

CHRIST TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE SINS OF THE WORLD

THE GARDEN BECAME A BATTLEGROUND

GETHSEMANE! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon of today's bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.

It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.

Christ bid His friend to "watch and pray," while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, formed on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: "*Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let Not my will but Thine be done!*" And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.

There Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: "*The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak . . .*"

What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.