

**TFTD 23.35**

**Mon April**

**3rd**

**Matt 26.1-30**

**Amazing love**



**While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat, this is my body.” Matthew 26.26**

**Jesus has finished his teaching (v.1). The last warning has been given (v.2). Now it’s time for action. It’s worth making a special effort to read the whole of the passion narrative in these days of Holy Week.**

**The story begins with a moment of deceptive calm. Jesus’ disciples are making ready to celebrate the Passover together. There’s a room being got ready, silently supplied by a secret supporter (vv.17-19). But others are making ready too (vv.3-5). Jesus has gone too far. The authorities will not let him go quietly back to Galilee. Even among his disciples,**

**incomprehension is turning to disloyalty (vv.14-16). Judas has been talking to the chief priests.**

**In the midst of it all, the generous gesture of an unnamed woman demonstrates the extravagance of love, the lengths to which love will go (vv.6-13). Remember this, Jesus says (v.13). These are the last, precious moments with his friends, the last chance to try to explain to them what is going to happen, to imprint in their memories a template that will help them to make sense of it all.**

**Then the Passover meal itself (vv.26-30). It's a meal that celebrates the Exodus: redemption, liberation, release into new life. But at its heart is the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, innocent blood shed to bring life to others. So Jesus takes bread and wine (as he has done so many times before), asks God's blessing, breaks and pours, and passes it around to share with his friends. Simple actions, repeated a thousand times — but each time, as memory becomes sacrament, Jesus' followers begin to get a glimpse (as we do) of the reckless extravagance of God's love, of a life not wasted, not "thrown away", but freely given to bring forgiveness and new life (v.28).**

**Jesus is the Lamb of God,  
Who takes away the sin of the world,  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you:  
But only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

God bless,  
Loveday

