

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION: TUESDAY

Today's Holy Week reflection brings us the second description of the Christlike Suffering Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 49:1-6). Called from birth, he will toil to restore Israel and bring salvation to all the earth. It is almost a portrayal of Jesus during Holy Week. The life of God's servant seems a failure, but it bears great fruit.

Today's Gospel (John 13:21-33, 36-38) is that sad scene of betrayal at the Last Supper. Even among the Twelve who sat at table with Jesus, there was one who would betray him, another who would deny him. The troubled Lord announces these two incidents. John's phrase 'and it was night' expresses well the gloom of this scene. But at the same time Jesus faced this supreme trial with a firm hope and willing acceptance. This is also our hope, as we gather around his memory with reverence, this Holy Week.

The "beloved disciple" is an inspirational image of 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 link our name to his, to identify with him and learn from him. We are all called to be beloved disciples of Jesus. We can be as close to Jesus as he is to the Father. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love..." He wants us as joined with him as he is with his Father. That is our privileged calling, this Holy Week.