

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Burial of Jesus

⁵⁷It was now evening and there arrived a wealthy man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and the governor ordered that the body be given him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body of Jesus, wrapped it in a clean linen sheet ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb which had been cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and left.

⁶²On the following day (the day after the Preparation for the Passover), the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate ⁶³and said to him:

—Sir, we remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said: I will rise after three days. ⁶⁴Therefore, have his tomb secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal the body and say to the people: He was raised from the dead. This would be a worse lie than the first.

⁶⁵Pilate answered them:

—You have soldiers, go and take all the necessary precautions.

⁶⁶So they went to the tomb and secured it, sealing the stone and placing it under guard.

THE CONCISE BIBLE

Christian Community Bible

Catholic Pastoral Edition

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A division of Claretian Communications, Inc.

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Claretian Publications is a pastoral endeavor of the Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines. It aims to promote a renewed spirituality rooted in the process of total liberation and solidarity in response to the needs, challenges and pastoral demands of the Church today.

Originally published by

Ediciones Mensajero, Spain