

## Reading for Tuesday in Holy Week

15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### First reading

Isaiah 49:1-6

**‘I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’**

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.

The Lord called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword;

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

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;  
yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.’

And now the Lord says,

he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him;

and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength —

he says:

‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 71(70):1-2. 3-4a. 5-6b. 15ab, 17. R cf. 15ab**

*My mouth will tell of your salvation, O Lord.*

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your uprightness, rescue me, free me;

incline your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock, my constant refuge,

a mighty stronghold to save me,

for you are my rock, my stronghold.

My God, free me from the hand of the wicked.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,

my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

On you I have leaned from my birth;

from my mother’s womb, you have drawn me forth.

My mouth will tell of your justice,

and all the day long of your salvation.

O God, you have taught me from my youth,

and I proclaim your wonders still.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hail, our King!

Obedient to the Father, you were led to your crucifixion,  
like a gentle lamb to the slaughter.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

## Gospel

### John 13:21-33, 36-38

**‘One of you will betray me... The cock will not crow till you have denied me three times.’**

At that time: Jesus was reclining at table with his disciples. He was troubled in his spirit, and testified, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.’ The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at the side of Jesus, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.’ So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘What you are going to do, do quickly.’ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the money bag, Jesus was telling him, ‘Buy what we need for the feast’, or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, “Where I am going you cannot come.”’

Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterwards.’ Peter said to him, ‘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? Truly, truly, I say to you, the cock will not crow till you have denied me three times.’

## Short reflection on the reading for today

Today’s gospel portrays responses to Jesus on the part of his disciples as he begins the final days of his earthly life.

Judas heads off *into the dark*, while the disciple Jesus loved is described as *reclining next to Jesus*, literally, “close to his chest.”

In his very first chapter the evangelist described Jesus as “close to the chest of the Father” (or *in the Father’s bosom*). It seems that this *beloved disciple* has a relationship with Jesus similar to Jesus’ own relationship with the Father. The evangelist presents him as the kind of person we are all called to become.

This disciple is not *named* in John’s gospel, because we are all invited to put our own name on him; we are to identify with him and become like him. For the fourth evangelist, we are all called to the same relationship with Jesus as the beloved disciple had. We are called to be as close to Jesus as he is to his Father. That is why Jesus goes on to say, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love, as I remain in his love.” He wants us to have that same relationship with him as he has with his Father. That is something worth pondering, during this Holy Week.