



Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

Psalm 71:4

#### **Praising:**

When the thirty years were ended which on earth he willed to see, willingly he meets his passion, born to set his people free; on the cross the Lamb is lifted, there the sacrifice to be.

## Reading:

John 12:20-36 Jesus' soul is troubled

As Jesus opens up to Andrew and Philip, the disciples are still a long way from understanding that Jesus' death isn't just inevitable but necessary. The larger the shadow of the cross begins to loom, the clearer Jesus' personal struggle becomes. It's not so much indecision as fear, and less fear of the unknown as fear that is well-founded. Of course Jesus could always ask the Father to deliver him from the doom to

come. Yet he knows this doom is his reason for being, the high point of his earthly life and the means by which his Father is to be glorified. If the disciples haven't quite grasped this, it will take them even longer to see that following Christ faithfully and obediently is going to involve a measure of danger and fear for them as well.

### **Listening:**

# **Praying:**

As Christ's death drew closer, we see the inner turmoil of your Son

- we pray for courage in the face of our own gravest worries and fears
- we pray for godly mindedness to look past personal concerns to the cause of the King
- we pray for servant hearts and the will to suffer for Christ as he suffered for us

Father: in my hours of perplexity and soul-searching, when fear wells up and I want a way out, draw close to me by your Spirit, for you are all I have. And in the end, you are all I need. Amen

#### **Doing:**