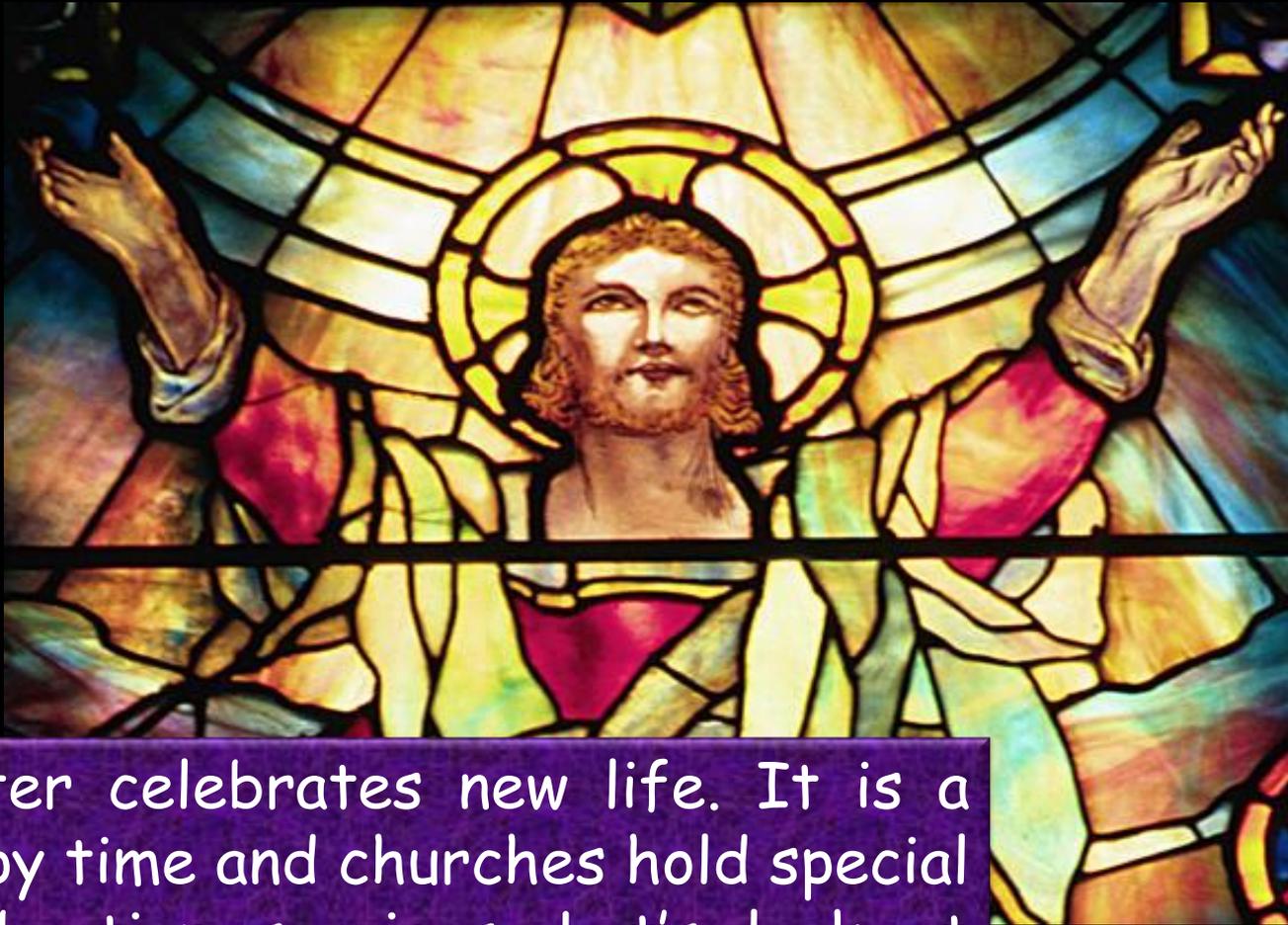


The Easter Story



Easter celebrates new life. It is a happy time and churches hold special celebration services. Let's look at 'The Easter Story'.

The Great parade

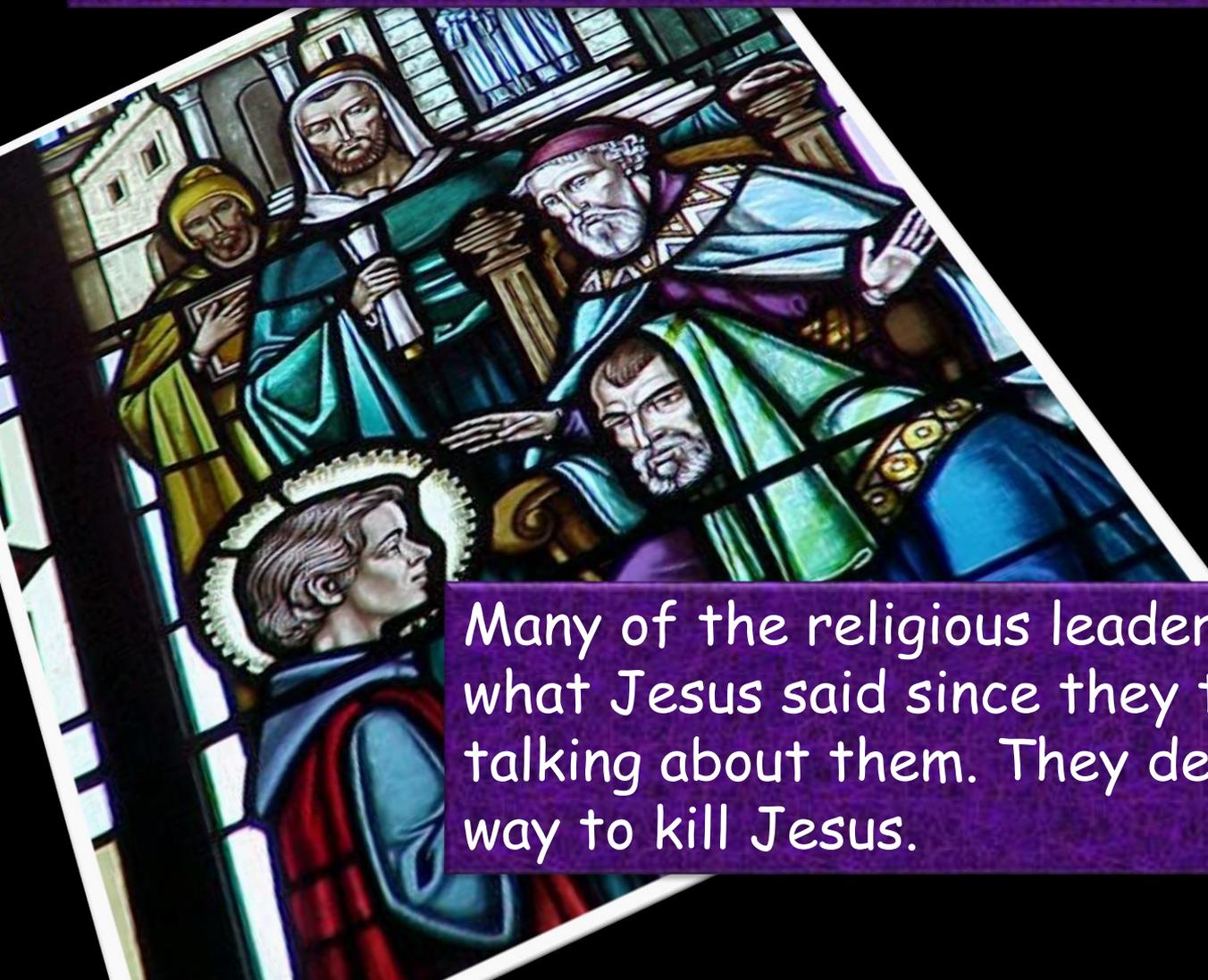


Jesus travelled to Jerusalem on a donkey with his friends for the Feast of Passover.

The people of Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming and came out to meet him, because they knew he was special they spread their coats and palm leaves on the road for him to ride over.

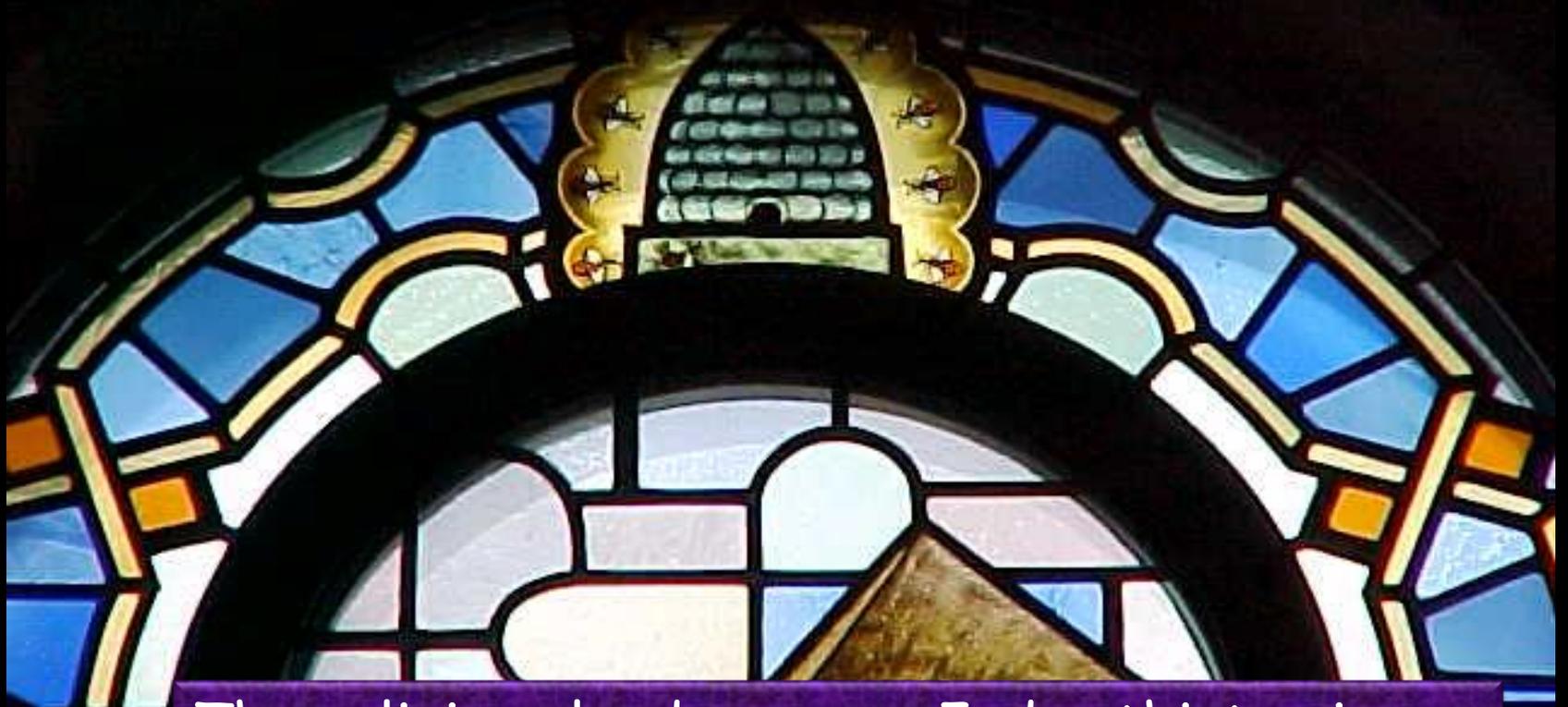


In Jerusalem Jesus continued to teach both his friends and the crowds that came to listen to him. He spoke against the wrong people did.



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

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

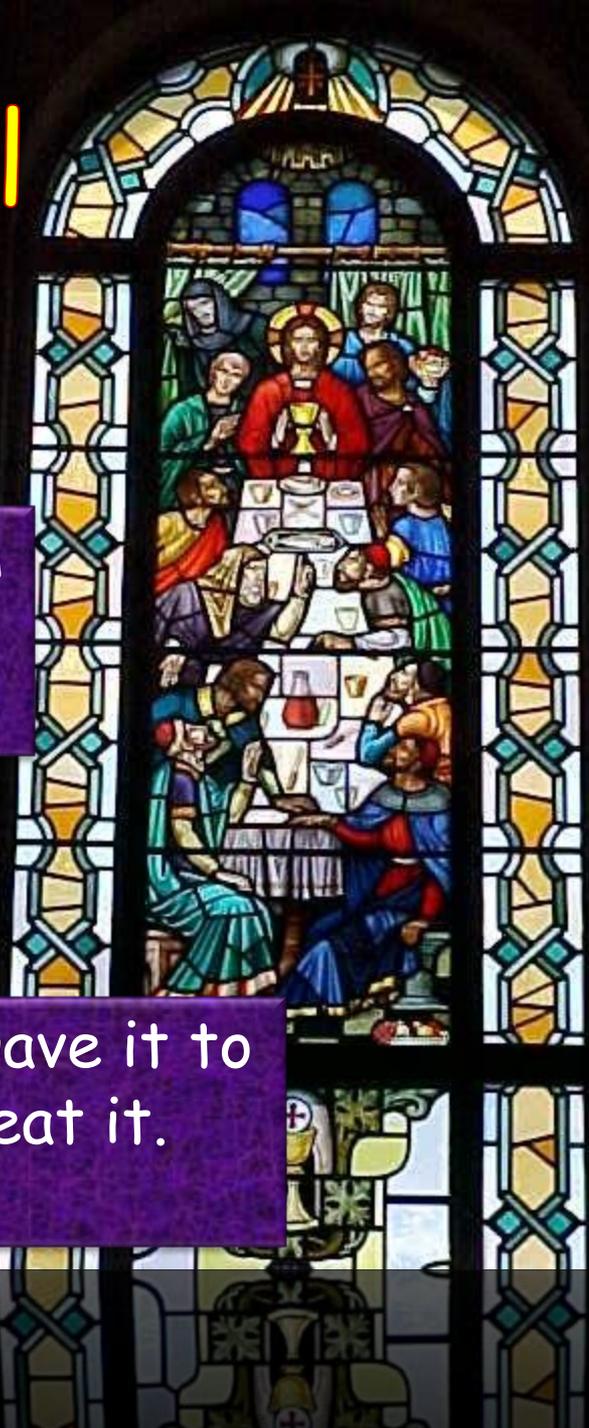


The religious leaders gave Judas thirty pieces of silver to make sure he helped them.

The important meal

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

Jesus took bread and blessed it. He gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This will remind you of me."

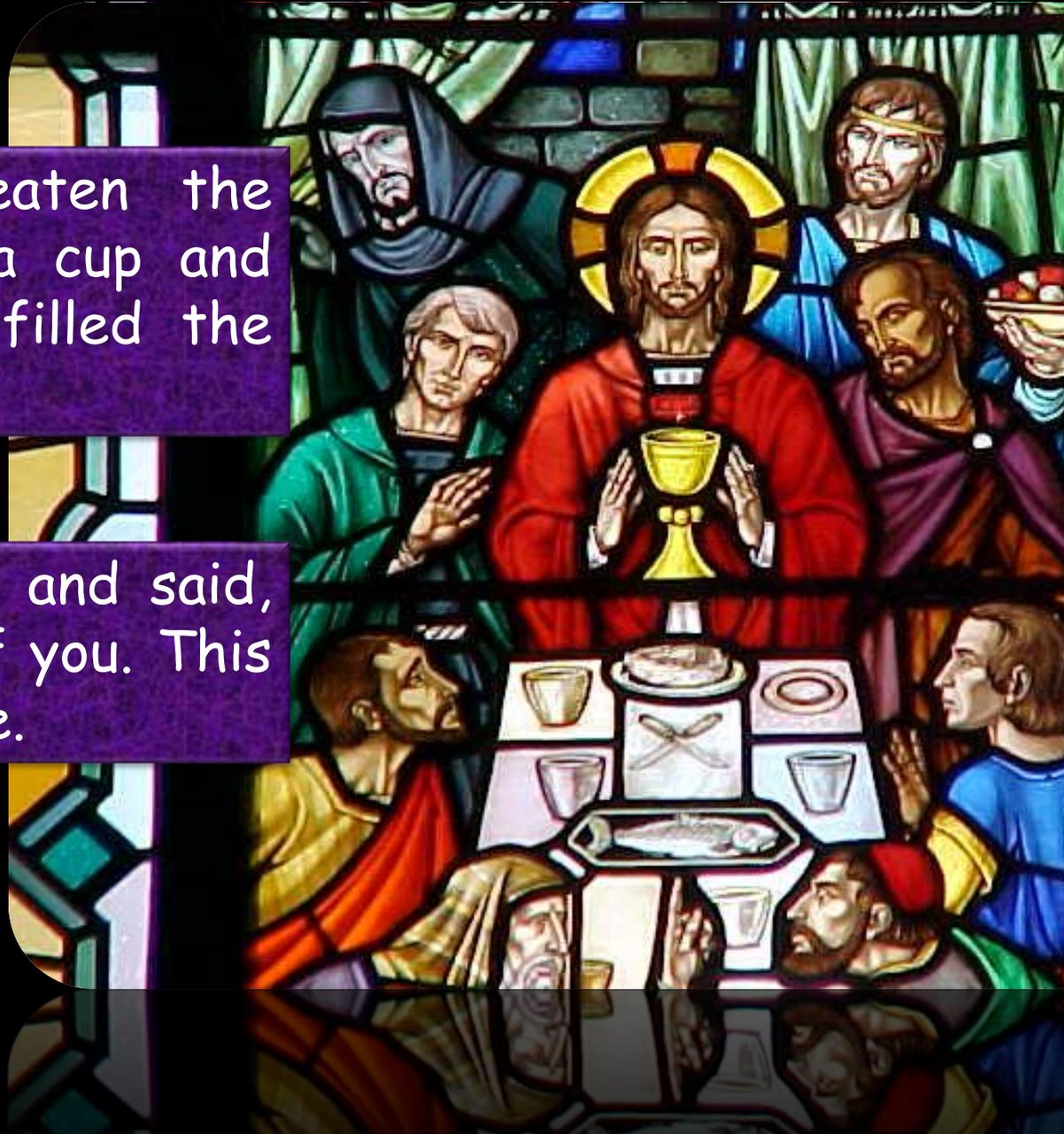


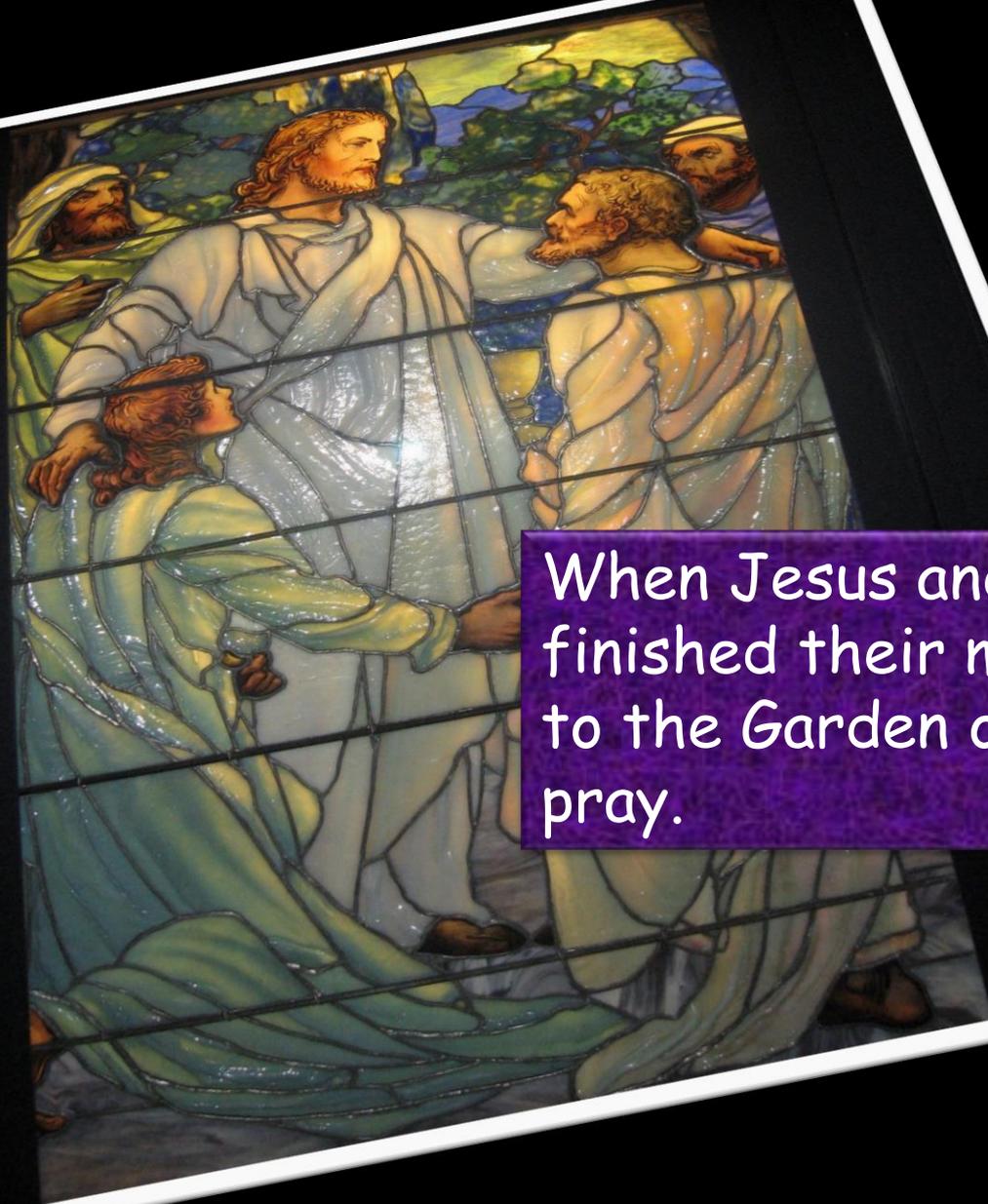


Jesus told the disciples that he knew one of them would betray him.

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

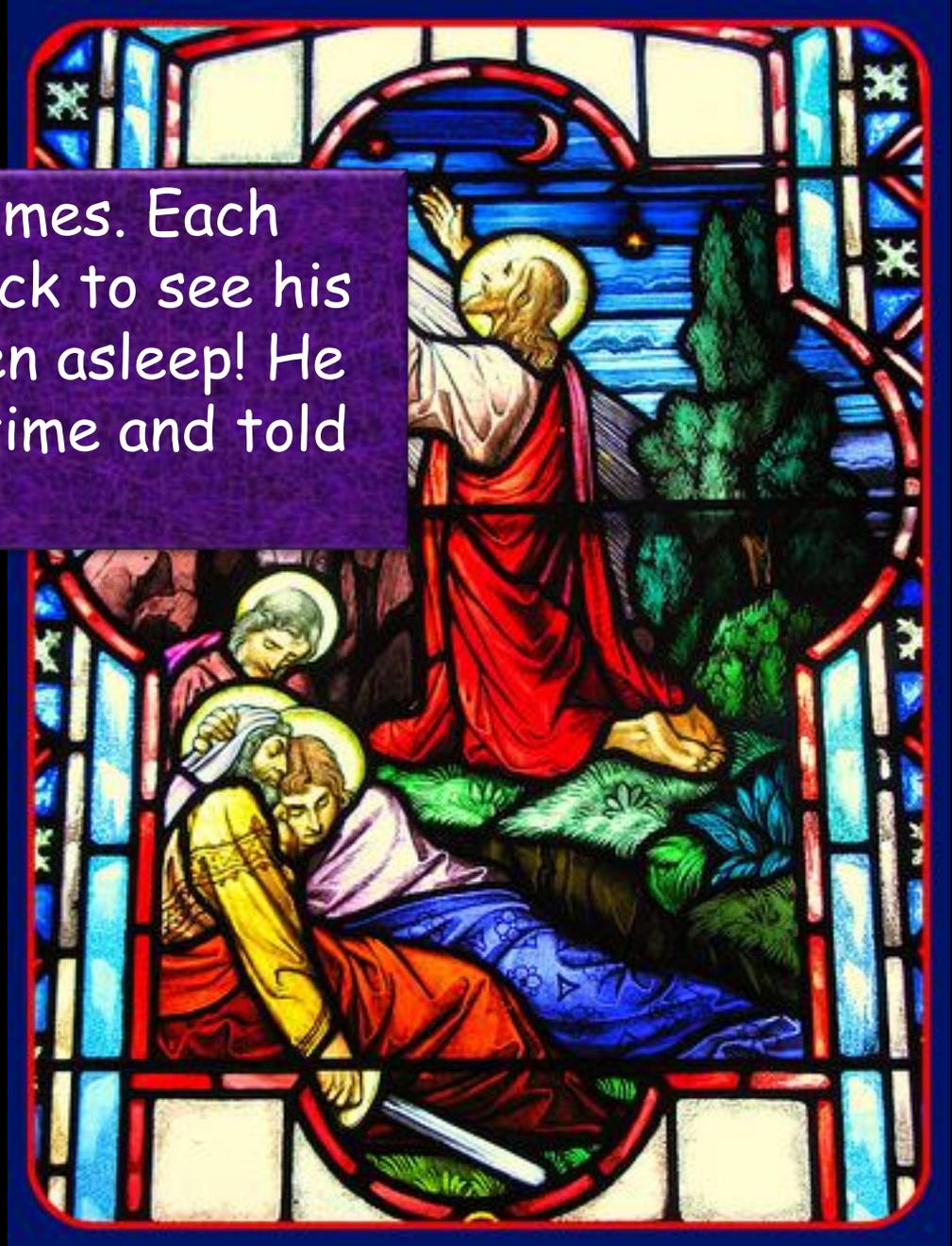
He gave it to them and said, 'Drink from it, all of you. This will remind you of me.'





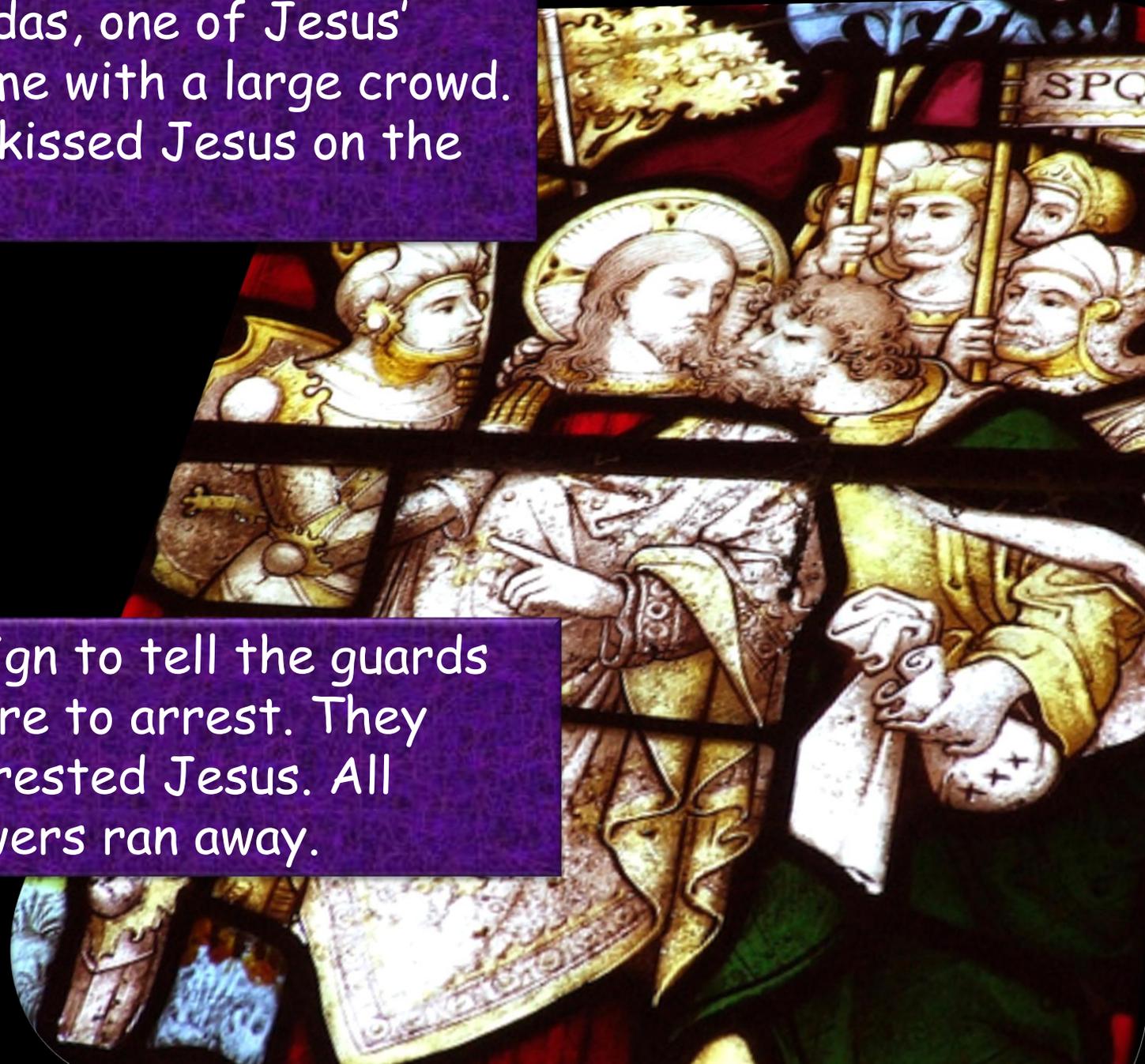
When Jesus and his disciples had finished their meal they all walked to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

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



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

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



The Sad Day



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

The next day they took Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. They told Pilate that Jesus should die. Pilate finally agreed to allow it.

After the soldiers made fun of Jesus, they led him to Golgotha to be crucified.



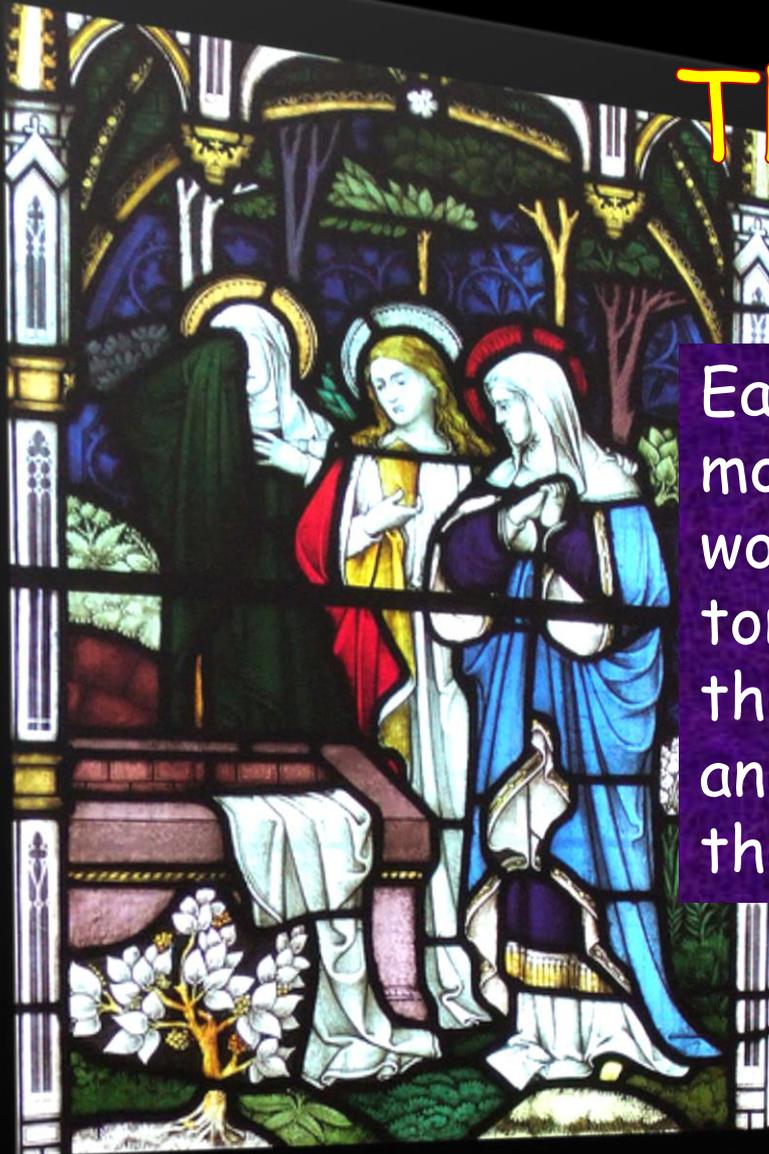


They hung Jesus on the cross with nails through his hands and feet. Two criminals were crucified and their crosses were stood beside Jesus'.



They took Jesus down from the cross. Some of Jesus' friends took his body and buried it in a tomb. His friends were very sad.

The Happy day



Early on Easter Sunday morning some of Jesus' women friends went to the tomb. When they went there the tomb was open and Jesus' body was not there.

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





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



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



After Jesus spoke to his disciples he was taken up into heaven. This is called 'The Ascension.'