



Tuesday of Holy Week **March 27, 2018**

Selected readings: John 13:21-33, 36-38

The days between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday are always a little difficult for me. It's a little like watching *Titanic*; how do you enjoy the moment when you know what's coming? If we prayerfully imagine ourselves with Jesus two days after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we should feel excited and confident about the future...except we know about the massive suffering and heartache that is coming...but we also know our eternal salvation will be won by Jesus in the coming days. How should we reconcile these feelings?

I think there is a little of that in today's Gospel. John tells us that Jesus and the Apostles were reclining at table when Jesus tells them one of their number will betray Him. In response, Peter leans his head on Jesus' chest—surely a sign of intimate love and friendship. How does Jesus (and Peter, after Jesus explains about the betrayal) enjoy the moment knowing what is coming? I have no good answer other than faith that Jesus was fully present in the moment—present in his love for Peter, as He is present today in His love for us.

As the Passion of Christ draws near and our Lenten Reflections draw to a close, how can we be more present to those we love? How can we minister to and forgive those who hurt us? How can we, through prayer and faith, enter into deeper understanding of the challenges and confusion Jesus and the Apostles felt on this day about 2,000 years ago?

-Dr. Kevin Foy, Social Studies Department Chair