

## **Homily For Tuesday of Holy Week - Year II**

**St Peter's 8:30am/7:00pm Masses - Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

**Isaiah 49: 1-6** "I said, I have laboured in vain but the Lord says: I will give you as a light to the nations."

**Psalms 71:1-6+** "I will sing of your salvation, O Lord."

**John 13:21-33,36-38** "Now the Son of Man has been glorified."

### **On the Night He Was Betrayed**

#### **Introduction**

It is not an enjoyable thing to consider. It appears to take away from our joy when we celebrate the Eucharist. On Holy Tuesday, the liturgy emphasizes that it was at that special Passover meal that the worst of betrayals took place, that will end with the crucifixion on Good Friday. Judas took the bread from the saviour and left at once, and went out into the night. It is always night when we move away from the one who is the light of the world, light from light, true God from true God. I have to admit that I have not paid attention to the fact that, along with the remembrance of the night Christ gave us his body and blood, soul and divinity, the liturgy begins with the reminder that it was "on the night he was betrayed" that he took bread into his holy and venerable hands.

Jesus felt that night "deeply troubled". Judas was a brother. They were sitting down to a meal of fellowship. But Satan enters him just at that moment of fellowship. At the Eucharist, Jesus enters into us. But, at that first Eucharist, Satan entered Judas. He was angry at Jesus. Yesterday's Gospel tells us about Jesus rebuking him over precious ointment that Mary Magdalene used to anoint Jesus. His pride was wounded by a rebuke which was intended to bring repentance.

However, as the Catechism tells us, "at the very hour of darkness, the hour of the prince of this world, the sacrifice of Christ becomes the source from which the forgiveness of our sins will pour forth inexhaustibly." Despite how it looks in that moment of darkness, God's great plan for the blessing of the world will not be

thwarted. Pharaoh could not do it over a thousand years earlier. Herod couldn't do it. Pilate and Caiaphas won't be able to do it. And neither will Judas.

## **Gospel of John**

Judas is so close to the Light of the world. So, how is it possible that Satan can enter him? He has learned that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of God. But so does Satan, so that is not protection against being a betrayer. Should we be worried that this could happen to us? Yes, if we let pride dictate our hearts. No, if we do as the beloved disciple John did, lean against the heart of Jesus.

All around us there are dark forces seeking to destroy him and to entice us to betray him? But a door has to be open for Satan to enter in. All of them betrayed Jesus in some way. We all betray Jesus in some way. Peter does it with his false bravado. I will never deny you. I will lay down my life for you. We can almost hear Jesus answer: No ... no you won't. You will be crushed by human fear. So will the others.

Jesus, of course, knows the difference between human weakness and a heart that is totally turned in on itself. He knows who will be strengthened by the sacrament of his body and blood, and who will reject it. Satan will not be present at this sacrament. Jesus sends Satan out into the night, into the darkness.

The darkness of night seems all around us. Christ is still being betrayed, even by some who are closest to him. But the darkness of the night is NOT where we belong. We belong at the heart of Jesus. All of us will betray Jesus in some way. That is what sin is and that is our spiritual state without Jesus.

St. Augustine describes sin as "a love of self to the point of despising God." Pope Benedict XVI says "Arrogance makes us think that we do not need his eternal love, but can be the masters of our own lives." St. Thomas More says that every man and woman must beware of even the very least speck of pride."

## **Isaiah**

The prophet Isaiah foretells one who will be glorified above all. Israel is to be a light for all the nations "to the ends of the earth." That is the sign of hope in the darkness.

They will be taught by God, but not for pride, but so that they can proclaim him. We also are taught by God. Isaiah declares, "The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me." This calling is for all Israel, but also for believers to come.

### **Call To Action**

In the darkness outside our door, we might be tempted to say with Isaiah, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing." But we are called, like Isaiah, to the ultimate triumph of Christ, who is the light to the nations, God's salvation and our victory, still needing to be preached in the darkness so that the light may reach to the end of the earth. Let it begin here today. Do not be afraid.

## **Key Passages**

**Entrance Antiphon:** *False witnesses rise up against me and they breathe out violence.*

**Collect:** *Grant us so to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's Passion, that we may merit to receive your pardon.*

**Isaiah:** *The Lord called me before I was born. While I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword. He made me a polished arrow. In his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me: "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said: "I have laboured in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity." The Lord says, who formed me, that Israel will be gathered to him. I will give you as a light to the nation, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*

**Psalm:** *I will sing of your salvation, O Lord. Be to me a rock of refuge, to save me. Rescue me from the hand of the wicked ... I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.*

**John:** *Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world. Troubled in spirit, he declared: One of you will betray me. Peter motioned the one whom Jesus loved to ask Jesus: Lord, who is it? Jesus answered: It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread. So, when he had dipped it in the dish, he gave it to Judas. After he received the bread, Satan entered Judas. He immediately went out, and it was night. Jesus said: Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. God will also glorify him in himself. Little children, where I am going, you cannot come. Simon Peter said: Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered: Where I am going, you cannot follow now. Peter said: Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you. Jesus answered: Will you lay down your life for me? Before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.*