

Maundy Thursday Part 3 Gethsemane

*My heart is ready to break with grief;
stop here and stay awake.*

Reading from the Gospel

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." -Mark 14:32-42

Meditation - "The Comforting of Christ"

The following prayer takes us intimately into the presence of the suffering Jesus. The second quote invites us to see Christ in the suffering of others, written during World War II.

O Jesus, how many generous souls...have kept Thee company in the Garden, sharing Thy bitterness and Thy mortal anguish...How many hearts in the course of the centuries have responded generously to Thy invitation... May this multitude of souls, then, in this supreme hour, be a comfort to Thee, who, better than the disciples, share with Thee the distress of Thy heart, and cooperate with Thee for their own salvation and that of others. And grant that I also may be of their number, that I also may offer Thee some relief. -Padre Pio 1887-1968

We do truly comfort him most when, recognizing him in our neighbor for the love of him. All that we do in the war ought to be done with that single idea, it is our real war work and our real worship. Put his love into everything. It is not only saints who comfort Christ, sinners can do it, all sorts of people; in his passion all are drawn together in one act of suffering and love. ...[T]here are none, rich or poor, respectable or not, sound or ill, who cannot take part in the passion and comfort Christ; and they comfort by receiving as well as giving, passively as well as actively. It is by loving and being loved that we endure today. --Caryll Houselander 1901-1954

Closing Let us love and be loved. Amen.

