

Wednesday in Holy Week

Join us for our weekly Compline Zoom service at 7:00. If you are unable to join, consider setting aside some time to Read, Reflect, and Respond using the form below.

In the Morning

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

In the Evening

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in
heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises O God: Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by
happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Read & Reflect: John 13:21-32

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

Respond

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect of the Day:

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Morning

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Evening

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Wednesday in Holy Week

Read: John 13:21-32

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

Reflect

Things are beginning to happen. Judas gets up from the table to go, Jesus is being cryptic. Jesus is about to be glorified. The disciples do not yet know that means he will be crucified. Perhaps they thought he was going to be crowned; or that he was going to give a big speech, or that God's self would be with them. Little did they know God was already sitting with them, sharing bread and wine.

Our expectations of Jesus today are not so much different than the disciples. We look to him as a judge, or a father figure, or a hero. Yet Jesus defines himself as a servant, as a friend, as the stranger. We think following Jesus is nice, or that it makes us feel good. Yet often the disciples were lost, or told to "pick up their crosses and follow him."

In this reading, we know what to expect. We know what comes next in the story, and we've spent these past days preparing our hearts to be broken open. We must pray for the strength to pay close attention to who this Jesus really is, and what he has done on our behalf.

Where have I fallen short this year?

For Children: How does Jesus want me to treat my friends? What does it mean to love someone?