

**BIBLE READINGS: GOOD FRIDAY FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12** The Suffering Servant of God (*GNT*)

<sup>52:13</sup> The LORD says, "My servant will succeed in his task; he will be highly honoured. <sup>14</sup> Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human. <sup>15</sup> But now many nations will marvel at him, and kings will be speechless with amazement. They will see and understand something they had never known." <sup>53:1</sup> The people reply, "Who would have believed what we now report? Who could have seen the LORD's hand in this?" <sup>2</sup> It was the will of the LORD that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground. He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him. <sup>3</sup> We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him—we ignored him as if he were nothing. <sup>4</sup> "But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. <sup>5</sup> But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. <sup>6</sup> All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. <sup>7</sup> "He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word. <sup>8</sup> He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people. <sup>9</sup> He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie." <sup>10</sup> The LORD says, "It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed. <sup>11</sup> After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. <sup>12</sup> And so I will give him a place of honour, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven."

**PSALM: Psalm 22** (*NIV*)

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? <sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the one Israel praises. <sup>4</sup> In You our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them. <sup>5</sup> To You they cried out and were saved; in You they trusted and were not put to shame. <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. <sup>8</sup> 'He trusts in the LORD,' they say, 'let the LORD rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since he delights in Him.' <sup>9</sup> Yet You brought me out of the womb; You made me trust in You, even at my mother's breast. <sup>10</sup> From birth I was cast on You; from my mother's womb You have been my God. <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. <sup>12</sup> Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. <sup>13</sup> Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. <sup>15</sup> My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; You lay me in the dust of death. <sup>16</sup> Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. <sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. <sup>19</sup> But You, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. <sup>20</sup> Deliver me from the sword, my precious

life from the power of the dogs. <sup>21</sup> Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. <sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. <sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour Him! Revere Him, all you descendants of Israel! <sup>24</sup> For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help. <sup>25</sup> From You comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear You I will fulfil my vows. <sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise Him—may your hearts live for ever! <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, <sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before Him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord. <sup>31</sup> They will proclaim His righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9** Jesus, our great high priest (*NRSV*)

<sup>14</sup> Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

**GOSPEL: John 18:1 - 19:42** The passion according to St John (*MEV*)

<sup>18:1</sup> After Jesus had said these things, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and He and His disciples went into it. <sup>2</sup> Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas took a company of soldiers and some temple police from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to Him, went out and said to them, “Who is it you’re looking for?” <sup>5</sup> “Jesus the Nazarene,” they answered. “I am He,” Jesus told them. Judas, who betrayed Him, was also standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When He told them, “I am He,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Then He asked them again, “Who is it you’re looking for?” “Jesus the Nazarene,” they said. <sup>8</sup> “I told you I am He,” Jesus replied. “So if you’re looking for Me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfil the words He had said: “I have not lost one of those You have given Me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. (The slave’s name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> At that, Jesus said to Peter, “Sheathe your sword! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given Me?” <sup>12</sup> Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish temple police arrested Jesus and tied Him up. <sup>13</sup> First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was advantageous that one man should die for the people. <sup>15</sup> Meanwhile, Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. <sup>16</sup> But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> Then the slave girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, “You aren’t one of this man’s

disciples too, are you?” “I am not!” he said. <sup>18</sup> Now the slaves and the temple police had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself. <sup>19</sup> The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching. <sup>20</sup> “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus answered him. “I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple complex, where all the Jews congregate, and I haven’t spoken anything in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you question Me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> When He had said these things, one of the temple police standing by slapped Jesus, saying, “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” <sup>23</sup> “If I have spoken wrongly,” Jesus answered him, “give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit Me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. <sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of His disciples too, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not!” <sup>26</sup> One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Didn’t I see you with Him in the garden?” <sup>27</sup> Peter then denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>28</sup> Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> Then Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?” <sup>30</sup> They answered him, “If this man weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have handed Him over to you.” <sup>31</sup> So Pilate told them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.” “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death,” the Jews declared. <sup>32</sup> They said this so that Jesus’ words might be fulfilled signifying what kind of death He was going to die. <sup>33</sup> Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about Me?” <sup>35</sup> “I’m not a Jew, am I?” Pilate replied. “Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?” <sup>36</sup> “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. As it is, My kingdom does not have its origin here.” <sup>37</sup> “You are a king then?” Pilate asked. “You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replied. “I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” <sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” said Pilate. After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no grounds for charging Him. <sup>39</sup> You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. <sup>19:1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and threw a purple robe around Him. <sup>3</sup> And they repeatedly came up to Him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and were slapping His face. <sup>4</sup> Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I’m bringing Him outside to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging Him.” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the temple police saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” Pilate responded, “Take Him and crucify Him yourselves, for I find no grounds for charging Him.” <sup>7</sup> “We have a law,” the Jews replied to him, “and according to that law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God.” <sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup> He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus did not give him an answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to Him, “You’re not talking to me? Don’t You know that I have the authority to release You and the authority to crucify You?” <sup>11</sup> “You would have no authority over Me at all,” Jesus answered him, “if it hadn’t been given you from above. This is why the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.” <sup>12</sup> From that moment Pilate made every effort to release Him. But the Jews shouted, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes

Caesar!”<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s bench in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Hebrew *Gabbatha*).<sup>14</sup> It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about six in the morning. Then he told the Jews, “Here is your king!”<sup>15</sup> But they shouted, “Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?” “We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.<sup>16</sup> So then, because of them, he handed Him over to be crucified. Therefore they took Jesus away.<sup>17</sup> Carrying His own cross, He went out to what is called Skull Place, which in Hebrew is called *Golgotha*.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified Him and two others with Him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also had a sign lettered and put on the cross. The inscription was: JESUS THE NAZARENE THE KING OF THE JEWS.<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”<sup>22</sup> Pilate replied, “What I have written, I have written.”<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.<sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.” They did this to fulfil the Scripture that says: They divided My clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for My clothing. And this is what the soldiers did.<sup>25</sup> Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing there, He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.”<sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now accomplished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said, “I’m thirsty!”<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on hyssop and held it up to His mouth.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” Then bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.<sup>31</sup> Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken and that their bodies be taken away.<sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with Him.<sup>33</sup> When they came to Jesus, they did not break His legs since they saw that He was already dead.<sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.<sup>35</sup> He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth.<sup>36</sup> For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of His bones will be broken.<sup>37</sup> Also, another Scripture says: They will look at the One they pierced.<sup>38</sup> After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus’ body. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took His body away.<sup>39</sup> Nicodemus (who had previously come to Him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes.<sup>40</sup> Then they took Jesus’ body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the aromatic spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.<sup>41</sup> There was a garden in the place where He was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it.<sup>42</sup> They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation and since the tomb was nearby.