**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Day 191 Preparing the Passover Matt 26:17-19; Mark 14: 12-16, Luke 22: 7-13**

Guided reflection:

The Passover is a huge event in the lives of our Jewish brothers and sisters. It reminds them of the great exodus from Egypt and from slavery. The night before the Pharaoh allowed them to escape, all the 1st born were to die. But if they put the blood of a lamb on the doorpost, the angel of death would “pass over” their house and no one would die. Since Jesus was now going to expand that definition of Passover with his own body being the sacrificial lamb whose blood would be shed for our sins, it was very important that Jesus and his disciples find a place for this celebration. Jesus gave them instructions and they began to prepare but they had no idea what was in store for them.

Guided Prayer:

*“Preparation, Dear God, is such a part of the story of your love. We have preparation as a part of our church year – we even have a color we use on the altar, purple or blue, to represent times of preparation. But, Loving God, help me to live as one ready to respond to your bidding. Amen.”*

**Day 192 The Traitor Matt 26:20-25; Mark 14: 17-25; Luke 22: 14-38**

Guided reflection:

They sat at the table with Jesus and Jesus began to speak and said that one of them would betray him. Isn’t it interesting that they said to one another “Is it I?” They must wondered about their own capacity to betray Jesus in order to even ask such the question. When Judas asked the same question, Jesus identified him as “the one”. The great Passover celebration began to turn into an unsettling and sorrowful mood. We all know that it is in our human capacity to betray, to not come through, and to disappoint. When have you felt you betrayed your Lord… or another you said you loved?

Guided prayer:

*“I have no idea what it must have been like to sit at that table and hear Jesus predict that someone would betray him. Yes, I humbly admit that I still have the capacity to betray my Lord. Help me keep my heart pure and open and ready to receive, not ready to disappoint and betray. Amen”*

**Day 193 The Institution of the Lord’s Supper Matt 26:26-29, Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22: 15-20**

Guided reflection:

These words we hear every time we celebrate and remember the Lord’s Supper. Here, Jesus expands the definition of The Passover – that his blood is going to be poured out for our

forgiveness and his body is going to be broken. A new covenant is created. A new relational contract, signed and sealed with the blood of Christ. Wow! Can you imagine sitting at that table?

Guided prayer:

*“Here I am, sitting here reading these words that have changed lives forever. Jesus body was broken for my brokenness – show me, Dear God, where I am broken! Then his blood was poured out for my forgiveness – show me, Dear God, where I have wasted Jesus’ blood by not receiving forgiveness that is offered to me. Heal me and make me whole. Amen”*

**Day 194 Jesus’ Last Words Luke 22: 21-30**

Guided reflection:

What do you say when you know you are not going to see someone ever again, or at least not for a long time? We want to make sure that the ones we love know we love them and we give any words of advice or counsel we can. On day 162, we looked at the dispute over who would be greatest, but here we go, instead of realizing that they are wasting precious moments, they fight over who is greatest. Maybe it was to keep them from thinking about who it was that was going to betray their Jesus. What do you do to distract yourself from dealing with some kind of harsh reality?

Guided prayer:

*“What can I say, Loving God, I am just like those 12 men. I do not want to acknowledge my capacity to betray and instead want to focus on how great I really am. Forgive my foolishness. Amen”*

**Day 195 Peter’s Denial prophesied Luke 22: 31-34**

Guided reflection:

This must have hurt Peter’s heart. He thought he would never deny knowing his Jesus! But notice that Jesus already claims his redemption: “when you have turned again, strengthen the others”. Your biggest failure is not the end of your story! When you turn again to what is right, Jesus will is there, ready to help you be the person He dreams you to be. Jesus knows your every weakness.

Guided Prayer:

*“Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief’s to bare. What a privilege to carry everything to the Lord in Prayer”….* So dear one, just do it! From what do you need to “turn again”? Do it now. Jesus is waiting to help you! Amen!