

Places of the Passion

Week 3: Gethsemane

Order of Service

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." Matthew 26:36

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C **To see the depths of his love.**

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C **To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C **We walk with Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.**

P Where he is betrayed by Judas.

C **And arrested by the Jews.**

P So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

C **Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!**

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,

Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us also live with Jesus, he has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken, Jesus, you are now our head.
We are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Paul writes in today's second lesson, "Christ came proclaiming peace to those who are far off and those who are near." (Ephesians 2:17) Heavenly Father, this proclamation has reached our ears but we confess it has not settled into our hearts.

C We confess that we do not live in the light of Christ's peace.

P We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.

C We are more ready to worry than to trust.

P More ready to fret than have faith.

C More ready to blame than to believe.

P Forgive our hard hearts.

C And make us more alive to the depths of your love.

P Show us what it cost to give up your Son.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C I shall follow where you guide!

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 53:1-5

Epistle Reading ... Ephesians 2:11-18

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 26:47-56

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray. Heavenly Father, you haven't promised us a storm-less life. You don't offer quick fixes or shallow solutions. But you do promise perfect peace, in the midst of whatever happens. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Grant us your peace.**

P Heavenly Father when we're out of bootstraps to pull up, come to the end of our rope and feel like quitting, you are with us and for us. Thank you for being a Father who will never forget or abandon us in our storms. Thank you for working all things together for the good of those who love you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Grant us your peace.**

P Heavenly Father, thank you for your perfect peace—a peace perfectly suited for the moment. Our calling is not to take control, but to mine the riches of the Gospel and never lose

sight of your wonderful love. You are the Rock that is higher than us, the Rock of refuge, the Rock of ages. Lord, in your mercy,

C Grant us your peace.

P Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding. Anchor us in hope, strengthen us in grace and fortify us with resolute courage.

C Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Garden of Gethsemane, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey thy will when thou say'st to them, "Be still."
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore and the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,
May I hear thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."