

Reflection for Good Friday

Isaiah 52: 13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25
or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

No words could help us to honor the Christ on this day- with any more fervor and any deeper thanks- than those we reflect on this day.

Isaiah sings of a man who suffered greatly in body and spirit. He was condemned, spurned and avoided, pierced and crushed, oppressed and mocked.

The author of Hebrews writes of Jesus the priest who can sympathize with our every weakness and who intercedes for us.

John, in his gospel, gives us a view of Jesus as one completely in charge. He knows who he is, where he is from and where he is going. He is no one's victim. No one forces his hand. No one takes his life from him; he freely lays it down. And the cross he embraces and carries is not an instrument of defeat. No, it is his royal throne and scepter and a scalpel that brings healing to his people. In other words, his cross gave us a new life.

In our new life, with gratitude and great solemnity, we stretch out our hands and pray this day with Christ our priest....not for ourselves but the needs of the Church and the world. This lesson he teaches us in and by his passion.

In Church services this day, worshippers may be invited to approach the cross to venerate it, embrace it or kiss it. May it heal us anew and be the instrument of healing for those longing to be whole again.

Then quietly, confidently, and renewed by what we have heard and done, we leave Worship to live for him and for all those whose place is in his outstretched arms. Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

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