioning me? Question those who heard me. They will say what I went around teaching.

[Malchus] will slap Christ in the face.

MALCHUS

What in the world are you thinking, that you answered the high priest like this?

CHRIST

If what I said is not correct, you reveal, you explain, what [in]correct words I uttered. Why do you slap me in the face? O Malchus, it is not good, what you did.⁵² [33r]

LEADER

⁵¹ "It is you who said that I am the child of God" added later at the beginning of this speech. This statement properly belongs later in the play.

⁵² This sentence added later, at the bottom of 32v.

Will we only slap you in the face, O scoundrel? We will kill you! We will destroy you!

ANNAS

Now, take him to the home of the great high priest Caiaphas. Let him take a look at this deceiver who goes around bewildering our subjects.

CENTURION

Very well. Let it so be done, O ruler. Let us take him over to the home of the great high priest Caiaphas.

Then they will beat Christ on the ground along the way. All the Jews will kick him. They will take him to the home of Caiaphas. Saint John will go inside by himself.

LEADER

Now we will see about you, O scoundrel. Will you go speak, will you respond, in the same way to the great high priest Caiaphas, as if you have no respect for him? Hurry up, get a move on!

CENTURION

Kick him. He is our purchase now. He will die in our hands. We won't let him get away like this.

Caiaphas will come out. He will sit on his seat. A table will be placed there and Notary will sit down by it.

LEADER

Be joyful, you great high priest [33v] Caiaphas. We came to appear before you in regard to the deceiver, Christ. We have brought him here.

CAIAPHAS

Come here. You (all) have endured fatigue. It is weariness that the liar gives you.

SAMUEL

O ruler, that one is the bewilderer, who comes tied up here, who goes around bewildering our subjects. He considers your honor as nothing. He wants to destroy it,⁵³ here in the altepetl of Jerusalem. Pass judgment on him, so that he will die.

CENTURION

O ruler, he goes around lying to people about a great many things. He bewilders⁵⁴ the macehualtin. Not thus will you (all) let him go. See well to how you will pass judgment on this liar who is standing here.

CAIAPHAS

⁵³ Later altered from "he goes about destroying it."

⁵⁴ Later, more appropriate replacement for *san^{co}lolhuitinemi*, cognate with Axochiapan (24v).

Your interrogation⁵⁵ will be done in this way. We hear a great many things about him, all of them bad, improper.⁵⁶ He must indeed be sentenced to death. Now let an investigation⁵⁷ be done. Let the witnesses come. Let them come and testify about all his sins. [34r]

LEADER

Here is the first witness, O ruler. Let them explain everything that Christ went around doing.

FIRST WITNESS

O ruler, may you know that, as to this deceiver, here is how he goes around bewildering people. He makes people stop the tribute of the great ruler Caesar, who is seated in honor in Rome, our ruler. That is what we really heard about him, what he goes around saying to the macehualtin.

CAIAPHAS

I have heard it. Put it down like so. Write it on the paper,⁵⁸ Notary.

NOTARY

Very well, O ruler. Let me put it down like so.

LEADER

Here is the second witness, O ruler.

SECOND WITNESS

Listen, O ruler, here is what we know in regard to the deceiver who stands here tied up. We indeed heard about him that he goes around saying, "I would be able to knock down your temple, that you made with your hands. I will put it on the ground. I will put up another one in just three days, which will be very splendid as to how beautiful it will be." That is how he goes around deceiving people. You have heard it, you great high priest.

CAIAPHAS

Put it down like so, write it like so, Notary.

Notary will write something.

NOTARY

I am putting it down like so, all of Christ's deeds, [34v] with which he goes around lying to people.

CAIAPHAS

Why do you make no reply to all that they say about you here, with which you are accused? I command you, by God's authority, tell me: are you Christ, are you the child of God? Or are you just a deceiver? Tell me, who are you? Where is your home?

⁵⁵ Later altered to "your will."

⁵⁶ "improper" later excised and replaced with *ytlapololtilis* (reading tentative) 'his bewilderings of people.'

⁵⁷ Spanish *información*.

⁵⁸ "Write it on the paper" later excised and replaced with *yohqui xquilo* (for *ihqui xiquihcuiloh*) 'write it like so.'

CHRIST

It is you who said, who declared, that I am the child of God. All that I say to you is true, is correct. It won't be long until you (all) will see the maiden's child seated in honor at the right hand of his beloved father, God. From there he will arise, he will come out on the clouds when he comes to pass judgment on the living and the dead.

Caiaphas will leap up. He will tear his clothing in rage. It will be obvious in front of people.

CAIAPHAS

Whatever for do we look for witnesses? You all have now heard the belittling, the slandering of him.⁵⁹ Christ pretends to be a deity. But how do you see it, you Pharisees? [35r]

CENTURION

He must be sentenced to death because he sees your honor as nothing, he counts it as nothing. He deserves death. Pass judgment on him so that he will perish for his lies!

CAIAPHAS

It will not be possible for us to sentence him to death. It is not our responsibility. Tomorrow, you're to take him before the ruler President Pontius Pilate so that he will be the one who will pass judgment on him. And now, keep guarding him in the jail, keep watch on him, all of you. You are not to let him run away.

LEADER

Very well, O ruler. Let us carry out you command. O soldiers, take him straight to the jail. Tie him up there. You're not to let him go.

Then they will take Christ to the jail. The jailhouse will appear forth in front of people, made in such a way that everyone will see the model, the sign. All the Jews will be on guard. And Saint Peter will go to where a brazier will be laid. He will be warming himself. Not far from the edge of the stage First Angel and Second Angel will come out. They will go over to the jail where Christ will be tied up. When they have arrived, they will kneel. Then they will throw themselves facedown. They will kiss the ground. Then they will speak.

FIRST ANGEL

You who are worthy of utter exaltation, you great [35v] ruler, all powerful, inside heaven and here on earth your rulership is exalted. It was just by your will, how you came to take flesh, by means of a sacred marvel, in the womb of the noblewoman Saint Mary, just for the sake of your creations, all the people on earth. For their sake you are suffering here. You came to save their life forces, their souls. Very great is your mercy, O my deity, O Jesus Christ. May your creations obtain it, all the people in the world. May your will be done.

SECOND ANGEL

⁵⁹ "Christ" may have been written here accidentally in place of God (Dios), as if the blasphemy were committed against himself. I have translated it with Christ as subject of the following verb.

O my deity, O my ruler, very great is the suffering that you will endure for the sake of your creations. Exert all your breath, your effort! You are placing yourself into everything that will happen to you, the pain, the affliction. You are without sin. They will tie you to a stone column. They will flog you. Your precious and sacred blood will spill on the ground, and they will make you carry a very large crossed-wood device, a cross, on your shoulder. Your enemies, the Jews, the stubborn-hearted ones, will make you stretch your arms on it, so that everything that is written in the sacred words will come true, [36r] will happen, that all the prophets left said.

The angels will go inside. And when they have gone inside, First Jew will go next to Saint Peter, where he is warming himself. Then he will kick him, first. Afterwards he will address him.

FIRST JEW

Well, you sure are warming yourself here! Aren't you a student of Christ's, who was arrested today?

SAINT PETER

Maybe you're mistaken, O my friend. I don't know the one you're talking about. Maybe you (all) are just confusing me with someone else.

Malchus will rush in. First he will shove Saint Peter in the chest. Afterwards he will address him.

MALCHUS

Why don't you acknowledge him? Didn't we see also you over in the walled garden? You went around⁶⁰ with the deceiver who was arrested, who was seized.

SAINT PETER

Walled garden where, O my noble? I don't think so. You (all) are just making false accusations against people.

CENTURION

We saw you over in the walled garden. We're not lying to you.

MALCHUS

You don't admit it. Are we lying to you? Didn't we see you over in the walled garden?

They will leave Saint Peter alone. The Jews will not move away [36v] until the rooster will cry out. Then the Jews will move away.

SAINT PETER

Truly indeed, God knows that I don't know the one you (all) are talking about. If I know him, then may [God] pass judgment on me right here. Let him kill me, if I know that person. What I am telling you is correct. I'm not lying. *[Aside:]* Let me go away. Don't let anything happen to me here.

⁶⁰ A later annotation changed *otinenca* to imperfect *otinemiya* 'you were going around.'

The rooster will cry out three times. The motet “Et recordatus [est Petrus]” will be sung.⁶¹ Then the Jews will move way, will leave Saint Peter alone. He will speak all alone. He will kneel next to Christ.

SAINT PETER

Alas! O⁶² our lord, O God, O my beloved teacher, O how wretched I am! I have offended you, I went and did what is bad, what is wrong. I did not acknowledge you in public. I denied you. Do not despise me for it, sinner that I am.

Saint Peter will go inside. Joseph and Samuel and Simeon will come out, while Caiaphas is speaking. [37r]

CAIAPHAS

Bring out Christ, whom you are guarding in the jail. Take him to the home of the ruler President Pontius Pilate. Let the witnesses go there so that they will testify.

CENTURION

May it so be done. Bring out the bewilderer, Christ.

Then all the Jews will go to the jail. They will go to grab Christ. When the Jews have reached the jail, then Leader will speak.

LEADER

Untie him. *[To Christ:]* Come out, you deceiver. Today you will pay the penalty, you are going to pay the penalty, for your lies. Today we will take you before the great judge, Pontius Pilate. Bring him out, O soldiers.

All the Jews will untie Christ. They will bring him out of the jail. Judas will come out. He will come to stand at the edge of the stage. He will stare. He will look at Christ, where they take him.

JUDAS

Let me watch from here. How are they treating the one I betrayed? Is that him that they are taking over there? [37v]

He will look over where they are taking Christ.

JUDAS

Alas! How wretched I am! They come afflicting him very much. I have sinned very greatly. The way it looks to me, they will kill him. No one cares about him. I have sinned very greatly. My heart knows it well. I have offended you. You will no longer be able to have mercy on

⁶¹ This is the first musical annotation in the script. Although the scriptwriter uses the word motet, this is more likely a passage from Navarro (1604:15v): *Et recordatus est Petrus verbi Jesu, quod dixerat: priusquam Gallus cātet: ter me negabis. Et egrēssus foras: fleuit amare* (“And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus: ‘Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly”). The text is Matthew 26:75.

⁶¹ “you” excised in Axochiapan Passion (37r).

⁶² The later redactor replaced the interjection *Iyohyahue* with the simple “O.”

me. I no longer deserve [to live⁶³] on earth. Let me go throw myself off a cliff somewhere, or let me go hang myself somewhere, great scoundrel that I am.

Judas will go. He will meet the others where they are taking Christ. It will be right in front of people, how he will throw down the silver.

JUDAS

O our lords, O rulers, I have come here before you. I have sinned very greatly, as I sold to you the blood, the red dye, of God. Here is the money⁶⁴ that you gave me, the silver.⁶⁵ Take it. And let my teacher go. I have sinned very greatly, as I betrayed him to you.

THIRD JEW

What business are you of ours, O scoundrel? Did we go arrest you? You came, it was you who came to leave him in our hands. It's not our responsibility if you greatly⁶⁶ sinned. Go get away from here. *[To Majordomo:]* Come, you, Majordomo. Go take, go get hold of the silver. [38r] Keep it separate. You're not to put it back in the altepetl's coffer, because it has become a death payment. Keep it separate. A large field will be purchased with it, where all those who die here in the altepetl of Jerusalem will be buried.

MAJORDOMO

May it so be done, O ruler. I will put it away separately, for it has become a death payment.

Then Judas will go. He will go to hang himself from a tree with a rope. They will take Christ to Pilate's home. They will beat him against the ground. And while they are still taking him, Pilate will come out. He will sit on his seat. And Notary will go in the lead, at a big table where he will write, in front of people. Caiaphas will go in the lead by himself. The other chief priests will just go following.

CAIAPHAS

Be joyful, O ruler, you great ruler Pontius Pilate. Your subjects, the Jews, have come here before you. They have brought a certain person. Listen to them, and we implore you that you will carry out our interrogation.⁶⁷

PILATE

Please come. You have endured fatigue. Let me hear your problem. [38v]

LEADER

O ruler, here before you we have brought the deceiver who comes tied up here. He goes about bewildering people with a great many things here in the altepetl of Jerusalem. He goes around bewildering all our subjects, those of the water, those of the hill, in Jerusalem.

⁶³ In Axochiapan (27r); possibly accidentally omitted here.

⁶⁴ This word was later excised.

⁶⁵ *namo* entered above, probably intended to change *yn teocuitlatl* to *yn amoteocuitlahu* 'your silver.'

⁶⁶ "Greatly" was later excised.

⁶⁷ *ynic ticmonelttililis yn totlaytlanilis* later changed to *ma xicmotlatzontequililiz ca mone[qui] miquis* 'pass judgment on him. He must die.'

PILATE

Which one do you indeed accuse in this way? What harm has he done? Tell me, is there proof?⁶⁸ Or are there witnesses, so that they will testify, from their lips,⁶⁹ what he has done?

CENTURION

There are those who will testify before you, O ruler.

LEADER

There are witnesses. We are seeking those who will tell you what damage he has done. There are a great many who will testify. Here is the first witness, O ruler.⁷⁰

FIRST WITNESS

Listen, O ruler. We could not lie to you. Here is what we indeed heard about the deceiver who is standing here. He says to the macehualtin, "I'm the one who is the ruler of the Jews, and I am ruler of the world." And he tells people, "Don't give the emperor Caesar his tribute." Now you have heard it, O ruler.

PILATE

You witnesses, do not [39r] say anything that is a falsehood.⁷¹ You are not to state anything out of hatred. Only testify correctly. As for me, I do not see any sin in regard to the one you have brought here. Say only what you know.

LEADER

Here is the second witness. Let him say what are correct words, O ruler.⁷²

SECOND WITNESS

Here, O ruler, is what we know about the bewilderer. He goes around pretending to be a ruler. He goes around telling people, "I am a great ruler. I am the ruler of the Jews." He thinks nothing of the lordship, the rulership, here in Jerusalem. He thinks nothing of you, and he has no respect for the chief priests and the elders.

PILATE

Put it down like so, the accusations against Christ, Notary.

NOTARY

I am putting it all down, whatever words the witnesses say, as they testify.

Notary will write something.

LEADER

⁶⁸ Spanish *probanza*.

⁶⁹ Or "by their authority."

⁷⁰ "O ruler" added later.

⁷¹ *ytlā* later changed to *y tlatolli*, for "do not say falsehoods, words" (or false words).

⁷² "O ruler" added later.

Here is the third witness, O ruler.

THIRD WITNESS

O ruler, listen, in regard to the liar who stands here tied up, here are his words, with which he goes around bewildering people. He pretends to be a deity. He goes around telling people, “I am the child of God. And your temple, that you made with your own hands, I will knock it down. And in just three [39v] days I will put it up again. It will be even more splendid.” That is how he goes around lying to people everywhere. It is indeed correct. We aren’t telling lies, the way we say it in front of you, O ruler.

LEADER

Now you are satisfied, O ruler. You have heard all his deeds, his bewildering, with which he goes around bewildering people. We beseech you, pass judgment on him. He must die!

PILATE

Please come here, you poor wretch. Please tell me, is it correct that you are the ruler of the Jews?

CHRIST

It is you who says that I am the ruler of the Jews.⁷³

Then Leader will shove Christ in the chest.

LEADER

Take careful note of his depravity. He admits everything, O ruler. Right in front of you he wants to be ruler, he admits to his deeds. He goes around saying, “I am the ruler of the Jews.” He has admitted it. You really must pass judgment on him so that he will die, so that he will not go around here pretending to be a deity. [40r]

PILATE

Respond to them [about] everything that they are saying about you. They accuse you of a great many things. Make things right for yourself. Answer. It’s not me who’s doing this. It is them, the chief priests, who brought you here, who came to leave you in my hands, along with my subjects who make accusations in front of me. Say what you have done. Why don’t you answer the witnesses?

Christ will not speak.

PILATE

I see no sin in regard to him. What am I to do to him? You (all) say it.

SAMUEL

⁷³ The statement “All that I say to you is that you (all) will see the maiden’s child coming out among the clouds,” similar to parallel text in Axochiapan (29v), is excised here, perhaps because the copyist realized this utterance of Christ’s belongs where it appears earlier, on f. 34v, during Caiaphas’s interrogation of him.

O ruler, how is it that he is without sin? He really bewildered, deceived, all of our subjects. He started over in Galilee, where he's from, and he's gotten here to the altopetl of Jerusalem. If he were without sin, we would not have brought him before you. We implore you, all of us, pass judgment on the bewilderer so that he will die, he will perish.

PILATE

As I understand it, he's from Galilee, he is under the governance of the ruler Herod. And he is seated in honor [there]. Take him before him. You are to tell him that I implore him, let him admonish his subject, [40v] his governed one. And let him pass judgment on him. Let him be the one to say what will be done to Christ.

LEADER

May it so be done, O ruler. Let us take the liar, the deceiver, Christ, over there.

CENTURION

Get moving, crazy person. Now we will take you before the great ruler Herod.

REUBEN

Seems like you can't walk anymore, O scoundrel. Now you'll pay the penalty for your wickedness. Hurry up. Get moving. If you don't walk quickly, we'll destroy you here on the road.⁷⁴

When they have reached Herod's home, Centurion will speak.

CENTURION

Be joyful, O ruler. We have come here before you. Hear our words.

LEADER

O ruler, here before you we have brought the deceiver, Christ, who comes tied up here. The great ruler Pontius Pilate beseeches you. He says, "Tell the great ruler Herod, let him admonish his subject, his governed one, who goes around bewildering people with many things [41r] here in Jerusalem. Let him make him stop. Let him punish him." You have heard it, O ruler.

HEROD

The ruler Pontius Pilate has shown me favor. Please come here. Are you the one who calls yourself Christ? A very long time ago my late father was looking for you. You never appeared before him. Is it because of you that a great many little children were killed over in Bethlehem? Is it you who revived Lazarus, and is it you who turned water into wine over in Galilee? Answer me!

Christ will not speak.

LEADER

Answer, you deceiver! Where did your words go?

⁷⁴ "On the road" was later excised.

CENTURION

What have you done, crazy person? Answer the great ruler Herod. Isn't it you who went around lying to people, five or ten [days ago]? What of those you went around accompanying, your students?

HEROD

Or, please, perform some marvel in front of me. For a very long time I've been hearing of your fame. I will have compassion for you, I will let you go, [41v] if you will perform some marvel in front of me. I will be satisfied with that.

Christ will not speak.

HEROD

I think it is a crazy person that you have brought here for me. Take him out in the doorway. He is really giving me a headache. Here is a white cloak. Wrap him in it.

They will take the white cloak. They will wrap Christ in it.

FIRST JEW

It seems you've gone mute, O scoundrel. Isn't it you who went around saying you are ruler [of] Israel, and you went around teaching people everywhere in the temple, you went around accompanying all your students? Answer!

HEROD

Now take him before the ruler Pontius Pilate once again. You are to tell him that he has shown me favor. The one he sent here to me just turned mute here in front of me. He didn't answer me with anything. He [Pilate] knows what he will do to him. Let him be the one to pass judgment on him. He is just a crazy person.

LEADER

May it so be done, O ruler. Let us take him once again. It will be obvious there that he is just a liar, he is not to be believed. [42r]

SECOND JEW

Get moving, O scoundrel. It seems like you can't walk anymore. What of your students, you deceiver? Walk quickly. Don't delay us [and] we won't destroy you here.

Then they will take him to Pilate's home. On the way, all the Jew will hurl him down.

LEADER

O ruler, the ruler Herod says, "Take him once again before the great ruler President Pontius Pilate. He answered me with nothing, the one you sent to me. Let him be the one to pass judgment on him."

PILATE

What am I to do to the one you have brought to me? As if he is a scoundrel you accuse him of all sorts of things. I see no sin whatsoever in regard to him that is worthy of death, worthy of punishment.⁷⁵ Likewise the ruler Herod, as you were bringing him in front of him, he sees nothing of sin in regard to him. And you, you take him, pass judgment on him according to your laws.

SIMEON

Since we brought him before you, work your justice⁷⁶ on him. Carry out our demand in regard to him. [42v]

PILATE

Please come, you, Christ. What is it that you used to go about teaching people? If only you would have desisted. Tell me correctly, what did you do, what harm have you done, that you are accused in this way? Answer me!

Christ will not speak.

PILATE

Very well. I am going to take him, I am going to seize him. I will do something very frightful to him, I will punish him in such a way that you will be satisfied, so that he will never again lie to people, bewilder people, here in Jerusalem. Now, come, you warriors. I firmly command you: tie him to a stone column.⁷⁷ Flog him, rip his body to shreds. His blood will flow right onto the ground. All of you, flog him. When he is no longer moving, when you've made him faint with the ropes, then you are to stop it. It is of no use that I punish him. I see no sin in regard to him.

LEADER

Very well, O ruler. May your royal command so be done. Come, O soldiers. Quickly, strip him, [43r] take his clothing off. Tie him to a stone column⁷⁸ so that we can flog him there.

They will strip Christ right in front of people on the stage. Inside he will have a loincloth. It will be quite visible. They will tie him in front of people to a stone column. Then they will begin it, they will flog him. All the Jews will take turns, so that what Pontius Pilate passed judgement on will be carried out. When they have flogged him, then they will take Christ down. They will put him on a wooden seat. It will be a bit large. Then the Jews will mock him. First, First Jew will spit in Christ's face. Afterwards he will speak. They will wrap him in a red cape.⁷⁹

FIRST JEW

If it's true that you are the child of God, who spit on you, O deceiver?

⁷⁵ "that is worthy of death, worthy of punishment" later excised

⁷⁶ Spanish *justicia*.

⁷⁷ *tetlaquetzal*- later excised from the term *tetlaquetzaltitech*; *tem* added in the margin. Presumably a change to *temimilol[li]*, the term for stone column more typically used in this context, was intended.

⁷⁸ Here again, *tetlaquetzal*- is excised and *tem* written in the margin.

⁷⁹ Spanish, *capotillo*.

Second Jew first will slap Christ in the face. Afterwards he will speak.

SECOND JEW

If it's true that you are Christ, who slapped you in the face? You're just a liar. You went around pretending to be a deity. Who will believe you, crazy person? [43r]

And Third Jew will bring a reed. First he will beat him with it. Afterwards he will give it to him.

THIRD JEW

Be joyful, you ruler of the Jews! Here is your royal staff of office.

And Fourth Jew will bring the crown of thorns.

FOURTH JEW

Here is your royal crown, a circlet of thorns. Kiss it. It is very splendid and precious, Now we will put it on your head. It will really wreck your skull. Bend over.⁸⁰ Come help me, O soldiers. We will put the deceiver's royal crown on for him.

They will put the thorns on Christ.

SECOND JEW

Now we have carried it out, as we have flogged him. Let's take him before the ruler Pontius Pilate, so that he will be satisfied.

FOURTH JEW

May it so be done. Let's go show him how we did it, we carried out his command. *[To Christ:]* Get up, O teacher. What of your students? Where did they go? If it's true that you are a deity, help yourself, or let all the ones you used to accompany about come and help you. What of them? [44r]

Then they will take Christ to Pilate's home. Leader will speak.

LEADER

We have carried out your royal command. We have flogged him. [33r] Look at Christ. Here he is.

Pilate will leap up. He will grab hold of Christ. He will show him to people in front of people.

PILATE

Here is the person. I have punished him. He was flogged on my orders. Look at him, all of you, you Jews. It is a very great punishment that I did to him. I see no sin in regard to him whom you accuse. And now, say, all of you, what am I to do to Christ?

All the Jews will answer. They will say:

⁸⁰ "Bend over" was later excised.

[JEWS]

Make him stretch his arms on the cross, O ruler.

CENTURION

We really beseech you, pass judgment on him. Make Christ stretch his arms on the cross so that he will die, he will perish, because he sees the chief priests, the pontiffs, as nothing.

PILATE

I will not be able to. You, you go take him, [44v] make him stretch his arms on the cross. I see no sin in regard to him.

FIRST JEW

His sins are very many! Pass judgment on him, so that he will die. Death is essential for him because he goes around saying "I am the child of God." We beseech you, make him stretch his arms on the cross.

PILATE

Please come here. Where is your home? Where do you come from? And what harm did you do, that you are accused in this way?

Christ will not speak.

PILATE

Why don't you answer me? You make no return to me for my words.⁸¹ Don't you know that it is possible for me to make you stretch your arms on the cross? And I also have the power to release you.

CHRIST

As for you, you do not know that it will not be by your orders that you will sentence me to death. From heaven will come the words of my beloved father, God, who is seated in honor in heaven. Now I say to you, the ones who came to leave me in your hands sinned very greatly. But you,⁸² [45r] you do not have very much sin.

FIRST JEW

O ruler, if just like this you will release Christ, you will no longer be the friend of the great ruler, the emperor Tiberius Caesar, who is seated in honor in Rome.

Pilate will strike the table.

PILATE

I do not know what I will do. I have punished him. You are not satisfied with that. Today you always pardon one person on your festival, Pascua. And the murderer Barrabas, the thief, is in jail there. All his sins are quite apparent. Let him be the one that we sentence to death. And let Christ be the one that we have compassion for. What do you say?

⁸¹ Manuscript has "your words" but "my words" is probably intended (as in Axochiapan, 33v).

⁸² Added at the bottom of 44v: "you won't be able to do anything to me."

FOURTH JEW

It will not be possible that we have compassion for Christ. Barrabas must be the one for whom we will have mercy,⁸³ we will have compassion. We demand him.⁸⁴

PILATE

But as for Christ, what am I to do to him? All of you, say it.

All the Jews will answer:

[JEWS]

He will be made to stretch his arms on the cross! He will be made to stretch his arms on the cross!

PILATE

Very well. I will carry out your demand. You all know that it is your ruler whom I will make stretch his arms.

CENTURION

The deceiver is not our ruler. Pass judgment on him [45v] so that he will die. It is by our orders, it is our will, all of us.

LEADER

No one else is our ruler, only the ruler Emperor Caesar, who is seated in honor in Rome. He will hear about how the deceiver, Christ, goes around pretending to be ruler.

PILATE

Very well. Hear, you Jews, that it is not my sin that Christ will die. Look here. I wet my hands in front of you. I cleanse myself. It is no sin of mine. It is just all of you who demand that he die, that he be made to stretch his arms on the cross.

Then Pilate will wet his hands.

SIMEON [the] JEW

You have shown us favor, O ruler. Don't let it worry you. It will become our own sin. It is to us that the wrath, the anger, will be extended. It is to us that the affliction will happen, as to how Christ will die, will perish. We offer ourselves and we offer our children, we offer our grandchildren. All of us will pay the penalty.

PILATE

Notary, read the sentence for them.⁸⁵ Let them all [46r] hear it so that they will be satisfied as to how I passed judgment on Christ.

⁸³ This verb was later excised.

⁸⁴ This sentence added by later redactor.

⁸⁵ Apparently, the death warrant for this play was written on a separate document that Notary is to read or recite from memory at this point.

Then Notary will read the sentence in front of people. Everyone will know how they passed judgment on Christ. When it is finished, the sentence has been read, all the Jews will cry out. They will say:

[JEWS]

You have shown us favor, O ruler!

CENTURION

We are very grateful. You have shown us favor, O ruler, as you have passed judgment on Christ.

LEADER

O our friends, put him in his own clothes again, in which he used to go about teaching people, so that every person will see him, will take an example from him, who lives here in Jerusalem, as to how he used to go about lying to people.

All the Jews will take Christ inside the building. Saint John will come out.

SAINT JOHN

Where will I find the royal noblewoman, in order to tell her, to announce to her that her beloved only child has been betrayed? They are causing him to suffer greatly. His precious and revered face is no longer visible.

Saint John will go to the door.

SAINT JOHN

Come open the door, O dear Magdalene.⁸⁶ [46v]

Magdalene will come out, with Saint Mary and Saint Mary Salome.⁸⁷

O beloved noblewoman, know that your beloved child, your consolation, your source of strength, has fallen into the hands of the scoundrels, the Jews. It was the great⁸⁸ scoundrel Judas who sold him, who betrayed him, who cast him into the hands of the Pharisees, the chief priests in Jerusalem. They paid Judas thirty pieces of silver.⁸⁹

SAINT MARY

Alas! O my eternal father,⁹⁰ God! O my daughters, your teacher has been sold, has been seized, has been purchased. Let us follow behind him. Obey me.

MAGDALENE

⁸⁶ “Alas, O noblewoman” added by later redactor.

⁸⁷ This is the Salome mentioned in Mark 15:40. She became known as Mary Salome (one of the “Three Marys”) and is a saint in the Catholic Church.

⁸⁸ Altered to *yhuatl* (for *yehhuatl* ‘him’) by later redactor.

⁸⁹ *yn teocuitlatl* added by later redactor, who also excised Judas’s name.

⁹⁰ Alternatively, “O my father of the world.”

Don't worry, O beloved noblewoman.⁹¹ Be strong, since it is your beloved child's will that he suffer so that he will save us sinners. [47r]

MARY SALOME

We will perish ourselves! It is only by our benefactor's help that we were living on earth. Let us go to see him. Let us follow behind him. Be strong, O beloved noblewoman.

SAINT JOHN

O my beloved mother, know how it happened.⁹² Our teacher told us, over on Mount Zion, where we all spent Pascua, at the home of a person who is beloved to your beloved child. He spoke a great many words to us there, of our salvation, which were very comforting, and he mentioned many pity-inspiring things before us. And so were his words made. Then he took us over at the base of the garden, David's walled garden. He went there to pray for the sake of us sinners. He sweated with blood. His precious and revered blood ran onto the ground, because of his fear. And when it was finished, he'd prayed to his beloved father, God, then a great many arrived who were fitted out for war, with metal [weapons]. The chief priests in Jerusalem sent them. They went to arrest him. Then they tied him around the neck with metal [chains] and they tied his hands. They did not treat him with proper respect as [47v] they arrested him. Then they hurled him on the ground. He went tied up as they took him. Therefore I just came quickly, I came to tell you, if you want to see your beloved child, let us go quickly, O beloved noblewoman. Perhaps we will no longer come upon him, for his death is fast approaching.

SAINT MARY

O deity of the world, God the father, in your hands I leave my beloved child. Help him. And you, my beloved child, with whom are you going to leave me, your mother? I used to love you very much.

SAINT JOHN

Let us go quickly, O beloved noblewoman. We are taking quite a long time. I will lead the way,⁹³ I will go to see my teacher. Come follow me (you all).

Saint Mary will walk along. She will meet Reuben.

SAINT MARY

O my lord, have you by chance have seen my beloved child here? Where have they taken him? Tell me. [48r]

REUBEN

What's your child like, O dear woman? Please declare it.⁹⁴

SAINT MARY

⁹¹ Copyist wrote the masculine vocative but corrected it.

⁹² Later redactor changed to "how it happened to our teacher."

⁹³ I thank Julia Madajczak for her help with the proper reading of this word.

⁹⁴ "Please declare it" changed to "tell us" by later redactor.

My beloved child's face is surpassingly splendid.

REUBEN

Perhaps, after all, he is the one they brought out here in the streets. His hair just goes scattered in his eyes. His face is no longer visible. I do not know if it is true that he is your child.

They will bring Christ out and all the Jews [will come out]. His beloved mother will come to meet him. The two thieves will come tied up. The good thief will be tied up at [Christ's] right hand with a rope. And the bad thief will be tied up at his left hand. They will take them over to Calvary. They will make them stretch their arms on crosses as well.

CENTURION

Bring out the crossed-wood device, the cross, that they have prepared. Quickly, we will make the bewildered, Christ, carry it on his shoulder.

MALCHUS

Don't (you all) delay us. Quickly, go grab the crossed-wood device, the cross.

THIRD JEW

I'm going. I'm going to grab the crossed-wood device, [48v] the cross. Don't worry.

Third Jew will go. He will go inside to grab the cross. When he has gone to grab it, he will lay it on the stage in front of Christ.

THIRD JEW

Here is the crossed-wood device, the cross. Carry it on your back, according to how you were sentenced. We are to make you stretch your arms on it.

Then the motet "Tuan Crusen"⁹⁵ will be said.

CHRIST

You crossed-wood device, you holy cross, how can it be that you are so fortunate and, so favored that I will be made to stretch my arms on you, I will save the life forces, the souls, of the people of the world?

Christ will take the holy cross. He will put it on his shoulder by himself. When he has put the holy cross on his shoulder, then they will take him to Calvary.

LEADER

⁹⁵ This could be read as *te in cruce*, a phrase that appears in the second line (*adoro te in cruce vulneratum* 'I worship you, wounded on the cross') of the motet "O Domine Jesu Christe," set to music by, among others, two prominent Spanish composers of the sixteenth century: Tomás Luis de Victoria and Francisco Guerrero. Alternatively, and I find this more likely, it is a partial and Nahuatlized rendering of *baiulans* and *crucem*, from John 19:17 (*et baiulans sibi crucem exivit in eum* 'and he went out, bearing his own cross'), which is scored by Navarro (1604:84v) and fits this context appropriately.

You, town crier, go call out, go announce to people how judgment was passed on the deceiver, Christ, so that every person will see, the citizens here in Jerusalem.

TOWN CRIER

Let me carry it out as you (all) command me, how judgment was passed on Christ. Let me go announce it to people. [49r]

On the edge of the stage Town Crier will read how they passed judgment on Christ, on a document.

TOWN CRIER

Listen here, you citizens here in Jerusalem, to the justice⁹⁶ with which the great ruler Pontius Pilate gives commands that Christ will die. He will pay the penalty for how he went around bewildering people here in Jerusalem. He went around stirring things up and making people abandon the commands of Moses. Just for that reason he has been sentenced to death. He will be made to stretch his arms on a cross so that every person will take an example from him, no one will act like this again.

Then they will take Christ to Calvary. Then his beloved mother Saint Mary will meet him, along with Magdalene and Mary Salome and Saint John.

SAINT MARY

O my beloved child, may it be that I, your mother, die along with you. I used to love you very much, as I brought you up. Why, for what reason, is it happening to you like this, you who are my jade and only child? Will you go off and leave me all alone? [49v]

CHRIST

O my beloved mother, do not weep very much for my sake. Truly I say, everything will be carried out in your presence, all the tormenting of me. Be strong, O my beloved mother.

Then Saint Mary will withdraw. Saint John, Mary Magdalene, [and] Mary Salome will go toward Christ. Then Simon of Cyrene will meet the others on the road to Calvary, as First Jew will go to look. He will go and grab him.

FIRST JEW

Come, you of Cyrene. Come help Christ here. He's quite faint already. He can no longer endure the cross. He is already quite exhausted. Go help him, and you go carry the cross in your arms until he reaches Calvary. You're to go help him.

SIMON OF CYRENE

Very well. Let me help Christ. You are causing him to suffer very much. Why, for what reason, are you doing so? Don't you know that his precious and revered rulership is very great inside heaven, and everywhere in the world? But now you have made him carry the crossed-wood device, the cross, on his shoulder, he who is a very powerful one. *[To Christ:]* O my

⁹⁶ Spanish *justicia*.

deity, O my ruler, what harm have you done that it is happening to you like this? Let it be me who carries the cross on my shoulder. Let me help you. [50r]

FIRST JEW

What he's being punished for is none of your business. Just do, carry out, the job we are giving you.

Simon of Cyrene will kneel.

SIMON OF CYRENE

You are all-powerful inside heaven and on earth, you my ruler.

Then Simon of Cyrene will help Christ. He will carry the cross in his arms.⁹⁷

THIRD JEW

Make the bewilderer hurry up (you all). We're taking a really long time.

Christ will look toward the daughters of Jerusalem. He will address them.

CHRIST

You children of Jerusalem, don't weep for my sake. Weep only for your own sakes, and weep for your children's sakes. Someday, when it is going to happen to you, you will weep, you will be sad.

Then Christ will walk on a little bit. Once again he will look toward the people. He will address the women.

CHRIST

Don't weep for my sake, you dear women. Be sad only for your sins. Who are you, you who are standing here among the others, you sinner? [50v] Loosen the black rope from your neck, with which you tied yourself. Who are you, you sterile one, you with no children? Be certain that tomorrow, the day after, you will call to the mountains. You will say to them, "You mountains, you hills, come crumbling down upon me! Cover me!"

LEADER

Hurry up, get moving, O scoundrel. We're taking a really long time.

Then Veronica will meet the others.

VERONICA

O my lord, O my ruler, O my teacher, all this time you are loving us. We will perish. Today you are leaving us. Your precious face is no longer visible, which used to shine greatly. And

⁹⁷ Simon offers to carry the cross on his shoulder (*quechpanoa*), taking the full burden from Christ, but follows the order to carry it in his arms (*napaloa*), lifting the lower part while Christ continues to bear the upper part on his shoulder.

now you are suffering very much on account of our sins. And now I beseech you, you my deity, you my ruler, before you die, leave me something,⁹⁸ you my benefactor.

CHRIST

O dear woman, you, Veronica, I have heard your tearful words. Bring the fine white⁹⁹ cloth that is on your head. [51r] Clean my face. With that you will always remember me and with it your sickness will be cured.

Then Veronica will clean Christ's face. By means of a marvel it will be left on the cloak as a sign. Then she will show the cloak to people in front of people.

VERONICA

With a great marvel my teacher's precious and revered face has been copied on the little cloak with which I cleaned his face. I do not deserve it, I do not merit it. Let every person marvel at the sacred marvel that my benefactor has made.

LEADER

Go over there, O wretched little woman, [so] we won't destroy you here. The chief priests there are angry. Go hurl yourself down over there, get away from here!

Then Christ will fall on the ground.

LEADER

Get up, O deceiver. What have you done? You can't walk anymore? Where did your rulership go? You went around saying you are great, you are a ruler.

Christ will stand up. Everyone will walk along. When he has reached [51v] Calvary, he will fall on the ground once again. Thus he will fall three times, like in the sacred words.¹⁰⁰ When they have reached Calvary, Fourth Jew will speak.

FOURTH JEW

Now we have reached Calvary, where we will kill Christ, we will make him stretch his arms on the cross. Quick, get things ready, O our friends. Some of you, dig where the cross is to stand. And some of you, make holes in the cross.

THIRD JEW

Lower the cross from the bewilderer. He is already quite exhausted. Did all the nails come, with which we will attach his hands and his feet? What about the hammer we will need here?

SECOND JEW

We brought everything here, whatever will be needed. Here are the nails and the hammer.

⁹⁸ Later redactor changed this to "don't leave us like this," neglecting that this is Veronica's appeal to Jesus to leave her some memento.

⁹⁹ "fine white" added by later redactor.

¹⁰⁰ Christ falls three times in the Stations of the Cross devotion, but not in the Gospels.

Then they all will surround Christ. All the Jews will be pounding things [the nails].

MALCHUS

The cross is ready now. Lay him on it. Make him stretch his arms. With a nail each, attach his hands. And attach his feet with just one nail.

THIRD JEW

Good. Tighten the nails. Pound them [52r] with the hammer when you have made him stretch his arms.¹⁰¹

LEADER

Raise him up so that every person will see him and every person will take an example from him.

They will raise Christ right up. All the Jews will be beating their lips, will be crying out. And the two thieves will be tied to trees.¹⁰² The good thief will be on the right. And the bad thief will be on the left. They will raise them right up. They will be spread out at Christ's sides.

REUBEN

Let's go! Knock down God's temple! You went around saying that in just three days you would raise it right up again. Come down, if it is true that you are a deity.¹⁰³

SIMEON

He saved others. But he cannot save himself. If it is true that you are the ruler of the people of Israel, come down, so that we will believe.

CHRIST

O my beloved father, pardon my tormentors. They do not know what they are doing.

FIRST THIEF

If it is true that you a deity, if it is true that you [52v] are Christ, save yourself, or save us who are being punished here along with you.

SECOND THIEF

Stop. What are you saying? Shut your mouth. As for you, do you not fear God? His precious child who is here is without sin. It is just through false testimony that he is dying. As for us, our sins for which we are paying the penalty are quite obvious. (*He will raise up his head. He will look at Christ.*) O my deity, O my ruler, I strongly beseech you, because of your mercy, do not leave¹⁰⁴ me when you arrive in your realm, the place of happiness.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰¹ "when you have made him stretch his arms" added by later redactor.

¹⁰² or poles.

¹⁰³ Altered to "Come down from the cross, if it is true that you are the child of God" by later redactor.

¹⁰⁴ Probably an alteration of *ilcahua* 'forget' to *cahua* 'leave.' "Forget" is used here in the Penn and Princeton Passions.

¹⁰⁵ "you arrive" and "the place of happiness" were later excised.

CHRIST

Truly I say to you, today you will rejoice with me over inside heaven, the place of happiness, glory.¹⁰⁶

SAINT MARY

Oh, you my beloved child,¹⁰⁷ now you are leaving me, I your mother.

CHRIST

O my beloved mother, I am not leaving you. Be strong. [53r]

SAINT JOHN

O my beloved teacher, here is your beloved mother.

Then Mary Magdalene will go to the foot of the cross. She will embrace the cross.

MARY MAGDALENE

You my benefactor, may it be that I die here along with you, sinner that I am. It is by your favor, yours alone, that I live on earth.

CHRIST

O my deity, you, Elijah, why have you abandoned me?

REUBEN

Now he's calling to Elijah, he's crying out to him. Maybe he'll come help him. Do let's just let him go.¹⁰⁸

And Annas, and Caiaphas, Joseph, Simeon, Samuel will go on horseback. Notary will go to leave the signboard. It will be placed on top of the cross.

NOTARY

Here is the signboard that is to be attached to the top of the cross, by order of the great ruler Pontius Pilate, the president, so that every person will see it who has come to the altepctl from everywhere.

ANNAS

It's really funny that you are standing with your arms stretched on the cross, you, Christ. Come down, if it is true that you are [53v] a deity. Where are all those you used to go around with, your students? Let them come help you. Now we just believe you to be false. Now you are powerless. You are just a deceiver.

All the chief priests will read the signboard. They will point to it. They will say, "Jesus of Nazareth, ruler of the Jews." All will say it in this way.

¹⁰⁶ Spanish *gloria*.

¹⁰⁷ "Oh, you my beloved child" added by later redactor.

¹⁰⁸ This in a tone of mockery.

CAIAPHAS

Come here, you, Leader. Go, tell the ruler Pontius Pilate that we all implore him, as it is quite shameful how he put it. It says, “Jesus of Nazareth, Ruler of the Jews.” And how will it appear, that we made our ruler stretch his arms on the cross? May he change it to something else.

LEADER

May it so be done, O high priest. Let me carry out your royal command.

LEADER

O ruler, the chief priests beseech you. [54r] They say, “Tell the ruler Pontius Pilate that we strongly beseech him, may he change what he put on the signboard. Let him put something else.”

PILATE

Tell the chief priests that what I put on the signboard will be that way. What I put cannot be undone, as I have passed judgment.

LEADER

May it so be done. Let me tell them that your word is thus, O ruler.

Leader will come back. He will go to give the orders to the rulers.

LEADER

The ruler Pontius Pilate says, “Tell the chief priests that I cannot change my words that I placed on the signboard.”

CHRIST

I am thirsty.

LEADER

Bring the sour water mixture that lies over there.¹⁰⁹ Make him drink it. He’s thirsty.

Second Jew will give water to Christ. [54v]

SECOND JEW

Here’s what you’re asking for. Drink it right up.

ANNAS

Quickly, kill the two thieves who are spread out next to him. Break their shin bones.¹¹⁰

FOURTH JEW

May it so be done, O ruler. Let us kill the thieves.

¹⁰⁹ “that lies over there” was later excised.

¹¹⁰ “Break their shin bones” was later excised.

CHRIST

O my beloved father, I leave my life force, my soul, entirely in your hands. Receive it.

Then they will kill the two thieves. They will break their shin bones.

SAINT MARY¹¹¹

I beseech you very much, by God the father's favor, do not afflict my beloved child any longer. You know that I am his mother. And as for my beloved child, you've already killed him, who is without sin.

MALCHUS

What are you saying, wretched little woman? Your child isn't dead yet.

FIRST JEW

Come here, move over here, you blind person. Seize the metal [lance] well. Now give force to your hand. [55r]

Then they will pierce Christ in his side. When Blind Person has pierced him, then he will see. He will kneel.

BLIND PERSON

O my lord, O God, O ruler, If I'd known it was you, you my deity, I wouldn't have done what I did. If you'd given me my sight, I would not have done it like this. Pardon me! Do not despise me for it!

SAINT MARY¹¹²

You sacred lamb of heaven, the will of your beloved father, God, has been carried out. Now they have opened your precious side with a metal staff. All your precious blood has spilled. Thus I am satisfied.

SAINT JOHN

You Jews, why have you increased your depravity? Don't you see that my teacher has already died? What do you want? Will you kill his beloved mother along with him?

FOURTH JEW

Shut up. Don't make us angry here. Move away from here!

They will move aside. The Jews will go. Then his carriers¹¹³ will go up [55v] upon them. Joseph and Arimathea will come out. They will kneel in front of Christ.

¹¹¹ "O my beloved children, you have become weary" added by later redactor at the beginning of Mary's speech. It does not suit the context and was presumably added in error.

¹¹² "O my beloved children, you have endured fatigue" added by later redactor at the beginning of Mary's speech. The speech is directed only to Christ, however.

¹¹³ Those who will carry him off for burial.

JOSEPH¹¹⁴

O my beloved older brother, I am very worried now on account of our beloved savior, Jesus Christ. Here for our sake they made him stretch his arms on a crossed-wood device, on a cross, because of our sins, we people of the world. Now may it be done by order of God the father that we take our beloved savior down. Let us go. Let us go to see the ruler President Pontius Pilate. We will strongly beseech him so that he will give us his authorization so that it will be us who take down and bury our beloved savior.

ARIMATHEA

O my beloved younger brother, may it so be done. Let us carry out your words. Let us go. Let us see Pontius Pilate.

Joseph and Arimathea will go. Then they will go to Pilate's home. They both will speak. [56r]

JOSEPH

Be joyful, you ruler, you, Pontius Pilate.

PILATE

Come here. You (all) have endured fatigue. Do you need something?

JOSEPH

You great ruler Pontius Pilate, we have come here before you. We strongly beseech you in regard to our beloved savior, Jesus Christ, so that you will give us your royal authorization. Let us take him down, and we will bury him.

PILATE

What are you saying? Don't give me a headache. Go out at the door. Don't give me problems.

Then they will go in front of Christ once again. When they have arrived, they will kneel. Arimathea will speak.

ARIMATHEA

O my deity, O my ruler, for the sake of our being saved, here they have made you stretch your arms. Have mercy on us so that we will take you down.

When Arimathea has prayed, then they will get up again. Arimathea will speak.

[ARIMATHEA]

O my younger brother, let us go once again before the ruler Pontius Pilate. Maybe he will obey us, in respect to our [56v] humility.

Then they will go once again to Pilate's home. When they have arrived, then he will speak.

ARIMATHEA

¹¹⁴ Later redactor changed speaker to Nicodemus.

You great ruler Pontius Pilate, we have come here before you. We beseech you, bowing in reverence, give us your royal authorization. May it be that we take down our beloved savior. We strongly beseech you, with humility.

PILATE

You (all) are really giving me a headache because of your misguided belief. You give me a great many problems. Now I obey you. Go. Go take Christ down, your teacher whom you take as a deity. I will not look at him. He really frightens me. Go away. Leave me.

The two of them will go in front of Christ. When they have gone to arrive, they will speak. They will kneel.

JOSEPH [and ARIMATHEA]

O my beloved savior, O Jesus Christ, you who are without sin, they made you stretch your arms on the cross for the sake of us sinners. And now, may it be done by your authority, [57r] that we take you down, we your children.

I Pontius¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ A later redactor (not the one who made edits throughout the script) began to write the Sentence of Pilate here but stopped after these initial words.