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Being Judas

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Being Judas

Emma Bell (English 2025)

Meet me at confession

On my knees

“The spirit of God flows within everyone,”

The father says,

“Crowns of thorn lay on all our heads,

We share the collective calloused hands
of a carpenter.”

My smooth skin betrays me

It's true I know the Spirit

It's true I've touched His face

It's truer still

That I've betrayed the Father

(More than the Father, the Son,

Whose voice declared me clean

in the shadows of the garden

Whose rough hands wiped my tears

Whose holy eyes saw me purified

And returned my repentance

With an embrace

Closer than the Father

Is the Son

My sin against Him

Is weighed in lead).

But I am not Peter

Denying Him is impossible

See me in the garden

See Him, standing firm,

And notice I do not call Him

Imposter, liar, false prophet,

Notice what I call Him now

Son of God, Son of Man

Notice what I am

Son of Sin, Son of Shame

I am not Peter.

Meet me at confession

In the garden, before the Spirit,

And not a priest -

My toes dangling above the ground

My neck bowed as though in prayer

An angel flying, an angel falling.

But these are grand things

I am just hanging.

I am Judas Iscariot.