

Midweek Lenten Devotion

March 3rd, 2021



Opening verses

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C: ***the light no darkness can overcome.***
M: Stay with us, Lord for it is evening,
C: ***and the day is almost over.***
M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,
C: ***and hear our evening hymn of praise.***

Hymn:

Stricken, Smitten & Afflicted

Fernando Ortega

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Lyrics Displayed On Screen

The Passion History:

Lesson Two

While they were eating, on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament,¹ which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.²

“Dear children, I am going to 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 commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “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!”

Jesus replied, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

Peter answered him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

¹ As in *last will and testament*. See Galatians 3:15.

² Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.”

And all the disciples said the same.³

He said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler’s bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they said.

Then he told them, “But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler’s bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘He was counted with transgressors.’⁴ Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment.”

They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He said to them, “That is enough.”⁵

Then Jesus said to them, “This 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.’⁶ But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”⁷

After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and his disciples went into it.

Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.⁸

When he reached the place, Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray. Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed.

He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed,

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

³ Matthew 26:33-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:33-38

⁴ Isaiah 53:12

⁵ Luke 22:35-38

⁶ Zechariah 13:7

⁷ Matthew 26:31-32

⁸ John 18:1-2; Matthew 26:30,36

When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow.

He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him.

He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before.

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently.

His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near!”⁹

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived.

With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus told them.

Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁹ Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions¹⁰ of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”

Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him. At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.”

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.¹¹

The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man die for the people.”

Hymn:

CW #419: “If God Himself Be for Me”

If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from his love?

This I believe, yea rather, Of this I make my boast,
That God is my dear Father, My friend who loves me most,
And that, whate'er betide me, My Savior is at hand
Through stormy seas to guide me And bring me safe to land

No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, You are my Savior true;
No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever me from you.

My heart for joy is springing And can no more be sad,
'Tis full of joy and singing, Sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.

¹⁰ A Roman *legion* contained as many as six thousand soldiers.

¹¹ Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”^[a]

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Luther’s Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**