

**LIVING LENT**  
**THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN**



**Christ does not invite the cross but accepts it  
rather than abandon the Kingdom and the neighbor**  
John Shea

**Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,  
All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

**Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then He said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with Me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet, not as I will, but as You will." When He returned to His disciples He found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 25:36-41**

**Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the Man I shall kiss is the One; arrest Him and lead Him away securely." He came and immediately went over to Him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed Him. At this they laid hands on Him and arrested Him. Mark 14: 43-46**

## **OUR PRAYER: PSALM 51**

**Have mercy on me, God, in Your goodness;  
in Your abundant compassion blot out my offense.  
Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me.  
For I know my offense; my sin is always before me.  
Against You alone have I sinned; I have done such evil in Your sight  
That you are just in your sentence, blameless when you condemn.  
True, I was born guilty, a sinner, even as my mother conceived me.  
Still, You insist on sincerity of heart; in my inmost being teach me  
wisdom.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;  
wash me, make me whiter than snow.  
Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness;  
let the bones You have crushed rejoice.  
Turn away Your face from my sins; blot out all my guilt.  
A clean heart create for me, God; renew in me a steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me from Your presence, nor take from me Your holy spirit.  
Restore my joy in Your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit.**

## **REFLECTION**

**We might expect that Jesus would be so preoccupied with His sufferings on Good Friday that He would not have any time for anything else. The night before He had given Himself in the Eucharist; now He was giving His life. Surely that is enough “compassion on the multitudes.” But no; even in His Passion, Jesus “went about doing good.” In the Garden, He invited His disciples to share His agony with Him; when they slept, He forgave; He called Judas His friend; He ordered His captors to let the disciples go free; and with a touch, He healed the slashed ear of Malchus, who had come to take Him captive.**

**Jesus did not omit acts of kindness, even in His terrible suffering. That is the test of a loving heart. What are our hearts like???**

## **A LITANY**

**Lord, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Eternal Son of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, born into the human family, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, rejected by the world you came to save, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bargained for and sold for money, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, foreseeing your torments and sweating blood, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, betrayed by a false friend, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, deserted by those you loved, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, slapped in the face and spit upon, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, accused by liars, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, disowned by Peter, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, insulted by Herod, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, condemned to death by Pilate, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, beaten with whips, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, crowned with thorns, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, rejected for the murderer, Barabbas, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, burdened with a cross, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, stripped of your clothing, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, nailed to a cross, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, taunted in your pain, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, abandoned, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, shedding the last drop of your blood, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, dying for us, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, laid in a tomb, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, rising in glory, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, ascending into heaven, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, sending down the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us**

### **OUR RESPONSE**

**All:           Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me.  
                  Nevertheless, let Your will be done, not Mine.  
                  Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me.  
                  Nevertheless, let Your will be done, not Mine.**

**Reader:     In our times of misfortune  
                  In our times of disappointment  
                  In our times of illness  
                  In our times of abandonment  
                  In our times of doubt  
                  In our times of feeling betrayed  
                  In our times of great fear**

**All:           Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me.  
                  Nevertheless, let Your will be done, not Mine.  
                  Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me.  
                  Nevertheless, let Your will be done, not Mine.**

### **OUR FATHER**

#### **HYMN: God Is Calling**

**God is calling, always calling  
Through all time and everywhere,  
Calling all to come and know Him,  
Calling souls now unaware.**

**What a love, so undiscouraged,  
Tender still, though hearts are hard.  
Hear His voice through all the ages.  
Hear Him whisper in Your heart.**

**Sin and death rise all around us,  
But look up! Don't be afraid!  
Christ has died, and Christ has risen!  
Hear Him call, "The price is paid!"  
Father God, as through the ages,  
You are calling out today,  
Calling us to join Your purpose.  
Lord, we hear, and we obey.**

**Lord, by Your passion, cross and resurrection,  
You have set us free.  
You are the Savior of the world.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
teach us to have a great love for the passion of Christ.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**