

Worship for Wednesday of Holy Week 2020

Thought for the Day: The Bible readings for this day bring the worshipping community closer to Jesus's betrayal and death. The Gospel lesson, which focuses on Judas, is an uncomfortable reminder of the ease with which betrayal and evil can enter into our relationships with one another and with God. Yet its message of human betrayal is balanced by the other lessons affirmations of Gods trustworthiness. The church thus is led to contemplate the contrast between human infidelity and divine fidelity.

SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 70

INVOCATION

Dear God, you are the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Journey with us this day from dreams of grandeur to the darkness of deceit. Perk our minds and souls to the possibilities of your kingdom both within us and without. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 50:4-9

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 12:1-3

SILENT PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, it is difficult to be a Christian in an age of greed, freelance morality, and closed-in lifestyles. Often we get caught off guard with the temptations before us. Forgive us this day. Speak to us of the second chances in the Kingdom. Through your saving grace, make us strong again. Renew us with your peace and calm our souls. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 13:21-32 (printed below)

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (words printed below)

BENEDICTION

A note about HOLY THURSDAY, tomorrow, April 9:

Our Holy Thursday Service will begin at 7 PM. To me, it is one of the most important times of the Christian year that we gather on the night of Jesus's last supper with his disciples to remember. If you can, have a small cup and bread or cracker available.

John 13:21-32 New International Version (NIV)

²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

²²His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.²³One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

²⁵Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. ³⁰As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him,^[a] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."

HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me
most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His
feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled
down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow
meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature
mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

