

Lectionary Texts for April 17, 2019 • *Wednesday of Holy Week* - Year C
Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 70 • Hebrews 12:1-3 • John 13:21-32



John 13:21-32

The Mystical Supper, 1685, an icon by Simon Ushakov, Russian, 1626-1686

The Sergiev Posad State History and Art Museum-Preserve, Moscow region, Lavra, Sergiev Posad, Russia

A “lavra” is a type of monastery consisting of a cluster of cells or caves for hermits. Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, founded in 1337, is the most important Russian monastery and the spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church. Located in Sergiev Posad, about 45 miles northeast of Moscow, the Art Museum has collections of Old Russian, folk, and contemporary applied and decorative art.

In a colorful style, Simon Ushakov provides his understanding of the significant events taking place at this meal. John, “the one whom Jesus loved,” is reclining and leaning against Jesus. From the reactions on the Apostles’ faces and in their body language, Jesus has given the bread to Judas saying “Do quickly what you are going to do.” Judas, clutching the money bag and without a halo, is turning away from Jesus. The pitcher and water for washing feet is nearby.

Continued

By the age of 22, Ushakov was a master of the Silver Chamber at the Armoury Department in the Kremlin, where, in addition to painting icons of churches and individuals, he made drawings for various items of church and palace utensils, painted church banners, and designed patterns for needlework. He became a favorite of the royal family, producing icons for them and painting frescos for the churches of the Kremlin and palace buildings. Ushakov had a several students and associates and published a short treatise on icon-painting. Some Russian priests, however, criticized him in that his icons were too Western for their tastes.

— *Art curated and narrative provided by Norman Mahan*

Texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 70 • Hebrews 12:1-3 • John 13:21-32

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens — wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

John 13:21-32

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me."

The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples — the one whom Jesus loved — was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.

So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish."

So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.

Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do."

Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once...."