

GOOD FRIDAY

First Reading

Isa. 52:13-53:12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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, and 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22 — A.P.B.A. Page 241

Second Reading

1 Cor. 1:18-31

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on a cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name
above all other names.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 18:1-19:42



PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me:
why are you so far from helping me
and from the words of my groaning?
My God, I cry to you by day, but you do not answer:
and by night also I take no rest.

But you continue holy:
you that are the praise of Israel.
In you our forebears trusted:
they trusted, and you delivered them;

To you they cried and they were saved:
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.
But as for me, I am a worm and no man:
the scorn of all and despised by the people.

Those that see me laugh me to scorn:
they shoot out their lips at me and wag their heads, saying,
He trusted in the Lord let him deliver him:
let him deliver him, if he delights in him.?

But you are he that took me out of the womb:
that brought me to lie at peace on my mother's breast.
On you have I been cast since my birth:
you are my God, even from my mother's womb.

O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand:
and there is none to help.
Many oxen surround me:
fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.

They gape wide their mouths at me:
like lions that roar and rend.
I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint:
my heart within my breast is like melting wax.

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd:
and my tongue clings to my gums.
My hands and my feet are withered:
and you lay me in the dust of death.

For many dogs are come about me:
and a band of evildoers hem me in.

I can count all my bones:
they stand staring and gazing upon me.

They part my garments among them:
and cast lots for my clothing.
O Lord, do not stand far off:
you are my helper, hasten to my aid.

Deliver my body from the sword:
my life from the power of the dogs;
O save me from the lion's mouth:
and my afflicted soul from the horns of the wild oxen.

I will tell of your name to my companions:
in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.
O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:
hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob,
and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.

For he has not despised nor abhorred
the poor man in his misery:
nor did he hide his face from him,
but heard him when he cried.

From you springs my praise in the great congregation:
I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;
The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him
may their hearts rejoice for ever!

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's:
and he shall be ruler over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:
or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?
But he has saved my life for himself:
and my posterity shall serve him.

This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:
and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Good Friday Hymns

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**Come, people, follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:**

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of him who died:**

**From north and south, from east and west
they raise in growing unison their song of
praise:**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
draw all to you, let all the nations see:**

**From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on the cross adore their Saviour King:**

*Michael Robert Newbolt 1874-1956
based on George William Kitchin 1827-1912 alt.*

*Music: Sydney H. Nicholson
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Behold the Wood of the Cross

***Behold, behold the wood of the cross,
On which is hung our salvation.
O come, let us adore.***

**Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
upon the ground and die,
it shall remain but a single grain
and not give life.**

***Behold, behold the wood of the cross,
On which is hung our salvation.
O come, let us adore.***

**And when my hour of glory comes
As all was meant to be,
You shall see me lifted
up upon a tree.**

***Behold, behold the wood of the cross,
On which is hung our salvation.
O come, let us adore.***

Songwriter & Music: Dan Schutte