

Mark 14:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Analysis

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

The hymn (ὑμνέω, hymneō) was likely the second half of the Hallel (Psalms 115-118), traditionally sung at Passover's conclusion. Jesus and the disciples sang praise knowing what lay ahead—His betrayal, their desertion, His death. The verb ὑμνέω carries the sense of worship through song, making this one of Scripture's rare glimpses of Jesus singing.

Their destination, **the mount of Olives** (τὸ ὄρος τῶν Ἐλαιῶν, to oros tōn Elaiōn), fulfilled Zechariah 14:4's prophecy about Messiah standing there. This garden became the arena where the second Adam faced temptation—not in Eden's pleasure but Gethsemane's agony. Luke 22:39 notes this was Jesus' custom (κατὰ τὸ ἔθος, kata to ethos), showing deliberate habit even unto death.

Historical Context

The Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley, was a place of Jewish eschatological expectation. First-century pilgrims camped there during Passover when Jerusalem's population swelled from 50,000 to over 200,000. Jesus' regular use of this location made Judas's betrayal logically simple.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus singing hymns before His crucifixion teach about worship in suffering?
2. How does Jesus' habitual prayer pattern (Luke 22:39) challenge your consistency in spiritual disciplines?
3. Why might Mark emphasize the fulfillment of Old Testament geography and prophecy at this crucial moment?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	ύμνήσαντες	έξηλθον	εἰς	τὸ	Ὄρος	τῶν
And	when they had sung an hymn	they went out	into	G3588	the mount	G3588
G2532	G5214	G1831	G1519		G3735	

Ἐλαιῶν

of Olives

G1636

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:30 (Parallel theme): And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Luke 22:39 (Parallel theme): And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.