Jesus was arrested.

Only people who have done really bad things are supposed to be arrested

And Jesus had never ever done anything bad.

But there were people who hated Jesus

They hated him because they didn’t like the people he had helped

And they hated him because he said he was God.

So these people had Jesus arrested.

Pilate was the man in charge

“This man hasn’t done anything wrong” he said about Jesus

“We shouldn’t kill a man who hasn’t done anything bad. Let me set him free”

But the men who hated Jesus started shouting:

“Kill Jesus! Kill him!”

And everybody joined in

“Kill Jesus! Kill him!”

So Pilate set Barabbas free instead.

Barabbas had done bad things

He had killed someone

But he went free

And Jesus who hadn’t done anything wrong

Was sent to be killed.

They took Jesus out to kill him

And made a man called Simon pull Jesus’ Cross up the hill

Then they took Jesus’ clothes

And put a dirty faded robe on him

And a spiky crown of thorns on his head

And laughed at the idea that he could be a king

They even stuck a note up on the cross

‘This man is the king of God’s people’

And they laughed at that too.

It was the middle of the day

And the sky went dark

Darker than night

Darker than a storm

God, Jesus’ Father, was angry.

But he wasn’t angry with Jesus, he was angry with all the bad things people had done

And even though he’d never done anything bad

God the Father was punishing his son Jesus for all the bad things that other people had done

Jesus cried out

‘My God, My God, why have you left me?’

Because the punishment for the bad things

Was never to be with God again.

The One True King was being punished

so that people who had done bad things

wouldn’t have to be punished.

And then people who had done bad things

Could be part of God’s kingdom

When Jesus had finished being punished

He died.

The soldier who helped kill him looked at the cross

‘This man really was God’s Son’ he said

The soldier could see that this wasn’t any ordinary man

He had done amazing things

He was God’s only Son

He was God’s One True King

And dying was not the end of his story.