

Week Five: Entering the Passion of Jesus

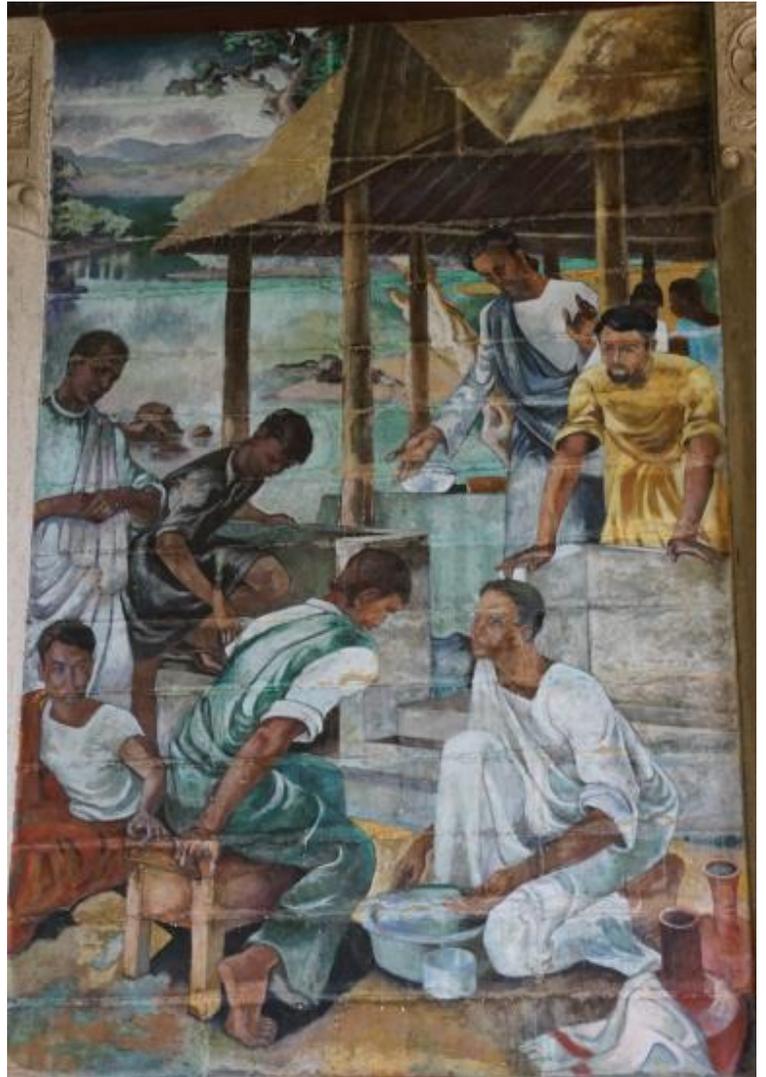
Time for Self Reflection

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.’”

— John 13:12-16 (with references to Luke 22:14-27, John 13:1-16, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Take some time to look at this artwork and place yourself “in the picture” by choosing any character in the painting. Contemplate the following questions:

- ✦ What is your chosen character noticing in this moment? What do they hear? What do they see? What do they smell?
- ✦ What can you imagine they are thinking? How might they be feeling?
- ✦ Why are they there? What can you imagine about what they were doing just before this moment, or what they might have done afterwards in response to being involved in this moment?
- ✦ What would you have thought, felt, and done if you could paint yourself into the scene?



Now call to mind a dinner you may have attended. Contemplate the following questions:

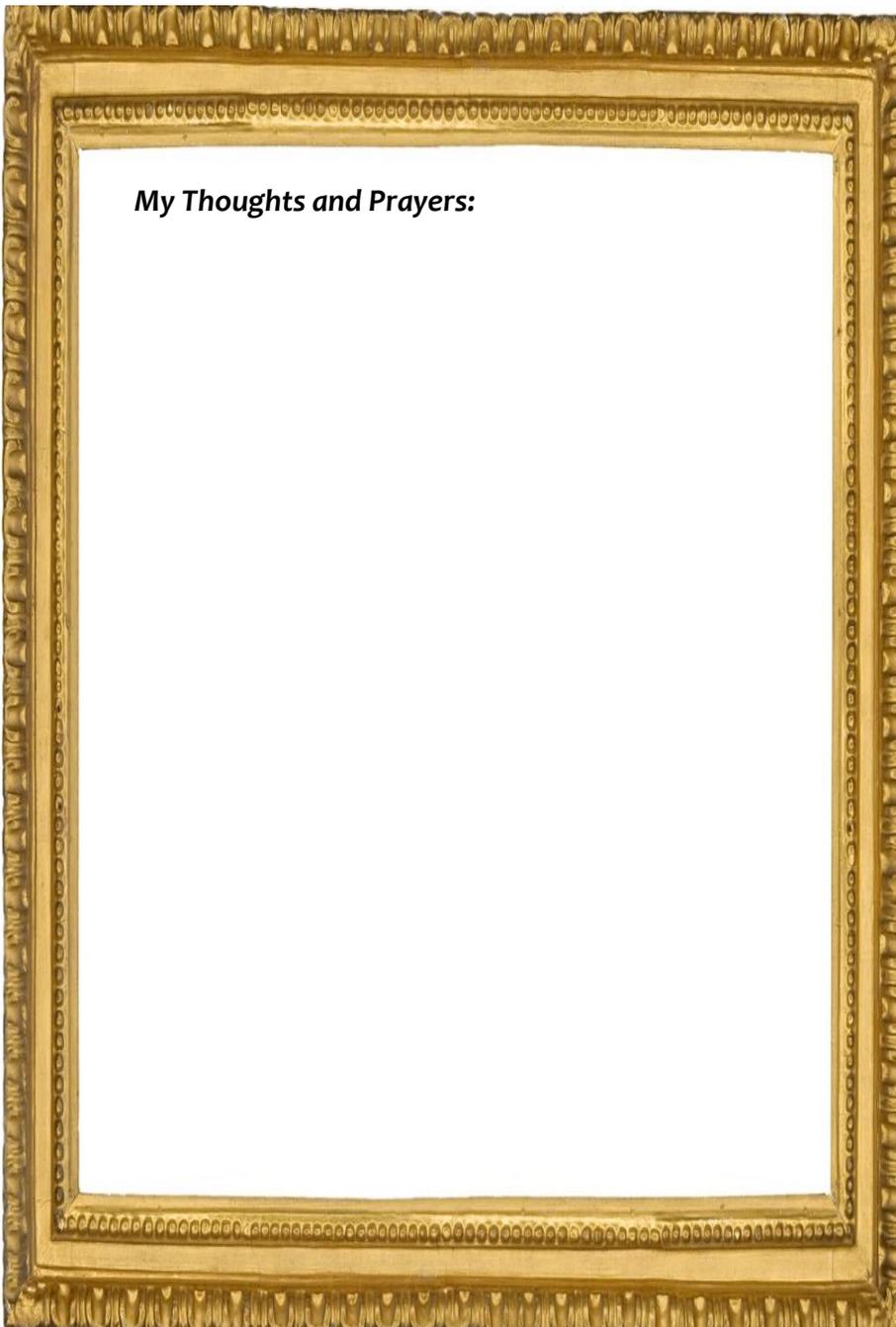
- ✦ Did anyone ever say anything at that dinner that you found surprising, or even offensive? How did you react?
- ✦ How is your fear preventing you from speaking out on behalf of someone or something that is precious to you?
- ✦ If you weren’t afraid, what would you be doing?

Jesus acts of service follow closely after the acts of service of the woman who anointed Jesus. As you think about the call to acts of service, contemplate the following questions:

- ✦ What is your neighbor’s name?
- ✦ What else do you know about this neighbor?
- ✦ What needs does your neighbor have that you might be able to meet?
- ✦ If your neighbor were to offer you a gift of service, how would it make you feel?

Prayer of the Week

God of the Table,
You invite us to sit with you as you take the role of host and servant.
You share the bread and cup with a table full of people
Who are often overcome by their fears.
You kneel to wash the feet of those who misunderstand you.
You kneel to wash the feet of those who will deny you.
We know the power of a meal among loved ones
And we know the challenge of living in love.
You meet us in the midst of our many journeys
And you call us to risk opening our lives to you and to our neighbors.
Be present in our midst, Good Lord. Amen.



Daily Readings for This Week

Every day through scripture
reading and prayer we will discover
the broader story of God's Word.
Together let's go deeper into
God's Word
this week.

Monday ... Luke 22:14-27
Tuesday ... 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Wednesday ... John 6:53-55
Thursday ... Exodus 12:21-28
Friday ... John 1:19-37
Saturday ... Mark 14:66-72

Scripture for Next Sunday

Mark 14:32-36
Ephesians 6:11-17

Questions, Readings, and Prayer:

Levine, Amy-Jill and Alex Joyner. *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week: Leader Guide*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2018) 47-54.

Artwork:

Paynter, David, 1900-1975. Jesus washing the disciples' feet, detail of mural, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54318> [retrieved February 24, 2020].
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