

TFTD 2025.35 Monday April 14th

The Last Supper: Luke 22.1-23



During Holy Week, time stands still. The Gospel slows down the narrative as we follow our Lord through the events of that last week towards Good Friday, when we walk in silent procession through the streets, carrying the cross. If you can get to it, there's a special Taizé service tonight at St Cross Church Knutsford at 7.30 pm with readings and music for Holy Week. Whether or not you are able to go, it's an ancient Christian practice to read slowly through the Passion Gospel during this week, letting the story draw us into the

mystery of Jesus' passion.

After the excitement of yesterday's Palm Sunday procession, following the donkey and waving palms, today's reading reminds us of another procession that is part of every service of Holy Communion. In the offertory procession, when we bring the bread and wine to the altar to be blessed and broken and given for the life of the world, we are also offering ourselves (along with our gifts) to become part of God's work in the world.

It reminds us — as we remember every time we celebrate the Eucharist — how Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke, and gave it to his friends, and said, "This is my Body — it's for you." Jesus is the Bread of heaven who came down to give life to the world — but the bread has to be broken, the wine has to be poured out, before it can become lifegiving for all.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Luke 22.1-23

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

The Preparation of the Passover

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' 'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' " He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that

one by whom he is betrayed!' Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

God bless,
Loveday

