

THIRD READING ✠ ✠ ✠ Jesus' Suffering on the Mount of Olives

And when they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out, as He was accustomed, across the brook Kidron to the Mount of Olives. And His disciples followed Him. And He said to them: *All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.* But Peter said to Him: Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be. Jesus said to him: *Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.* But he spoke more vehemently: If I have to die with You, I will not deny You! And they all said likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. And Jesus said to them: *Sit here while I go over there and pray.*

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them: *My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me, so that you do not fall into temptation.* And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down, fell on His face, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him, and He said: *Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.* And He came to His disciples and found them sleeping and said to Peter: *Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.* He went away again a second time and prayed, saying: *O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.* And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy and they did not know what to answer Him. And He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words: *Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.*

And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, He said to them: *Sleep on now and take your rest. It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, he who betrays Me is at hand. But pray lest you enter into temptation.*

And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, having received a band of soldiers, and officers from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders, went before them, and came with lanterns, torches, with swords and with clubs. And the betrayer had given them a signal, saying: *Whomever I kiss, He is the one; take Him and lead Him away safely.* Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them: *Whom are you seeking?* They answered Him: *Jesus of Nazareth.* Jesus said to them: *I am He.* And Judas who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Then, as soon as He had said to them: *I am He,* they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again: *Whom are you seeking?* And they said: *Jesus of Nazareth.* Jesus answered: *I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,* (that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke: *Of these whom You gave Me I have lost none*).

And Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him, and immediately he went up to Jesus and said: *Greetings, Rabbi!*, and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him: *My friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?* Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him: *Lord, shall we strike with the sword?* Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Then Jesus answered and said: *Permit even this.* And He said to Peter: *Put your sword into the sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be thus?* And He touched his ear and healed him.

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come out to Him: *Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness, so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.* And all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked. *(Here ends 3rd Reading)*



○ † **I. The Service of Vespers** ELH p.120 † ○



WELCOME: 03/26/14 4:30pm LENT3A-MIDWEEK INVOCATION Please *rise.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing" ELH #300 (5v)

- 1. Sweet the moments, rich in blessing, - Which before the Cross we spend, Life and health and peace possessing - From the sinner's dying Friend.**
- 2. Here we rest in wonder, viewing - All our sins on Jesus laid; Here we see Redemption flowing - From the Sacrifice He made.**
- 3. Here we find the dawn of Heaven - While upon the Cross we gaze, See our trespasses forgiven, - And our songs of triumph raise.**
- 4. Oh, that, near the Cross abiding, - We may to the Savior cleave, Naught with Him our hearts dividing, - All for Him content to leave!**
- 5. Lord, in loving contemplation - Fix our hearts and eyes on Thee Till we taste Thy full Salvation - And Thine unveiled Glory see.**



The VERSICLES ELH, p. 120

P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.

P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The GLORIA PATRI *C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, - and to the Son, - and to the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men.* ✠ p.1 ✠

📖 Here are the words to **Psalm 38** - Please READ along! 📖

P: O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!

C: For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down.

³ *There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin.*

⁴ **For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.**

⁵ *My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness.*

⁶ **I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.**

⁷ *For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh.*

⁸ **I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.**

⁹ *Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.*

¹⁰ **My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.**

¹¹ *My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off.*

¹² **Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long.**

¹³ *But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth.*

¹⁴ **Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response.**

¹⁵ *For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.*

¹⁶ **For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me."**

¹⁷ *For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me.*

¹⁸ **For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.**

¹⁹ *But my enemies are vigorous, they are strong; Those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.*

²⁰ **Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good.**

²¹ *Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me!*

²² **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**

**(All) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
one True God, now and forever. Amen**

PASSION HISTORY: 3RD READING ✧ *Suffering at Mt. of Olives (Gethsemane)*

RESPONSORY P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!

SERMON HYMN: "Go To Dark Gethsemane" ELH #284 (4v) GETHSEMANE

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, - Ye that feel the Tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, - Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away, - Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the Judgment-hall, - View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! - Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; - Learn of Him to bear the cross.

✧ p.2 ✧ (verses 3 & 4 on top next page ↗)

3. Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; - There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, - God's own Sacrifice complete.

"IT IS FINISHED!" bear Him cry; - Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4. Early hasten to the tomb - Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom, -- Who hath taken Him away?

CHRIST IS RIS'N! HE MEETS OUR EYES. - SAVIOR, TEACH US SO TO RISE.

SERMON SERIES "GARDEN TO GLORY" TONIGHT "GARDEN OF PASSION"

The OFFERING

The VERSICLE P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands-- As the ev'ning sacrifice.

NUNC DIMITTIS ("Lord, Let Us Depart in Peace" ...music on page 124)

**C: ♪ 1. Lord, now You let Your servant de-part in peace:
Accord-... .. -ing to You Word.**

2. For mine eyes have seen... .. Your Sal-va-tion;
Which You have prepared before the face... of all peo-ple.

3. A- Light to light- -en the Gen-tiles:
And the glory of Your... .. peo-ple Isra-el.

4. Glory be to the Father ... and to the Son / And to... the Holy Ghost;

5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and..ever shall be / Forev-..er-more, A-men.

**KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy) C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The LORD'S PRAYER

**C: ♪ C: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil;**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever & ever, ♪A- -men.

The (Evening) COLLECT (Pastor prays, Congregation Amen) C: ♪ A- -men.

The BENEDICAMUS P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

**The BENEDICTION P: ♪ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: ♪ A- -men.**

CLOSING HYMN "Now the Day Is Over" ELH #560 (5 verses) MERRIAL

1. Now the day is over, - Night is drawing- nigh;-
Shadows of the evening - Steal across the sky.

2. Jesus, give the weary - Calm and sweet re-pose;-
With Your tend'rest blessing - May my eyelids close.

3. Comfort every suff'rer - Watching late in- pain;-
Those who plan some evil - From their sin restrain.

4. Through the long night-watches - May Thine angels- spread-
Their white wings above me, - Watching round my bed.

5. When the morning wakens, - Then may I a-rise-
Pure and fresh and sinless - In Thy holy eyes.

Silent Prayer (Candles out.) You may be seated. ✧ p.3 ✧ FELLOWSHIP

LENT-3(W) Luke 22:39-44 "THE GARDEN OF PASSION" 03.26.14 OSL

2014-LENT MIDWEEK: FROM GARDEN TO GLORY

INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED...) But more than weeds have sprung up from the Garden of Eden. Because of Adam's and Eve's disobedience, sin sprang up from that garden. From sin sprang death, suffering, sadness, damnation, God's stern condemnation, and Satan's dominion. These poisonous weeds flourished and completely smothered whatever life God originally intended for us. There was no salvaging it. Every weed would have to be pulled up and destroyed, lest it spread and regain its stranglehold.

Jesus eradicated all the weeds by becoming one of us and taking our place. He allowed Himself to "be choked" by all of the weeds together. Tonight we read of another garden, the Garden of Gethsemane. In this garden we clearly see Christ's true suffering. We might call it the Garden of Passion. Passion means "suffering." Read TEXT Luke 22:39-44

Jesus suffered knowing what was going to happen to him. Does death frighten you or at least make you uncomfortable? It does because death is not natural. We were not created to die. We were created to live. Death is the opposite of God's original intention for us. That's what makes death so horrifying to us. Imagine how much dread you'd feel if you knew your death was coming tomorrow morning. Imagine if you were going to have to go through that experience over and over and over again. Jesus was going to have to die in place of all people of all time - innumerable deaths all at once. How appalling! How revolting to the Author of Life! Prior to this He had never known death. It would be a first-time experience for Him too!

It's bad enough that death is frightening. It would be even worse if that same death were bitter. What if you had to die unfairly? Let's say you were accused of a crime. You knew the guilty party, but they were released and you were held for the death penalty. Doesn't it irk you when someone blames you for something you didn't do? Don't we often expend a lot of energy to justify ourselves in the eyes of others? Imagine how much more bitter Jesus' death must have been, since he was blamed for everything that everyone else ever did wrong. It wasn't just another person blaming Jesus but God the Father: God's infinite white hot anger focused only on Jesus. Though Jesus could have claimed innocence, God was not understanding or lenient. God the Father came down hard on Jesus and allowed no justification, no excuse. For Jesus it had to be truly a bitter death.

There was no way out for Jesus, since God's plan was to uproot sin and death from the whole world. His plan was to give us life. As God the Son, only Jesus could be everyone's substitute. Only He could endure such suffering and shoulder such immense responsibility. Only He could carry such a heavy weight, sink so low, and still come out on top. In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see the uncompromising will of the Almighty and the colossal momentum of the world's guilt in a gigantic supernatural collision crushing down on a frail human frame.

Feel sorry for Jesus? Please don't. He wouldn't want you to. And that's not the point of observing his great suffering. Sweat as great drops of blood was not a sign of Christ's unwillingness but of His resolve. That is why the angel arrived to bolster Him so He could finish the job.

Only by suffering in the flesh could Jesus rescue all flesh from suffering. Only his bodily death would force death to release our bodies forever. Only if God the Son were punished as a human could all humanity be set free from God's punishment. Only if our sins were placed on the Son of Man could the sins of all mankind be atoned for.

Come August, a boy might be appalled to see what had become of his garden. Tugging at weeds would be an arduous and unpleasant task. But he would ultimately be laboring only for himself. Christ suffered not for himself but for you and me. Don't feel sorry for him. Understand that his most earnest desire, his every toilsome effort, heaving sigh, and wincing pain was for our benefit. Don't feel sorry for him. Be appalled at how impossibly weedy our existence had become that it required this degree of toil for him to free us from it all. Be grateful, more than words can say, that he would consciously, intentionally go to it for you.

On the Person of Jesus, all "the weeds" - sin, death, damnation, sorrow, Satan's power - have run their course. They did their worst on him. But the cross was the end of their growing season so that now they are nothing but dried, lifeless remnants blown away by the wind or tossed into a bonfire. Through faith in Jesus we are planted in a new garden, a weedless garden, an evergreen, always blooming garden. Trusting in him, our sins are forgiven. Death is gone. Sorrow is turned to joy. Satan has no power over us. Hell is forced to release its claim on us. God has nothing but the friendliest, most loving goodwill toward us. The weeds are gone. Life is renewed unhindered, unhampered, and uninterrupted.

Sometimes we're struck with an alarming realization: The roots of our sins run pretty deep. We can try to yank them out and change for the better, but the root is still there. It keeps coming back. Sometimes we are secretly alarmed at ourselves—how grotesque or how appalling or how often repeated our personal sins are. We never dare to tell another living soul. It's too embarrassing, too painful. No one would ever look at us the same again if they knew. But look again at Christ, your Savior, in the Garden of Passion. Look at the intensity of his suffering. And, remember, that was just the beginning of his suffering! Be assured, from there he proceeded to the cross, and he suffered such severity as to more than make up for your worst, most embarrassing, most often repeated sins. He suffered such hellish depths of divine rage - He the very Son of the eternal God - so that His atoning payment to God on your behalf is infinitely greater than your sin. That's why the apostle Paul was able to write, and why you can say right along with him, "For that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16). In Christ, you are forgiven! Completely forgiven! Even for those unspeakable sins at your root and core - **Forgiven!**

See Jesus in this dreadful Garden of Passion. Be appalled at His suffering for your sake. But then cherish His suffering as your dearest Treasure, and love Him more than you can say with words! **I J' N, Amen. SDG**
TEXT LUKE 22: 39-44 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (verses 39-44)

History of Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Four Evangelists + harmonised by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen
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[compiled by M. DeGarmeaux]

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And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them: *My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me, so that you do not fall into temptation.* And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down, fell on His face, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him, and He said: *Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.* And He came to His disciples and found them sleeping and said to Peter: *Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.* He went away again a second time and prayed, saying: *O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.* And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy and they did not know what to answer Him. And He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words: *Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.*

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