

# The Agony in the Garden

Depictions of the night Jesus spends in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, immediately following the Last Supper, are known as *'The Agony in the Garden'*.

Look on the south wall of Edgbaston Old Church, just beyond the font, and you will find this scene in stained glass, in a double panel.

At the base of each panel is a quotation:



and

'My Soul is exceeding sorrowful.'  
(*Matthew 26:38*)

'Tarry ye here and watch with me.'  
(*Mark 14:34*)

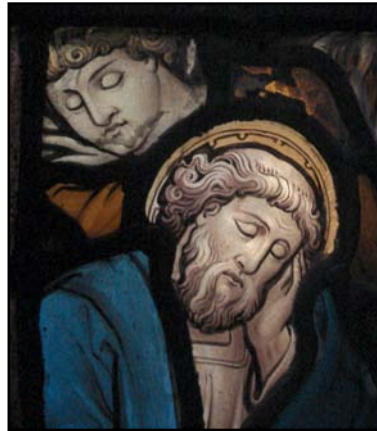
This is Jesus speaking to the disciples, immediately after Peter has declared: 'Though others will fail you, I will never fail you.'

Jesus moves away from the disciples to pray in private, 'Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by; however, let it not be as I wish, but as you wish'.



The artist depicts Jesus in supplication, showing a detail taken from Luke 22: 44

'and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground'.  
At right hand edge of the picture, and clearly quite a way off, some of the disciples can be seen sleeping.



Much more prominent to the composition are four angels. (These are artistic licence, since Luke 22:43 mentions only one angel, and there are none in this part of the gospels of either Matthew or Mark.) At the far left, a sorrowful angel bears the cup that Jesus finally accepts should not pass from him.



The other angels have carefully differentiated expressions:

courage and fortitude...



...dreadful anguish...



...and infinite, caring love - perhaps inspired by the passage  
in Matthew 3:17 *'This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.'*