



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
GOOD FRIDAY — YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 22

**A: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

G: Why are you so far from saving me?

L: I am a worm and not a man,

G: scorned by men and despised by the people.

L: All who see me mock me;

G: they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

L: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

G: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

L: My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

G: you lay me in the dust of death.

L: A band of evil men has encircled me,

G: they have pierced my hands and my feet.

L: They divide my garments among them

G: and cast lots for my clothing.

**A: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

A: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Good Friday: Darkness descended on the world that day as God draped Creation in the darkness of mourning. For the Light of the world was flickering out; the great Prince of the heavenly kingdom was dying. Though guiltless, he was tortured and cursed; though innocent, he died among criminals. Who could ever call this day “good?” Only those who know the truth of the cross: Sing my tongue the glorious battle; sing the ending of the fray. Now above the cross, the trophy, sound the loud triumphant lay. Tell how Christ, the world’s Redeemer, as a victim won the day. – Venantius Fortunatus (†609 AD), CW 122.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther’s Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 19:17-30

Scripture records the greatest event in history with a shocking paucity of words: “Here they crucified him.” Here was the culmination of God’s plan since the Garden: the innocent for the guilty, the sinless for the sinful. The participants in this divine act are carried along fulfilling prophecy after prophecy. Pilate with his sign, soldiers with their lots, hyssop and vinegar. They are all just one drumbeat after another, sounding the cadence of Christ’s advance in the battle for mankind. He fulfilled every promise that Scripture made. He fulfilled every act of righteousness that we needed. He suffered every bit of judgment we deserved. And when it was all fulfilled, when there was nothing left for him to do, he cried, “It is finished!” It was God’s plan; it was Christ’s mission; it was our salvation, and now it was accomplished. As he died, he won. Every thorn in his crown was becoming a shining jewel in his diadem of glory. The nails in his hands were being forged into the scepter of a king, and his wounds were clothing him with the purple of empire. (Kretzmann) He won! And all things are now made new. Humanity is redeemed, and from that moment on, the eternal fate of all men of all ages would be determined by the cross.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

The Messiah would come as an ordinary man—but would suffer extraordinary punishment. This Man of Sorrows had done nothing wrong. Yet when we look at what happened on Good Friday, we considered him stricken by God and afflicted. It offends our sense of justice. It makes no sense that the innocent should suffer like this. It makes no sense that the Son of God would cry that his Father had forsaken him. What punishment ever brings peace? What wounds ever bring healing? Yet, it was God’s will to crush him, because God made him to be a guilt offering (ִזְבֵּחַ עֲוֹנוֹת)—the offering God prescribed when sin needed to be atoned, and restitution was possible. On Good Friday we see the fulfillment of every guilt offering. Restitution was possible, but it would be very costly. Only one thing could restore the holiness Man had lost and pay the ransom price necessary: Christ’s holy precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. It is true that he deserved none of this. Yet—in a divine and holy paradox—he did. He deserved it all. Because Christ picked up our transgressions and carried our iniquities. God laid on him the sin of the world. And so, when the Messiah hung on the cross, he suffered there as the world’s biggest sinner—as the world’s only sinner. God made the Sinless One to be sin for us, and the punishment that brought us peace was upon him; by his wounds we are healed.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Here is the high priest that we need: though tempted, he was sinless; though guiltless, he died as a guilt offering. Jesus, our high priest, offered himself as the sacrificial victim (Hebrews 7:27) to win our forgiveness. Gone is the throne of judgment. Christ founded a kingdom defined by grace where even sinners like us can approach God with confidence in his mercy. Our Savior showed himself perfect and so became the source of salvation for us. This Friday most certainly is Good.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?