

## **Scripture Reading: John 13:21-32**

*As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out.  
And it was night.*

Night and darkness often seem to hold a foreboding, as we see evil and darkness winning. Yet Jesus served his betrayer bread, even as he predicted His betrayal at the Last Supper. The disciples would experience panic, defeat, and dejection in a few hours. But Jesus saw God's plan unfolding as it should. God faced his dark night and defeated it.

As we look around us today, with the world and personal suffering in abundance, it is easy for us to feel there is no hope. In our case, the evil of war in Europe, losing a long-time friend, and the devastation to her family, to anything as insignificant as a faltering economy...make the darkness seem closer.

It is enlightening to think of Jesus' faith in His Father in the darkness and know that it won't always be night.

Prayer: Dear LORD, please help us to understand that, even in desperate times, You are there. Thank you, Jesus, for keeping Your Father's plan in view when You went through the steps to the cross. Thank you for conquering the night and death for us.

~ Submitted by John Lefler for the Sixteenth Reading of Lent