

Readings for April 14th, 2017 – Good Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hear the Word of God as it is written in Isaiah chapter 52 verse 13 to chapter 53 verse 12.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him--so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals--so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Psalm 22

Let us all stand and read Psalm 22 responsively by verse.

1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

2

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well,
but I find no rest.

3

Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4

Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them.

5

They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not
put to shame.

6

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised
by the people.

7

All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads,
saying,

8

"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him,
if he delights in him."

9

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, and kept me safe
upon my mother's breast.

10

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

11

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

12

Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

13

They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion.

14

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

16

Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

17

They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.

18

Be not far away, O LORD; you are my strength; hasten to help me.

19

Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

20

Save me from the lion's mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

21

I will declare your Name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation
I will praise you.

22

Praise the LORD, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide
his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.

24

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence
of those who worship him.

25

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"

26

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27

For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations.

28

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to
the dust fall before him.

29

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known
as the LORD's for ever.

30

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

Hear the Word of God as it is written in Hebrews chapter 10 verses 16 to 25.

“**T**his is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the Word of the Lord.