

READINGS

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22:1-17

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
look graciously, we pray, on this your family,
for whom our Saviour Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed
and handed over to his tormentors,
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Other Prayers of the Day—BAS, pp.308 *ff*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

You, my servant, will prosper;
you shall be raised up
and highly exalted.

Just as there were many who were appalled to see you
—so marred was your appearance,
beyond human semblance,
beyond that of mortals—
so shall they now be startled to see you,
the rulers of the nations standing speechless before you;
for they will see something that has never been told,
and witness something that has never been beheld.

Who would have believed what we have heard,
what the mighty arm of God has now revealed?

For you grew up like a sapling before us,
like a root in parched soil!

You had no stately form or majesty that we should notice you;
nothing in your appearance to attract our attention.

You were despised and rejected by others;
you knew suffering and were acquainted with grief;

When we saw you we turned our faces away;
we despised you and did not value you.

Yet you have borne our grief
and you have carried our suffering.

We thought you were being punished,
struck down by God and brought low
—but it was for our offenses that you were pierced,
for our sins that you were crushed.

Upon you lies a chastening that brings wholeness to us all;
through your wounds we are healed!

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned each to our own way.

But God has laid on you
the guilt of us all.

Oppressed, you bore it meekly,
never opening your mouth.

Like a lamb led to the slaughter,
or a sheep before its shearers,
you were silent,
never opening your mouth.

By a perversion of justice
you were seized, condemned and taken away.

Who would ever have foreseen your destiny?

You were cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

You were buried with the wicked
and entombed with the rich,
though you had done no wrong,
nor was deceit to be found in your mouth.

Yet it was God's will to crush and afflict you.

As you gave your life as an offering for sin,
so shall you see your descendants,
so shall your days be prolonged,
and the will of God prevail through you.

Through your anguish you shall see light.

By your knowledge you shall find satisfaction,
O Servant, O Righteous One,
through whose righteousness
many shall be made righteous,
for you shall bear their guilt upon yourself.

Therefore you shall be granted a reward among the great,
dividing the spoils along with the mighty,
because you poured yourself out to death,
and allowed yourself to be counted among criminals;
yet you bore the guilt of many,
and interceded for sinners.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:1-17

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?**

O God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;

by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One,

enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you;

they trusted you, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;

they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm, and no mortal;

I am despised by all, an object of ridicule.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;

they sneer, and shake their heads.

They say to me:

**"You trust in God? Then let God deliver you!
Let God rescue you, if God delights in you."**

Yet you are the One who took me out of the womb;

you kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;

you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

So be not far from me, for trouble is near;

trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Many young bulls encircle me;

strong bulls of Bāshān surround me.

They open wide their jaws at me,

like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint;

My heart melts within my breast like wax.
My mouth is dried out like a potsherd.

My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Packs of dogs close me in;
gangs of evildoers encircle me;

They pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

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

Be not far from me, O God;
you are my strength;
hasten to help me.

Save me from the sword,
my life from the power of these dogs.

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

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

Praise our God, you who fear God;
stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel.
all you of Jacob's line, give God glory.

For God neither despises nor abhors the poor in their poverty;
nor does God hide from them,
but hears them when they cry out in distress.

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

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek God shall offer praise:
"May your heart live forever!"

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

For sovereignty belongs to God,
who rules over the nations.

To God alone
those who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust shall fall before our God.

My soul shall live for God;
my descendants shall serve God;

They shall be known as God's forever.
**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds our God has done.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, God's Only-begotten, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was God's child, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who follow him.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.