

## Last Week's Sermon Summary

### 『Gethsemane Prayer』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Hebrews 5:5~10, Matthew 26:36~46

❶ **【Gethsemane's Prayer】** The Garden of Gethsemane was located on the Mount of Olives, and it was an olive grove surrounded by stone walls. Jesus and his friends always prayed here. He told His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray," and He began to pray a short distance away, taking only Peter, James, and John. The words "sorrow has begun to writhe" (v. 37) and "I am sad to death" (v. 38) are written. This is the first time I've used this kind of expression. The disciples would never have seen Jesus like this. The devil left Jesus once after the temptation in the wilderness, but came back at the end. The temptation Jesus received here was whether or not to obey God's will to the end.

❷ **【The will of God and the will of man】** Jesus said, "Father, if you can, let this cup pass from me, but not according to my wishes, but according to your will." (verse 39). "This cup" is a cross. "Is it not possible to avoid the way in which I would die if I could, Father, and I am afraid to die to be kept away from you, Father?" I prayed. This prayer is something that we humans must do by nature. But we are okay with being separated from God, we are not afraid, we are accustomed to sin and death, and we are numb to it. But Jesus is different. He has never been separated from God, even for a moment, and He who is the body of life has never been accustomed to sin or death. The Church traditionally confesses that Christ is fully endowed with two qualities: divinity and humanity. He is

a perfect God and a perfect human being at the same time. Along with that, I confess that I have two wills. It is "the will of God Jesus and the will of man Jesus." This is called ambivalence. The will of Jesus' humanity always permeated the will of the divinity, and He willed like God, but there was a bloody effort to do so. This prayer is a prayer that seeks to align the will of the human Jesus with the will of God. Prayer is the way to align our wills. Human beings are always separated from each other, and sometimes they become one line. This prayer, "Not according to my wishes, but according to Thy will," is a prayer unique to Christianity, and other religions pray for their wishes to be granted. Christianity prays for God's will to come true. In the Lord's Prayer, you will pray, "As thy will be done in heaven, so it shall be done on earth." It is praying, "May God's will be done upon me, the earth."

### ❸ **【Prayer is the best way to wake up】**

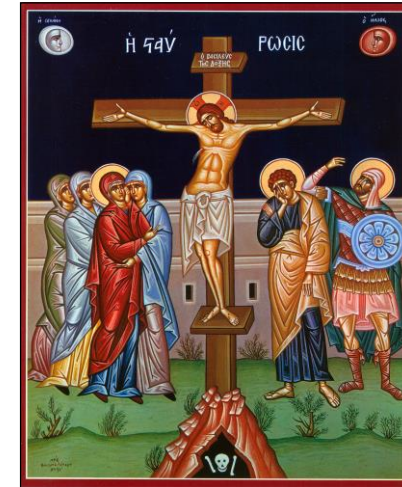
When Jesus returned, the disciples were asleep. "Have you not been awake with me even for a moment? The heart burns, but the body is weak." (verse 41). On this night, all the disciples slept, and the only one who was awake was Judas, who had betrayed them. Man "sleeps" in the face of God and easily "wakes up" in the face of evil (his own desires). There are certain things that you will see when you pray. It is our sins and God's love. Many alcoholics say that they are not addicted and do not need to be treated. They have a sense of illness, but they have no knowledge of the disease. They are aware that something is wrong, but they do not admit that they are sick. That's why I don't even treat it. ↗

# Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan  
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《Crucifixion》

## Miyakojima Church's 2024 Mission Policy

**Motto** : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

**Scripture** : "No one can lay any other foundation, ignoring the foundation that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

### Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.
- 4 Cultivate the consciousness of building a church together.