

# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST PRAYING IN THE GARDEN

**Tuesday before Ash Wednesday**

## **Optional memorial**

Our Founder points out this memory in which we find the model of Dehonian prayer: "...Jesus, especially in the garden of olives, where he prays in solitude and recollection. Jesus prays with respect: *He was heard because of his piety* (Heb 5:7); he prays with ardour: *With loud cries* (Heb 5:7); he prays with emotion, with tears, with compunction: *My Father,... not as I will, but as you will!* (Mt 26:39). Pray with perseverance. In Gethsemane he began the same prayer three times" (DSP 122).

**Entrance Antiphon**                      **cf. Lk 22:42**

Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me;  
yet not my will but yours be done.

## **COLLECT**

Lord our God,  
in his agony in the garden,  
your Son taught us by word and example  
how to pray in time of temptation.  
Keep us always faithful to prayer,  
that we may reap a rich harvest of grace.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Or:**

Father of mercies,  
in his agony, your Son cried out to you,  
and you heard his prayer because of his obedience.  
Keep before our eyes  
the image of Jesus in his agony,  
faithful to prayer and obedient even to death,  
so that in our trials and temptations  
we too may be found obedient,  
in the sure hope of your fatherly consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 5:1-9

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people.

No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: “You are my son; this day I have begotten you”; just as he says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm  
Psalm 16:1.6-7.8.15

**R.** Father, not my will but yours be done.

Hear, Lord, my plea for justice;  
pay heed to my cry;  
Listen to my prayer  
from lips without guile. **R.**

I call upon you; answer me, O God.  
Turn your ear to me; hear my speech.  
Show your wonderful mercy,  
you who deliver with your right arm  
those who seek refuge from their foes. **R.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings  
I am just—let me see your face;  
when I awake, let me be filled with your presence. **R.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.

The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

Alleluia.

### GOSPEL

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 22:39-46

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done."

And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.

When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Or:*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 26:36-46

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." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!"

Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

To Jesus Christ, praying in the Garden of Olives, we address our prayer saying:  
*Lord, hear our prayer. R.*

— You who hast descended in the condition of a servant, grant that the least of the earth may acknowledge thee as brother and saviour. Let us pray: **R.**

— You were abandoned on the cross so that we might have eternal life, grant us to persevere in obedient fidelity to your gospel. Let us pray: **R.**

— You who loved us to the point of surrendering yourself to the cross, grant that those who believe in you may make their own the longings for peace, justice and liberation of the peoples of the earth. Let us pray: **R.**

— You were not sent to condemn the world, grant sinners to meet in your Church the proclamation of your forgiveness and salvation. Let us pray: **R.**

— You who have been clothed with glory by your Father, grant that this community may walk faithfully along the path you have traced. Let us pray: **R.**

Hear, O Father, this prayer and fill us with the gifts of the Spirit, so that the faith that animates us, the hope that sustains us and the love that we live are rooted in the cross of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,  
your Son taught us how to pray.  
By the power of this holy sacrifice, keep us  
faithful to his teaching, so that at the hour of  
our death, he may find us freed from sin  
and awaiting his coming.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**PREFACE I OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

*The power of the Cross*

**V./** The Lord be with you.

**R./** And with your spirit.

**V./** Lift up your hearts.

**R./** We lift them up to the Lord.

**V./** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R./** It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father,  
almighty and eternal God.

For through the saving Passion of your Son  
the whole world has received a heart  
to confess the infinite power of your majesty,  
since by the wondrous power of the Cross  
your judgment on the world is now revealed  
and the authority of Christ crucified.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,  
we, too, give you thanks,  
as in exultation we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

**Communion Antiphon**            **Mt 26:38**

My heart is nearly broken with sorrow.  
Remain here and stay awake with me.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of compassion,  
you have refreshed our spirit  
with food and drink from heaven .  
May we draw new strength from the  
prayer of your Son,  
so that we may be faithful in serving you  
and full of love for all your children .  
Through Christ our Lord.