

THE THIRD STOP: JESUS PRAYS TO THE FATHER

"I made known to these your name."



Christ in Gethsemane
by Michael D. O'Brien

"But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world. Just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

(John 17:13-17)

Reflect What is this world of which Jesus speaks – of which he is not a part, of which, by his designation, we are not a part? Perhaps it is the world of what I need, of what I want, of what makes *me* feel good, of what aggrandizes *me*, of what serves *me*. How could we not be a part of this world in which we live, this world that is presented to us in too many personal encounters, in too many media bombardments? What sets us apart? Perhaps we can infer the reason for our separation from Jesus' words, "...so that they (those who believe, those to whom Christ's words are made known in a succession of believers) may all *be one*..." moving together toward unity with God.

Jesus, in his willing and loving sacrifice of himself, gives us not only the means to know and become one with the Father. He also gives to each one of us the astounding power of bringing salvation to others. He prays for each of us as a binding link in the thousands-year old chain of believers. How could we not accept this honor of moving the world toward salvation?

Pray **Lord, let me be a worthy conduit of the knowledge of you to the world. Let me never forget the power you give me to represent you. Let your Holy Spirit guide me in right paths so that through my witness others may come to know you better. Let me never be an obstacle to their understanding of your goodness and love. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, you lead us to light. Jesus, you lead us to light.
Jesus, our hope; Jesus, our glory.
Jesus, our God and our all.*