

BIBLE READINGS GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 53:1-12

Has anyone believed us
or seen the mighty power
of the LORD in action?

² Like a young plant or a root
that sprouts in dry ground,
the servant grew up
obeying the LORD.

He wasn't some handsome king.
Nothing about the way he looked
made him attractive to us.

³ He was hated and rejected;
his life was filled with sorrow
and terrible suffering.

No one wanted to look at him.
We despised him and said,
"He is a nobody!"

⁴ He suffered and endured
great pain for us,
but we thought his suffering
was punishment from God.

⁵ He was wounded and crushed
because of our sins;
by taking our punishment,
he made us completely well.

⁶ All of us were like sheep
that had wandered off.

We had each gone our own way,
but the LORD gave him
the punishment we deserved.

⁷ He was painfully abused,
but he did not complain.

He was silent like a lamb
being led to the butcher,
as quiet as a sheep
having its wool cut off.

⁸ He was condemned to death
without a fair trial.

Who could have imagined
what would happen to him?

His life was taken away
because of the sinful things

my people had done.
⁹ He wasn't dishonest or violent,
but he was buried in a tomb
among cruel, rich people.
¹⁰ The LORD decided his servant
would suffer as a sacrifice
to take away the sin
and guilt of others.
Now the servant will live
to see his own descendants.
He did everything
the LORD had planned.
¹¹ By suffering, the servant
will learn the true meaning
of obeying the LORD.
Although he is innocent,
he will take the punishment
for the sins of others,
so that many of them
will no longer be guilty.
¹² The LORD will reward him
with honour and power
for sacrificing his life.
Others thought he was a sinner,
but he suffered for our sins
and asked God to forgive us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Hebrews 10:16-25

“When the time comes,
I will make an agreement
with them.
I will write my laws
on their minds and hearts.
¹⁷ Then I will forget
about their sins
and no longer remember
their evil deeds.”

¹⁸ When sins are forgiven, there is no more need to offer sacrifices.

¹⁹ My friends, the blood of Jesus gives us courage to enter the most holy place ²⁰ by a new way that leads to life! And this way takes us through the curtain that is Christ himself.

²¹ We have a great high priest who is in charge of God's house. ²² So let's come near God with pure hearts and a confidence that comes from having

faith. Let's keep our hearts pure, our consciences free from evil, and our bodies washed with clean water. ²³ We must hold tightly to the hope we say is ours. After all, we can trust the one who made the agreement with us. ²⁴ We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. ²⁵ Some people have given up the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.

This is the Word of the Lord.

John 19:17-30

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."

So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.