

40 CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12

The servant of the Lord was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- 13 See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
- 14 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—
- 15 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.
- 1 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- 2 For he grew up before the Lord 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.1+5, 11-12, 14-15, 16+24 (R. Lk 23.46)

R. Father, I put my life in your hands.

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me,
O Lord, faithful God. R.

11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances.
Those who see me in the street flee from me.
12 I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel. **R.**
14 But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. **R.**
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.
24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

Christ learned obedience through what he suffered,
and became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.