

Thursday, December 13th, 2012

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Scripture:

Luke 22:1-13

1Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. 2The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

3Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; 4he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. 5They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. 6So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

7Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." 9They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" 10"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters 11and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" 12He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." 13So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

Devotional:

There are always at least two possible responses to the coming of Jesus. Nowhere is this any clearer than in today's gospel reading. On the one hand, in Luke 22: 1-6, we learn that Jesus' way of teaching and acting has become a such threat to the ways of the "chief priests and scribes"(i.e. the comfort of the status quo) that they hatch a conspiracy to kill him. Jesus was/is always a threat to "the powers that be" even in diapers! On the other hand, Luke 22: 7-13 tell us that someone is prepared to welcome Jesus and provide a place for he and his disciples to meet and break bread together. So there you have it. Hostility or hospitality: two possible responses to the coming of Jesus.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, even when you challenge our ways of thinking or acting and the comfort of the status quo, help us always to welcome you with hospitality.