



Anglican Orthodox Church



Night in the Garden

By Bishop Jerry Ogles

Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons . John 18:3

Out of the darkest Halls of Hell

Came the marchers with torches raised.

Into the Garden quiet and still

They wandered forlorn and crazed.

Up to the Sovereign Lord of Love,

Their spears shining bright in the mist,

With arrogant air and a hateful shove

They took Him who wouldn't resist.

Now to the head of Scribe and Priest

Was the Savior led that night,

And to Herod's Court and Pilate's Seat

Where Right gave way to the Night.

To the craggy heights of the Lonely Skull

They took Him and laid Him down

And into His Hands of Love they drove

Iron spikes with a terrible Pound!

On His Brow a thorny Crown He wore

And His flesh was torn and bruised.

His Heart of Grace grew cold and sore

As the Spirit of Life was loosed.

The world of woe a Hope has found

In the Promise made sure by His Death

And the Saints of God with Faith abound

In the Fields that our Lord has Blessed!

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The band entered the Garden under cover of utter darkness – both **physical and spiritual**. **The Light of the World was the Light they needed; yet they sought this great Light with the imitation, man-made light of torches and lamps. Moreover, they sought Him not as friends, but as bitter enemies. Presumptuous and rude were these representatives of the worldly Pharisical Power in Judea.**

The Traitor who led them is still among us today. He walks in the garb of a Christian and counts his profits by the dim light of the lamp. Were Christ to return today, His coming would be denounced by most churches in America because they know, instinctively, that He would enter into their sanctuaries of deceit and overturn the tables of the moneychangers. They know this because they know that Christ is unchangeable and His Will immutable! Be not deceived: even the “devils believe and tremble.”

James 2:19

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Amazingly, God began His work of Creation in Darkness, but ended in Light. All that He works in our Souls will lead to Light, but it is in darkness that we must begin our search for Him who will hear our cries.

After three days of lying in the cold and dark tomb, Christ, with startling Light, broke the chains of Death and Darkness for you and me. He did so through the Mighty Power of His Immutable Spirit! No man-made tomb could contain Him who was Master, not of Death, but Life. Not as Lazarus will He raise His Chosen at the Last Trump, but as He Himself rose to Life Eternal shall He raise His Own who have borne their Cross in Faith following Him.

Christ has become our everlasting Passover. When the Angel of Death passes over Egypt again, He will surely see the blood of Christ above us and beside us and will Passover us. The danger shall not come close to us. He will bear us up on wings as eagles and escort into the Divine Presence of the Father. What a day to contemplate! What a Joy to believe!

May God extend His Loving, Nail-scarred Hands to each of you who are seekers of the True Light of Christ this Passover Easter.

In Christ,

Jerry L. Ogles

Presiding Bishop