

Wednesday 8th April 2020

Bible Reading: [Luke 22: 39 – 44](#)

Reflection

Back at the beginning of Lent we heard the familiar story of Jesus being tempted by the devil in the wilderness. In Luke's version of the story he concludes in this way: "When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him *until an opportune time*."

Jesus kneels. It was normal at that time and in that culture to stand for prayer, but Jesus kneels. He prays earnestly and in anguish, "Father, remove this cup from me."

It would have been easy enough to slip away from Jerusalem right then, go back to Galilee, keep his head down, stay safe. If he did that, he could spend more time teaching his disciples – they really weren't ready to be left on their own yet. Maybe, given time, the religious leaders might see the error of their ways. And ... did he wonder if he had made a mistake? Was his Heavenly Father really asking him to undergo this shameful death?

Like turning stones into bread to satisfy his hunger, Jesus could easily have given in to this temptation. But he didn't. Not only did he set his face to undergo all that was ahead, but he also gave his disciples an essential tool to combat temptation – prayer.

When fear becomes overwhelming – pray.

Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: [O Jesus, I have promised \(Tune: Wolvercote\)](#)



Agony in the garden