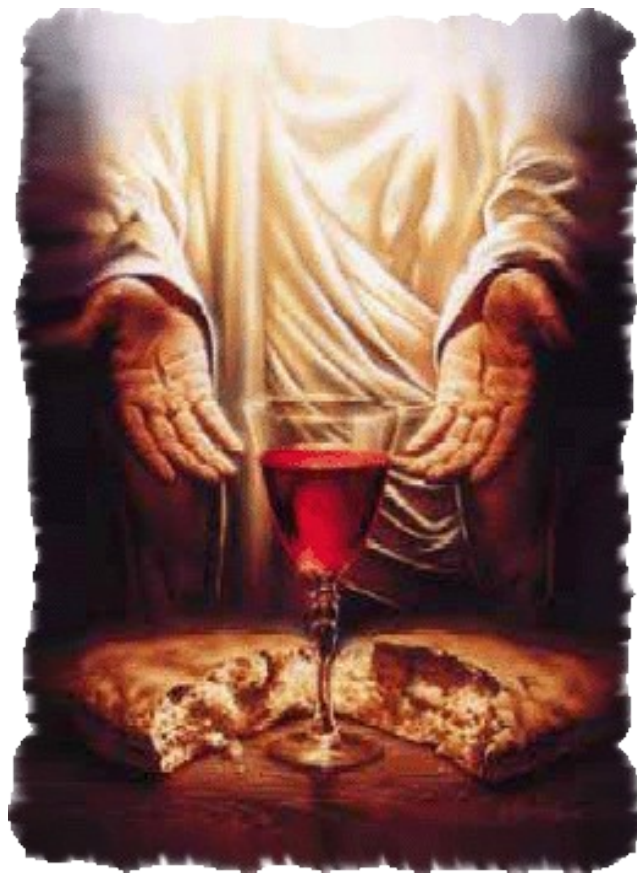


**FROM BETHANY
TO GETHSEMANE**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD...



JESUS CHRIST

Opening Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, as we enter Your presence on this Maundy Thursday evening, bless our meditation upon Your Son's passion. May we be led to appreciate with even greater awe the sacrifices He made for us, to confess with sincerity our sins against You and our fellow men, to rejoice in Your forgiveness and Your Means of Grace in Gospel and Sacraments, and to dedicate our lives to honoring Your name! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #140:3 [Red Hymnal] *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

**O Lord rest, my eyes on You, Make me see Your Passion,
And its cause teach me to know, Your humiliation.
I confess that all my sins, brought Your deep affliction;
I indeed the cause have been, For Your crucifixion.**

THE READING OF CHRIST'S PASSION...

According to the Four Gospels (New International Version)

Lesson 1 ~ Arrangements for the Sacrificial Lamb

The Plot to Kill and Arrest Jesus

Then the chief priests and the teachers of the law and the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot," for they were afraid of the people.

The Anointing at Bethany

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took an alabaster jar containing about a pint of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. When the disciples saw this, they were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume?" Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, rebuked her harshly. "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.



Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Leave her alone, why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

The Plot of Judas

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out thirty silver coins. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

HYMN: #156:1, 2, 5 [Red Hymnal] *Not All the Blood of Beasts*

**Not all the blood of beasts, On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heavenly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.**

**Believing, we rejoice, To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.**

Lesson 2 ~ Celebration of the Passover... Jesus' Last Supper

Preparation for the Passover meal

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" They asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. Where is my guest room, where I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Beginning of the Passover meal; the disciples quarrel about greatness

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waste. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet



but my hands and my head as well!” Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: ‘He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’ I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. I tell you the truth, whoever receives anyone I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

Jesus identifies His betrayer; Judas leaves

After he had said this, while they were reclining at the table eating, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me – one who is eating with me. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.” His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. They were very sad and began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. And one by one they said to him, “Surely not I, Lord?” “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me will betray me.”

One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.” Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is you.” As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

HYMN: #323:1, 3 [Red Hymnal] *With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh*

**With broken heart and contrite sigh, A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry.
Your pardoning grace is rich and free,-- O God, be merciful to me!**

**Far off I stand with tearful eyes, Nor dare uplift them to the skies;
But You Lord all my anguish see,-- O God, be merciful to me!**

Lesson 3 ~ Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body give for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." And they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. He said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Individual PRE/POST Communion Prayer – In front part of Red Hymnal pg. 118

Our practice of Communion

We believe that Jesus teaches and desires full unity of faith and confessional agreement among all who commune together. Communicant members of Luther Memorial and of our sister congregations in the CLC (Church of the Lutheran Confession) please join us at the Lord's Table. If there are visitors present who wish to commune with us in the future, please speak with the pastor so he may explain the love and Scripture behind why we follow this practice.

Communing

Members who have difficulty at the kneeling rail may stand, or sit in the front pew on either side. Communion will be brought to you there. Otherwise, communicants are ushered to the communion table. If you desire the bread or cup in your hand, simply extend your hand as you are approached with the bread or wine.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #755 [*Tan Worship Supplement*] *What Is This Bread?*

**What is this Bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is peace.**

**What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace, Brings His embrace... Of life and love, and so I sing
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is King.**

**So who am I, That I should live and He should die
Under the rod. My God, my God, Why have you not forsaken me?
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is free.**

**Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear.
In mouth and soul, He makes us whole- Christ, truly present in this meal.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is real.**

**Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe, That I receive... His very body and His blood.
Oh, taste and see- the Lord is good.**

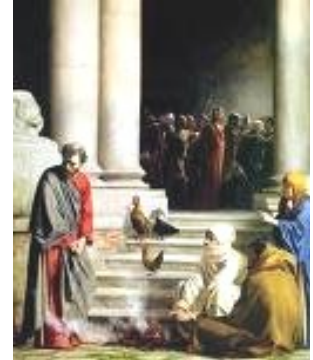
Lesson 4 ~ Comfort from the Christ

The Maundatum, or Maundy "Commandment"

Then Jesus told them, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." Peter declared, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." Jesus answered, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayer for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, today- yes, tonight- before the rooster crows twice you yourself will deny three times that you know me." But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.



Jesus begins His Farewell Address

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment." The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That is enough," he replied.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave."

HYMN: #410:1, 2, 4 [Red Hymnal] *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

**Jesus, lead Thou on, Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand, To our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe, To our home we go.**

**Jesus, lead Thou on, Till our rest is won.
Heavenly Leader, still direct us, Still support, control, protect us,
Till we safely stand, In our fatherland.**

Lesson 5 ~ On the road to Gethsemane

Jesus continues His Farewell Address

When they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On the way he said to them, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that

is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."



"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me."

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'"

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. All this I have told you so that you will not go astray."

"They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you."

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is

mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

"In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

"You believe at last!" Jesus answered. "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

HYMN: #245:1, 2 [Red Hymnal] *God Loved The World So That He Gave*

**God loved the world so that He gave, His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe, Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the Ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All that confide in Him alone, Are built on this chief Corner-stone.**

Lesson 6 ~ Jesus prays for His disciples both then and now

Jesus Prays for Himself

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your

presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.”

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

“Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.”

“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

Jesus Prays for All Believers

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”



When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, called Gethsemane, and he and his disciples went into it.

CLOSING HYMN: #159:1 [Red Hymnal] *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

**Go to dark Gethsemane, You that feel the Tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away, Learn of Jesus Christ to pray. Amen.**

Please join us tomorrow! We continue with the Passion reading of Jesus Christ our Savior and the events that led Him to the cross for us on Good Friday.

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