

Holy Tuesday

First Reading: Is 49:1-6;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71: 1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17

Gospel Reading: John 13:21-33, 36-38

Theme: God turns darkness into Light

The first reading from the second Song of the Servant of Yahweh applies exactly to Jesus Christ. The prophecies of Isaiah are unfolding in the Gospel. Jesus Christ is a “sharp-edged sword” and a “polished arrow.” The experience of Jesus Christ at the meal that the Gospel described is a sad moment in the Gospel: double betrayal. Jesus’s announcement of the betrayal that, “One of you is going to hand me over” was like a bombshell. The betrayal of Judas was by one who shared bread with him. As soon as Judas left, the evangelist commented that “Night had fallen.” It was indeed a moment of utter darkness: The Passion of Christ commenced.

When a stubborn soul wanders into the darkness of sin, God still respects its free will. Peter’s betrayal was equally terrible. The action that saved Peter would be the depth of his repentance, later conversion, and transformation. God turned those moments of darkness into the Light of the Resurrection.

We too have betrayed Jesus and those around us so many times. We have broken bread with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and turned against Him by the way we treat God’s creation and around us. Several times we promised at confession that with His help we will not sin again and then sin again. In these final days of Lent, let us pray that like Peter, we may weep bitterly for all the wrongs we have done and all the good deeds we failed to do.

--Fr. Sev Kupo