



SOUNDS OF SILENCE
PENTATONIX

HOW DO YOU DEFINE “DARKNESS”? WHEN IS DARKNESS A FRIEND? AN ENEMY?



8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8-12

The Sleeping Gypsy (La Bohémienne endormie). Henri Rousseau, 1897.



OUT OF DARKNESS

Thoughts and Art of Easter

WHAT DOES THE CREATION OF LIGHT TELL US ABOUT GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN?

The Creation by James Weldon Johnson, 1871 - 1938

And God stepped out on space,

And he looked around and said:

I'm lonely—

I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see

Darkness covered everything,

Blacker than a hundred midnights

Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,

And the light broke,

And the darkness rolled up on one side,

And the light stood shining on the other,

And God said: That's good!

(Based on Genesis 1:1-4)



*The Separation of Light and Darkness.
Michelangelo, 1475 – 1564, fresco.*

THE ORIGIN OF EASTER IS FOUND IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22-24

Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden. Tomasso Masaccio, c. 1424-27, fresco.





Annunciation. Fra Angelico, 1435 ca.

JESUS: TO DELIVER; TO RESCUE

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21 NIV

IN THE DARK OF NIGHT...AGONY AND BETRAYAL

39 Jesus went out *as usual* to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

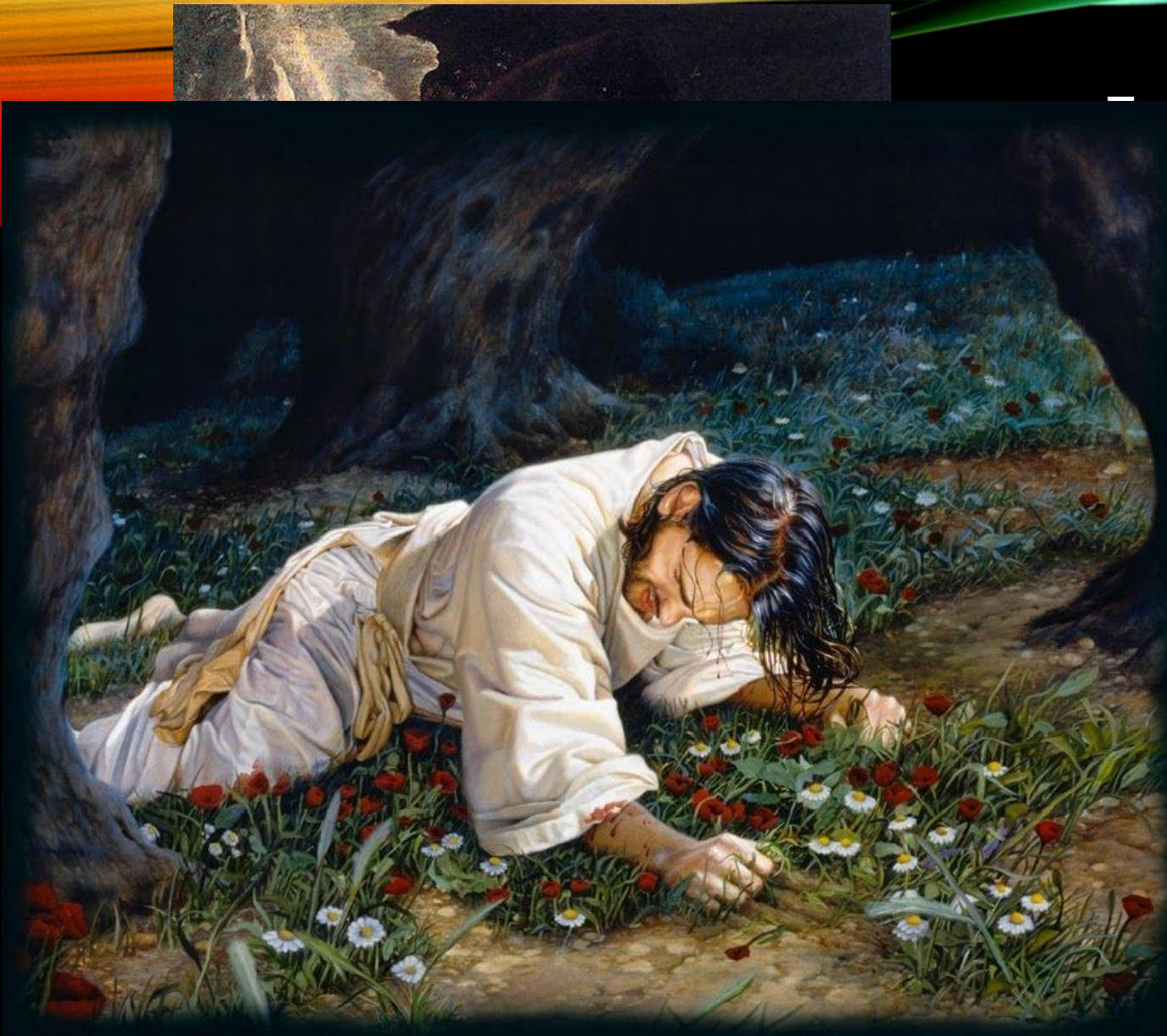
44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and *his sweat was like drops of blood* falling to the ground.

45 When he rose from prayer and went back to *the disciples*, he found them asleep, *exhausted from sorrow*.

46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and *the man who was called Judas*, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke 22:39-48



Agony in the Garden. El Greco, 1605.

Fredrick Buechner “On the Darkness of Holy Week”

“Darkness symbolizes that out of which faith can arise, that which faith must somehow confront, the darkness that we all experience as human beings...the darkness of doubt and pain and suffering....”

Maundy Thursday is the breaking of bread and sharing of wine at the Last Supper, the prayer and betrayals on the Mount of Olives...It is the day the Disciples believed darkness had triumphed...

It is the day Jesus was most a man so he could suffer as a man and know fully the pain of the world's sins...

Agony in the Garden, Swindel, Liz Lemon, modern.

DARKNESS: A SIGN OF JUDGMENT

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,

45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. Luke 23:44-48



Crucifixion sketch by St. John of the Cross, c. 1550.

Christ of Saint John of the Cross.
Salvador Dali, 1951.



“THE MAGNIFICENT DEFEAT”*

1 *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.*

2 *Very early on the first day of the week, **just after sunrise**, they were on their way to the tomb*

3 *and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”*

4 *But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.*

5 *As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said.*

“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. Mark 16:1-6

The Resurrection of Christ. Peter Paul Rubens, 1611-12c.

Resurrection. Josef Žáček, 1988.

“EVERY SUNDAY IS A ‘LITTLE EASTER.’

ROBERT E. WEBBER

14 *The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.*

15 *There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:*

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

16 *the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”*

17 *I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.*

18 *The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.*

19 *Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD. Psalm 118:14-19*



HOW GREAT THOU ART
HOME FREE

- We will sing the last Refrain together....

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