

20Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. 34The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" 35Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. 36While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

In my home church, above the altar is a round window. Surrounded by a border is the painted glass picture of the face of the boy Jesus. That face never changed.

Sunday after Sunday in my changing world my friend Jesus was unchanging. Though I would come to worship troubled by sin, the face of Jesus was always pure. Though I was hurt by the unkind words of classmates, the face of Jesus was always full of peace. Though I was afraid of darkness and failure the face of Jesus was always bright and hopeful. I always thought I would grow up to be just like him.

Surely life would get easier as I grew older. My faith in God would grow, and sin would release its grip. I would be strong – finished – complete - happy. Just like Jesus.

Years have passed, life remains difficult. I am no better now at trusting in God than I was back then, sometimes I'm worse. I may be better at avoiding darkness, but I am no less afraid of it. And now I'm losing all hope that I will ever be finished, complete.

I want to be like the young boy Jesus. Confident, he stayed in temple when his parents were returning home. When asked three days later why he had remained he was so quick to say to Mary, "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?"

What's wrong with me? I ask. Why can't life be simple for me?

In my home church there is another window. Looking west, toward the setting sun, as the people file out of worship is the picture of Gethsemane. A grown Jesus kneels in prayer, in pleading. Our second lesson tells us of this Jesus: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Life was not simple for Jesus. He did not remain that young boy but grew to be a man who prayed with loud cries and tears.

Our gospel says it in just a few words: *Now my soul is troubled.*

Jesus said those words: Now my soul is troubled. Just the way your soul and my soul get troubled.

And the Father who loved him was troubled in that moment just the way an earthly parent is troubled when her child is in anguish.

But even though Jesus was troubled, he did not lose sight of his purpose in life.

Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father save me from this hour?"
No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. "Father glorify your name."

Even though he was deeply troubled, Jesus prayed, “Your will be done.”

Yes, I used to think that if I had faith the road would smooth out. I would cruise through life.

But seeing Jesus I know that it is not the smoothness of the road that is important, but who is guiding the car. As long as God is directing no matter how bumpy and twisted the road, we will still arrive at home.

Though rejection and betrayal and denial stand in the way, and a cross, even a grave, God will bring his children home. As he brought Jesus safely home.

Our Lord learned obedience the writer of Hebrews says. “Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

Jesus is the source of your eternal salvation. Trust in him with your whole life. Do not believe in your dreams of how things should be or might be or could be. Believe in Jesus who died for you, and whom God raised for you, who walked the difficult road before you. Though your prayers are with loud cries and tears, believe that Jesus knows the way and will bring you home. Finally that is all that will matter.