

For Your Study and Reflection This Week
Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

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. (53:4-5)

Psalm 22

All who see me mock me;
they sneer at me; they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!” (v. 7-8)

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

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 a Son, he learned obedience
through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he
became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.
(5:7-9)

John 18:1—19:42

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.”
Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (19:30)

Questions for Reflection

Why is this Friday called good? Is the suffering and death of Jesus something we can and should lament, in the spirit of Psalm 22:1: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Is this event something we can and should celebrate, in the spirit of Psalm 22:31, “[God] has done it” (cf. John 19:30, “It is finished”)? How is it possible both to renounce the evil of Jesus’ crucifixion and to rejoice in the saving mystery of his death and resurrection?

Household Prayer: Morning

In you, O God,
our ancestors trusted;
they cried to you,
and you delivered them.
Hear my cry this day
and deliver me from evil,
until I rise to meet you
on the day of resurrection. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

On you, O God,
I was cast from birth;
since my mother bore me
you have been my God.
Keep me safe this night
and hold me at your breast,
until I rise to meet you
on the day of resurrection. Amen.