

March 29, 2018

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday

Exodus 17:1-14

First Corinthians 11:23-26

John 23:1-15

During the Second World War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War (ancient history to so many but still strong memories for the vets among us) those whose loved ones were departing by ship would trek to the upper floor of the Mark Hopkins Hotel atop Nob Hill in San Francisco to both wave goodbye and keep the departing ships in sight as long as possible. Those whose children are departing for college will linger at an airport to watch as the plane ascends into the clouds and for those whose children are driving away, they may walk out into the street to keep the diminishing vehicle in sight as long as possible. Good byes are difficult, painful and filled with many questions. They mark the ending of things we thought we knew, they symbolize the onset of confusion as new voids wait to be filled. This evening we overlay all of our good-byes with that of Jesus ritually saying goodbye to his disciples and companions. What is of SURPRISING value is the Gospel emphasis given to Jesus kneeling and washing the feet of his disciples...while the institution of Eucharist is given a scant 12 lines from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Thousands of years later, we have made a fine art of 'doctrinizing' Jesus' human-divinity to the point that his tenderness, mercy and HEART have been erased from our proclamation of who he was...and who he still IS. We skip quickly past Jesus WEEPING at the tomb of Lazarus... we rush past Jesus kneeling before his disciples to wash their feet, we hesitate to ponder what Jesus felt when the cock crowed twice and he knew Peter had denied knowing him, we don't consider what Judas' kiss did to Jesus, we don't pause to consider what Jesus felt seeing his mother in so much pain as he dies above her. As our entry point into Triduum, tonight is about the tenderness of Jesus, of his farewells and embrace of what was to come. What have been your goodbyes that still linger in your heart? Where are the voids that have yet to be filled? How did you say goodbye to those who have made you who you are...and whom do you regret not having had the opportunity to say goodbye? There is nowhere where the grace of God is not and nothing exists outside of God's grace...even our goodbyes.

'During the supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, Jesus rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple's feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.'

Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara Community as we enter into TRIDUUM, our STORY of faith that takes three days to tell and appreciate. The baskets surrounding the altar are filled with 'blessed' bread (not consecrated) and is available for you to take home at the end of tonight's experience so that you may 'break bread' on Easter Sunday at your celebratory brunch, lunch or dinner...uniting what we have done tonight with what you will celebrate on Sunday. Our Good Friday portion of Triduum continues tomorrow at 7pm, likewise with the conclusion of Triduum on Saturday, also at 7pm. The Blessed Sacrament

will be available on the Altar of Repose until midnight for your private prayer. Drive safely...and remember, no matter how many good-byes you have lived, you are loved. FKB