

Charpentier Le Reniement de St Pierre – Text Translation

When Jesus had dined and he had given them his body to eat and his blood to drink, they went out together to the mount of Olives. Jesus said to them:

"You will all be offended for my sake, this night. For it is written: I will smite the shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered."

But Peter, replying, said to him:

"Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."

"Verily I say unto thee, Peter, that this night, before the cock crows, thou shalt deny me thrice."

"Ah! Lord! Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee."

Likewise all the disciples said *"We will not deny thee."*

Lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves ran up to Jesus and held him, and seeing this, the disciples fled. And Peter stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck a servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Jesus said to him:

"Peter, put away your sword. Do you not wish me to drink the cup that my Father has given me?"

Therefore the soldiers of the Jews took Jesus and bound him and led him to the chief priests. Peter followed at a distance, even to the house of the bishop. A doorkeeper saw him and said to him:

"Are you not also a disciple of that man?"

"O woman! I am not. I do not know the man."

And Peter entered the house. As he sat by the fire with the servants and soldiers to warm himself, another servant said to him:

"Were you also with Jesus of Nazareth?"

"O woman, I was not! I do not know the man."

Then a relation of the one whose ear he had cut off questioned him:

(Relation of Malchus): *"Did I not see you in the garden with him? Did you not cut off Malchus' ear? Surely it was you."*

(Doorkeeper, serving maid): *"Aren't you a Galilean? Surely you are."*

"Even your accent gives you away. You are a disciple of that man."

(Peter): *"I am not. Surely I was not. I don't know what you are talking about."*

And immediately the cock crew. Then Jesus looked at Peter and Peter remembered the words of Jesus, and he went out, and wept bitterly.