

Year B; Good Friday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for March 29, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22:1-31
- Hebrews 10:16-25
 - or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

OPENING PRAYER

Savior God, you were not happy to leave the great divide between yourself and humanity; though, that gulf was created entirely by us. We were created very good. You invited us into a life with you, but our ancestors chose a different path. That responsibility is not entirely left to them, though, we continued that path in continuing to sin before you. You, however, had a solution. You came in human form — Jesus, divine and human. You lived as we do but without sin. You ministered — teaching, healing, freeing, feeding — through rejection, ridicule, and judgment so that we might know how to live in relationship with you. You knew all through your ministry what would be its end. In your last days, you were celebrated as you entered Jerusalem, but religious leaders, government authorities, and others conspired to have you executed on a cross. All of this from your ministry to your crucifixion was done not to benefit you but to benefit us. You were reconciling all humanity — all the world — to yourself that we might live new lives in partnership and mission with you. Help us through this service to reflect on the tremendous agony you suffered and the tremendous gift you offer. In the name of that blessed Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

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