

Maundy Thursday, Year A

First Reading: Exodus 15:11-21

¹¹“Who is like you, MIGHTY ONE, among the gods?

Who is like you, resplendent in holiness,
revered praiseworthy, working wonders?

¹²You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.

¹³You led, in your faithful love, the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴The peoples heard, they quaked;
pangs like labor seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;
the rulers of Moab, trembling seized them;
all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

¹⁶Terror and dread fell upon them
by the might of your arm;
they became still as a stone
until your people, REDEEMING GOD, passed by,
until the people whom you acquired passed by.

¹⁷You brought them and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, SHELTERING GOD, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, Most High God, that your hands have established.

¹⁸The EVERLASTING GOD will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹The horse of Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers went into the sea, and the MIGHTY GOD turned the waters of the sea back upon them; but the daughters and sons of Israel walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a hand-drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with hand-drums and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them, women and men:

“Sing to the INDOMITABLE GOD who has triumphed triumphantly;
horse and rider God has thrown into the sea.”

Psalm: Psalm 136:1-16

¹Give thanks to the FOUNT OF LIFE, who is good,
for her faithful love is everlasting.
²Give thanks to the God of gods,
for her faithful love is everlasting.
³Give thanks to the Majesty of Majesties,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁴who alone does great wonders,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁵who through insight made the heavens,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁶to the one who spread out the land upon the waters,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁷to the one who made the great lights,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁸the sun to govern the day,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
⁹the moon and stars to govern the night,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹⁰who struck Egypt through their firstborn daughters and sons,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹¹and brought Israel out from among them,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹²with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹³who cut the Red Sea in two,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹⁴and made Israel pass over through the midst of it,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹⁵but churned Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
for her faithful love is everlasting;
¹⁶who walked her people through the wilderness,
for her faithful love is everlasting.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:23-28

²³By faith Moses was hidden after his birth by his mother and father for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. ²⁴By faith Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵rather choosing ill-treatment with the people of God than enjoyment of the transitory pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered abuse for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the anger of the king; for he persisted as though he saw the unseen. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, in order that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn daughters and sons of Israel.

Gospel: Matthew 26:17-56

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain person, and say, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹So the disciples did just as Jesus instructed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve, ²¹and while they ate, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they became deeply grieved and each one began to say to him, “Not me, is it Rabbi?” ²³He responded and said, “The one who dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴Indeed, the Son of Woman goes away as it is written of him, but woe to the person by whom the Son of Woman is betrayed! It would have been better for that person not to have been born.” ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, responded and said, “It wasn’t me was it, Rabbi?” He replied, “You said it.”

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and blessing it, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you all, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you all in the realm of my Abba.” ³⁰And when they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become scandalized to the point of desertion because of me this night; for it is written,

*‘For I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’*

³²But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you all to Galilee.” ³³Peter said to him, “Though all become scandalized and desert because of you, I will never desert you.” ³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵Peter said to him, “Should it be necessary I die with you, I will not deny you.” Then likewise said all the disciples.

³⁶Then Jesus came with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “You all sit here while I go pray there.” ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; you all stay here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹And going on a little, he fell on the ground and prayed saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not what I want but what you do.” ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, you all were not strong enough to stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you all may not come into the test; indeed, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, Jesus went away and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is not possible for this to pass lest I drink it, let your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying those words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep now and take your rest. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Woman is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came and with him was a large

crowd with swords and clubs from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I kiss is he; take him." ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Shalom, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Friend, this is why you have come." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took him. ⁵¹Suddenly, someone with Jesus reached out with his hand, drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Return your sword to its place; for all who choose the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think I am not able to ask my Abba, who will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴How then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must be thus?" ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Is it as for a bandit you all have come out with swords and clubs to seize me? Daily in the temple I sat teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has happened, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.