

## *Crumbs – Good News for the Diaspora!*

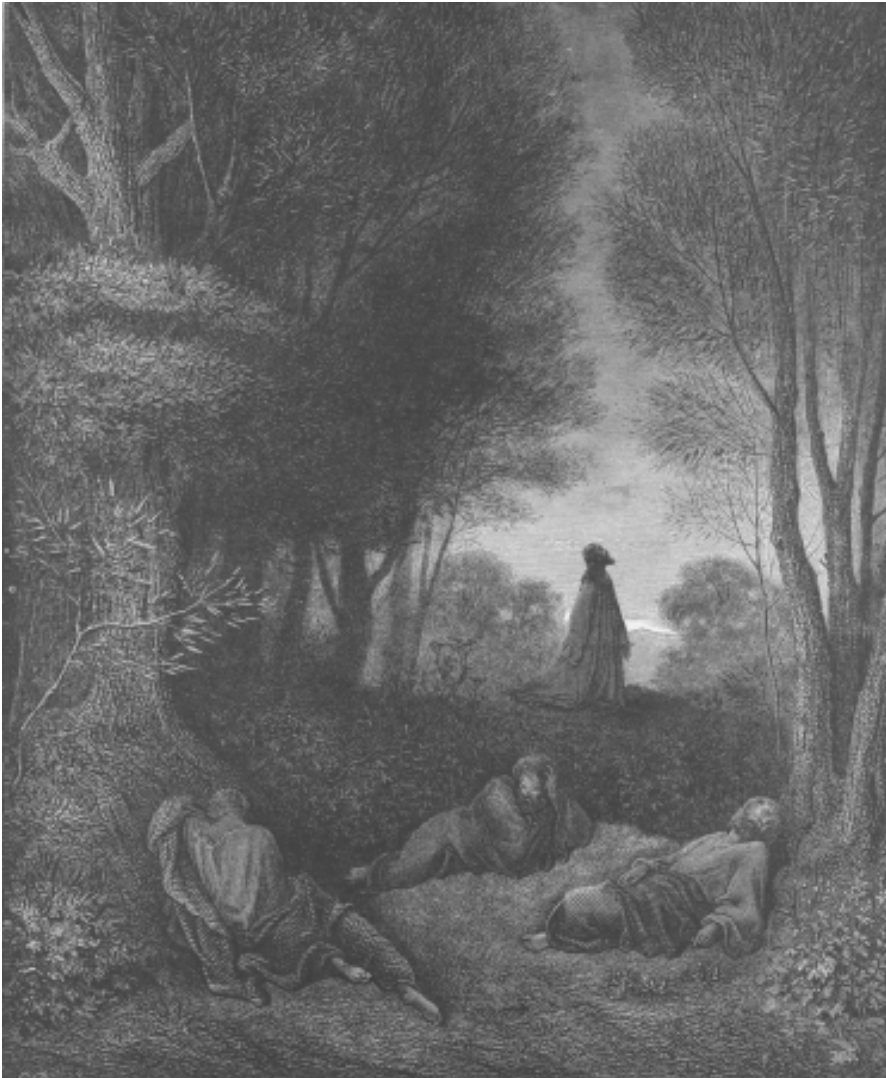


Illustration: Jesus Praying in the Garden

### A Devotional for the Week of the Third Sunday in Lent.

## SUNDAY.

*He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*

– 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Now they came to Gethsemane. Gethsemane was a place, a garden where olive trees were grown. It was at the foot of the Mount of Olives, toward Jerusalem. Upon arriving at the gate, Jesus said to His disciples: "Sit ye here while I go and pray yonder." And He took with Him Peter, and John and James, the two sons of Zebedee. And He began to be sorrowful and greatly amazed and sorely troubled. And He said: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." And He begged the three disciples: "Tarry ye here and watch with Me."

– Oh, what is that? Why did the Fount of joy sorrow? Why was the powerful Lord amazed? Why was He troubled who had entered the deadly fray so willingly, so exultantly confident of victory? Why did the sorrow of death, of eternal death, come over Him? Why did the Comforter now seek comfort and support with His poor disciples?

– The hour was now at hand that the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world was actually and truly sacrificed. Now He who knew no sin was made sin for us. Now God poured out on Him all the wrath and curse which the world had incurred. Now God withheld from Him all consolation. Now Satan attacked Him. Now the Savior was in His deepest humiliation. Can you comprehend this? No? But so it was. So it was in truth and reality. But do rejoice and thank God! For God has made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, and be rid of wrath and curse, of death and damnation, and be glad and rejoice, be of good cheer and exult, and be blessed forever. Avail yourself of Christ's suffering, O Christian, in firm faith.

*PRAYER.* – My sin, my curse, my condemnation, my sorrowing and trembling, yes my eternal grief, You did, O my Lord, take upon You. Therefore I rejoice and heartily give thanks to You. In-

deed, I am now righteous before God in You; God loves and blesses me for Your sake; God grants me comfort and joy and eternal blessedness. O my Lord and Savior, grant me Your Holy Spirit, that I may grasp and take and keep what God so graciously gives me for Your sake. Amen.

Hymn 196, 1.

CHRIST, the Life of all the living,  
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,  
Who Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe,  
Madest reconciliation.  
And hast saved me from damnation;  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

MONDAY.

*Yet it pleased God to bruise Him. – Isaiah 53:10.*

Sorrowful unto death, under the burden of God's wrath and curse, Jesus withdrew from His disciples, and went about a stone's cast farther into the garden, and falling upon His face, He prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. He said: "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what Thou wilt." But God did not turn to Him now. However, there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven and strengthened Him. A creature must strengthen its Creator! And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat was mingled with blood, and in great drops fell down to the ground. And He came to His disciples. And He found them sleeping. And He said to Peter: "Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst thou not watch with me one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit, truly, is ready, but the flesh is weak."

O my dear Savior! – And He left them again and prayed, saying: "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I

drink it, Thy will be done." And He arose from prayer and returned to His disciples. And again He found them sleeping for sorrow; for their eyes were heavy, neither did they know what to answer Him.

– And He left them, and prayed the same words for the third time. And He came to His disciples the third time and said: "Sleep on now and take your rest; it is enough." He was now fully resolved. And He added: "Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. Behold, he is at hand that doth betray Me."

No pen can describe, no tongue can utter, no reason can comprehend what cup of suffering it was which our Savior drained in that hour. Unfathomable, inconceivable sufferings of the soul when forsaken by God! The torments of hell! But it was *for us* that the Savior drained that cup, in order that we must not drain it, but that the heavenly Father might most graciously turn to us poor sinners and embrace and comfort us in life and death.

*PRAYER.* – O Heavenly Father, who for my sake did forsake Your dear Son, and did deliver Him into the utmost anguish and agony of soul, restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities, since Your Son, my dear Lord, did bear them for me. From Your Word and through Your Holy Spirit make me to hear joy and gladness, that my heart may rejoice. Nevermore forsake me, but comfort me with Your mighty love in life and death. I ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn 209, 2. 4.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, | Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning, | Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, | None would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him | Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Here we have a firm foundation; | Here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ's the Rock of our salvation: | His the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded! | Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded | Who on Him their hope have built.

## TUESDAY.

*If, therefore, ye seek Me, let these go their way. – John 18:8.*

And immediately, while He yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the Twelve, came, and after him a multitude of Roman soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, elders and scribes, with lanterns and torches and swords and staves. And he that betrayed Him had given them a token, saying: "Whomsoever I shall kiss, the same is He; take Him, and lead Him away safely." Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth to the multitude and said unto them: "Whom seek ye?" They answered Him: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus saith unto them: "I am he." And Judas also, who betrayed Him, stood with them. As soon, then, as Jesus had said to them: "I am he," they went backward and fell to the ground. This Jesus did to show that He surrendered Himself of His own free will.

And then He asked again: "Whom seek ye?" And they said: "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered: "I have told you that I am he; if therefore ye seek Me, let these go their way." He referred to His disciples who now were unable to bear the affliction which capture would entail. And so those words of His last prayer were fulfilled: "Of those whom Thou gavest me have I lost none." For now they could not lay hands on the disciples. As for Him, He bade them to take Him.

Note, Christian! You believe in the Lord Jesus, do you not? The Father, who through His Word and the Holy Spirit has graciously wrought faith in you, and thereby gave you to Jesus. And Jesus does not want to lose you, nor will He do so. He will keep you in true faith. Note again! He who delivered Himself into chains and death for you now says to all hands that reach out for you: If you seek me, let these go their way. What hands? The hands of the Law, of divine retribution, of death, of judgment, of damnation. Because those hands took Him in your stead, you are free, you are saved.

*PRAYER.* – My Lord and Savior! You, the Righteous, have been taken for me, the unrighteous; hence I am free. This is most

certainly true. Grant me grace to depend upon this blessed truth in life and death. This truth will save me. This day I commend myself into Your hand: You wilt not lose me, for Your heavenly Father has given me to You, and Your own beloved heart, O Savior, does not mean to lose me. I love You, my Savior. Amen.

Hymn 198, 5.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted –  
God is committed.

## WEDNESDAY.

*All this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. – Matthew 26:56.*

Forthwith came Judas, and drew near unto Jesus, and said, "Hai1, Master!" and kissed Him. Jesus, however, said to this thoroughly hardened and doomed man: "Friend, wherefore art thou come? Judas, betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?" Then came the captors and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. When the disciples saw what would follow, they said unto Jesus: "Lord, shall we smite with the sword?" And Peter stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest, and struck off his right ear: The servant's name was Malchus. But the Lord Jesus stopped Peter and said: "Put up thy sword into the sheath; for all that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? But how, then, shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? "And He touched Malchus' ear and healed him.

And to the chief priests and captains of the temple who were come along He said: "Are ye come out as against a robber, with

swords and staves, to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me; but this is your hour and the power of darkness. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled. All this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And among them there was a certain young man who had followed Him to Gethsemane, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body. And the bailiffs laid hold on him; and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

Judas' satanic betrayal, the murderous hatred of the elders of the church, the dark power of hell, the pitiful flight of the disciples, the capture of the great Lord and Savior at the hands of sinners, - what awful things do we see here! Back of it all, however, there was, and in it all there prevailed the gracious counsel of God for our salvation as revealed in the prophecies of the Old Testament: all this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. God be praised!

*PRAYER.* – Yes, praise and glory be to You, O God, for so bridling and ruling and guiding the most accursed wickedness of Satan and of the ungodly that thereby Your gracious counsel for the salvation of us poor sinners must prevail and be accomplished. Praise be to You for giving Your dear Son into the hands of sinners for the salvation of sinners. O gracious God, grant to me, a sinner, that I may take comfort from this in true faith and obtain salvation. Amen.

Hymn 310, 5.

He spake to His beloved Son: | 'Tis time to take compassion;  
Then go, my heart's most precious crown, | And bring to man salvation;  
From sin and sorrow set him free, | Slay bitter death for him, that he  
May live with Thee forever.

THURSDAY.

*Took Jesus and bound Him. – John 18:12.*

And the band and the captain and the officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound Him, and led Him away to Annas first. Annas was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that same year, and who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Annas had formerly been high priest, and still had great authority with the Jews. He, like Caiaphas, was a Sadducee and a bitter enemy of the Savior. Annas occupied a part of the palace of the high priest. To him, then, they led Jesus first, in the middle of the night, while Caiaphas was assembling the Chief Council.

And Annas, no doubt in one of the porches toward the inner courts, ordered that Jesus be brought before him, and questioned Him regarding His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered: "I spake openly to the world. I ever taught in the Temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? Ask them that heard me what I have said unto them; behold, they know what I said." When He had thus spoken to Annas, one of the officers that stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying: "Answerest thou the high priest so?" Jesus answered: "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why smitest thou me?" Now the Lord was held by Annas until everything was ready for trial before the Chief Council.

Here you see the Savior in chains and in disgrace. This He suffered that you, the guilty, might have blessed liberty and the supreme honor of a child of God and the glory of heaven. All that the Savior suffered makes for your salvation.

*PRAYER.* – I thank You, dear innocent Savior, that You were bound for me, the guilty offender, that I might be free forever. I thank You, O Lord of Glory, that You did suffer Your face to be struck for me, a base sinner, that I might be welcomed and highly honored by God and all the holy angels. Grant me, my Savior, I implore You, that I may – at all times, in true faith – own You, the Author of salvation. Amen.

Hymn 196, 3.

Thou hast born the smiting only | That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, | Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring, | Blessing unto me securing.  
    Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
    Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

FRIDAY.

*By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.*

*– Hebrews 13:15.*

When Jesus was led from Gethsemane to Jerusalem, John and Peter followed afar off. When He was brought into the high priest's palace, John, who knew the high priest, also entered it. But Peter stood without. Then John went out and spoke to her that kept the door and brought Peter in. When the maid that kept the door saw Peter, she said: "Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?" But Peter passed her and went into the inner court, where the servants had made a fire of coals for themselves, for it was cold. And after standing there awhile, he sat down among them and warmed himself. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus. Then the maid that kept the door followed him, and seeing him in the light of the fire, she looked sharply at him and said: "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee." And turning to the servants, she said: "This man was also with Him." But Peter denied before them all and said: "Woman, I am not; I know Him not, and I know not what thou sayest." And he went into the passageway. And the cock crew for the first time.

– Meanwhile the things we heard yesterday transpired with Jesus. Peter saw it. He returned to the fire. And the first maid that kept the door also came back and said to them that were there: "This also is one of them." And another maid said: "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." And one of the servants said to Peter: "Thou art also of them." Then Peter denied for the second time, with an oath, and said: "Man, I am not! I do not know the man." – After a while,

about an hour later, while the Lord was detained before Annas, those who stood by came to Peter and said to him: " Surely, thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee." They meant his Galilean dialect. And one of the servants of the high priest, being a kinsman of that Malchus whose ear Peter had cut off, said to him: "Did I not see thee in the garden with Him?" Then Peter began to curse and to swear, saying: "I know not this man of whom ye speak." And the cock crew for the second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter called to mind the word of the Lord: "Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Since our dear Lord gave His life for our salvation and sacrificed Himself for us, we, who believe in Him, must offer the sacrifice of praise which consists in confessing His name freely, gladly, and fearlessly. Surely that is most certainly true. -Have you ever in any way denied your Savior before the unbelievers and the wicked? But when Jesus most graciously turned to you, did you, like Peter, repent?

*PRAYER.* – Help me, O my Lord and Savior! Without Your help I can do nothing. I cannot remain true to You unless You sustain me. Let me never rely on my own ability; for then I shall fall. Did I not often fall, and in manifold ways? But You, dear, kind Savior, did always raise me again. Lord, keep me, lest I fall into sin again! And if I should ever fall again, do not let me lie, my Savior, my Helper! Amen.

Hymn 239, 10. 11.

Through Him we heirs of heaven are made;  
    O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid,  
That we may firmly trust in Thee,  
    And live through Thee eternally. Hallelujah!

Amen, Amen, O Lord! We cry;  
    Do Thou, who art exalted high,  
In Thy pure doctrine keep our hearts,  
    And shield us from the Devil's arts. Hallelujah!

## SATURDAY.

*Then did they spit in His face. – Matthew 26:67.*

Now they arraigned the Lord before the Chief Council, the highest spiritual court of the Jews, which had assembled before Caiaphas. And the chief priests and the elders and the Council sought false witness against Jesus. that they Might put Him to death, but found none; yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none, for their witnesses did not agree. At last there came two false witnesses. One of them testified that Jesus had said: "I will, and am able to, destroy this Temple of God which is made with hands, and within three days I will build another," while the other asserted that He had spoken of the temple that is not made with hands. Thus, very plainly, these, too, did not agree with each other. And Caiaphas arose and asked Jesus: "Answerest Thou nothing? What is it that these witness against Thee?" But Jesus held His peace.

Then a thought occurred to the chief priest. He said to Jesus: "Art Thou the Christ? Tell us!" Jesus answered: "If I tell you, ye will not believe; and if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go." Then the chief priest said: "I adjure Thee by the living God that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God, the Blessed!" Then Jesus said: "Thou hast said it, for I am. Nevertheless, I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven," namely, on judgment Day. Then the chief priest rent his clothes, saying: "He hath spoken blasphemy! What further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard His blasphemy. What think ye?" Then they all said: "Art Thou the Son of God?" And they all condemned Him and said: "He is guilty of death." Then they spat in His face, and the servants buffeted Him, and some covered His face, and struck Him on the face, saying: "Prophecy unto us, Thou Christ. Who is it that smote Thee?" And many other blasphemous things they spoke against Him, and in many other ways they treated Him most shamefully.

Thus the Savior was condemned to death by the elders of His people and of His Church, and was spit upon, because He had said under oath that He was the Messiah, the Christ. This is monstrous,

extremely so. But His condemnation is our acquittal. When He was spit upon, we were received to the fatherly bosom of God. Praise be unto our Lord!

*PRAYER.* – I praise You, my Savior, You True and Righteous One, because You did suffer Yourself to be condemned, in order that I, the faithless and unrighteous, might be acquitted. I praise You, glorious Son of God, because You did suffer Yourself to be disgraced and spit upon, that I, shameful child of sin, might be caressed by God and highly honored. O merciful Savior, let the saving power of Your suffering be my chief knowledge and the sole foundation of my faith. Amen.

Hymn 196, 2.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

These devotions are adapted from *Crumbs* by C. M. Zorn (1914).

The hymn stanzas are from *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* (1918).

The illustration is from *The Doré Bible Gallery* (circa 1885).

As long as they are free to others, you may make copies of this devotional.

For more devotionals or to support *Good News for the Diaspora*, please visit

[www.scholia.net](http://www.scholia.net)