

Eighth Hour : From Midnight to 1 AM

Jesus is arrested

But, O sweet Jesus, my Good, what a touching scene I see!
You first meet the perfidious Judas, who, drawing near You and throwing his arms around your neck, greets You and kisses You. (...)

And You, O my Jesus, in bearing this kiss of Judas, repair for
- the betrayals, the pretenses,
- the deceptions under the aspect of friendship and sanctity, especially of priests.

Your kiss, then, shows that, not to one sinner,
- provided that he comes humbled before You,
would You refuse your forgiveness.

My sweet Good, I will be at your side
- to defend You,
- to learn your teachings,
- to count, one by one, all of your words.

Ah, how sweetly does the word with which You addressed Judas, descend into my heart:
“Friend, why have you come?”

And I feel that You address me too with the same word
- not calling me friend, but by the sweet name of child:
“Child, why have you come?”
- to hear me answer: “Jesus – to love You”.

“Why have you come?”, You repeat to me when I wake up in the morning.
“Why have you come?”, if I pray
“Why have you come?”, You repeat to me in the Holy Host,
if I come to receive You into my heart.

What a beautiful call for me and for all!

My most patient Jesus, it seems that these ropes and chains give something more beautiful to your Divine Person:
- your forehead becomes more majestic, so much so, as to draw the attention of your enemies themselves.
Your eyes blaze with more light.
Your Divine Face assumes a supreme peace and sweetness,
- such as to enamor your very executioners.

With your sweet and penetrating accents, though few, You make them tremble.

So much so, that if they dare to offend You, it is because You Yourself allow them to do so.