

Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020

Tonight, Holy Thursday, we hear the passage from Exodus that inaugurates the Jewish Feast of Passover.

It marks the Angel of death “passed” over the marked doors of the Israelites, freeing them from their years of slavery in Egypt. Though they were freed from this bondage, they spent the next 40 years wandering through the Desert, in search of the Promised Land.

From one crisis to the next, we all search for a “Promised Land.” Life moves us from one challenge to another: stages of childhood, stages of Education or maturation, relationships with friends, family ... Our Christian hope in this wandering journey of life is to deepen our faith in God, to trust that life is good, that all will be well. As the Israelites trusted God through Moses, so we must step into our various deserts learning to trust God with our lives.

So it is, with the Apostles as they sat at table on that night. For three years they followed, listened, learned, and began to trust Jesus as God’s beloved Son. As they began the Passover ritual, they trusted him, until they heard “this is MY body” ... “This is My blood given for you” ... “Do this in remembrance of me” ... What does He mean?

He is betrayed. He is arrested. Trust is replaced by fear.

What will tomorrow bring?