

Everyday FAITH Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

Our prayers and courage falter in the face of fatigue and threat of physical harm. **Jesus prays for us and suffers all, even to the point of death, in order to rescue us.**

Bible Words

[Christ Jesus] loved me and gave Himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

Sing

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.

"Go to Dark Gethsemane," stanza 1, by James Montgomery., *Lutheran Service Book* 436, copyright © 2006 CPH.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You made the ultimate sacrifice, giving Yourself over to death so that we might have eternal life. Thank You for never deserting us, even when we desert You. In Your merciful name we pray. Amen.

The Case of the Sharp Sword: Jesus in the Garden

Matthew 26:36–56

After sharing His last Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus led His friends to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus often came here to pray and the disciples knew it well.

Now, knowing the great pain and death He would endure on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of all people, Jesus felt greatly troubled. Unlike every other human being, Jesus did not deserve death; He was perfect and sinless (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 4:14–16).

But obedient to His Father's will, Jesus prayed that the work of salvation would be completed even if it meant death for Him. He prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39).

Sadly, instead of praying with Jesus, the disciples slept. When Judas arrived with a crowd to identify Jesus for arrest, the other disciples deserted Him. He gave Himself willingly so that "the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled" (v. 56) and that we might be saved.

From the Catechism: Prayer

231. What is prayer?

Prayer is speaking to God in words and thoughts.

235. How does God answer prayer?

God our Father hears the prayers of His children and answers in His own way and in His own time.

236. For whom should we pray?

We should pray for ourselves and for all other people, even for our enemies.

237. Where should we pray?

We should pray everywhere—when we are alone, with our families, and in church.

238. How often should we pray?

Our Father encourages us to pray regularly and frequently—even constantly, and especially in time of trouble. The Holy Spirit turns even our sighs and groans into prayers.

Questions 231, 235–238, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, © 2017 CPH.