

Holy Week Readings

Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1 – 7

This is another wonderful prophecy by Isaiah. He speaks about how the Messiah or Jesus had been called from his mother's womb – which signifies that Jesus was part of God's plan. In the middle of the passage it speaks about the strength, that Christ will depend on comes from God and that he will be called to be a light to the Gentiles. In the passage, it speaks about how Jesus will be despised by the nations – but time will come when King this will stand at attention and princes will bow low before the chosen Christ.

Second Reading: Psalm 71:1 –14

in this great Psalm it speaks of God's constant help - from childhood to old age. David opens the Psalm recognizing that God is his refuge, his protecting rock. He then speaks about his hope being in God alone. Further, down he speaks about his life as an example to many people. Even as we grow old, we continue to look in trust in God's strength. Finally, he finishes off the 14th first speaking about keeping our hope in God.

Third Reading: 1st Corinthians 1: 18 –31

Paul is sharing in his first letter to the church of Corinth this fascinating passage. He begins with an incredible comment in the 18th verse saying that - he knows that the message of the cross sounds foolish to those who do not believe. There are many people today the think that the Christian message is foolish. Then Paul goes on to say that for those of us who do believe this message is in fact the power of God.

Paul talks about how the wisest person in the world in comparison to the wisdom of God is but a fool. Think of the smartest person you know or have ever heard of – no doubt, this person in the eyes of the world seems to be a brilliant individual. Compared to you and I that is likely true but in comparison to the wisdom of God it is a much different reality. Paul wraps up this passage by saying that God alone made it possible for you and I to believe in Christ.

Fourth Reading: John 12:20 –36

John in this passage begins to explain why Jesus must die. He uses the metaphor of the kernel of wheat. Then, he makes an interesting comment that “those who love their life in this world will lose it”. How does that comment sit with you? Jesus then speaks about his soul being troubled and then there is the affirmation of the voice from heaven. When Jesus speaks about his dying it causes great consternation with respect to the people. The reason is they did not see the Messiah is one who would die but one who would liberate them from the Roman Empire.

Questions to Ponder

1: What do you think is the key message of this passage? What makes you think this?

2: What did you learn from this passage?

3: Which point in this passage spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?

4: Is there something in this passage that surprised you? If so, how were you surprised?

5: How is this passage relevant to what is happening in life today?

6: What is one passage that encourages you? How does it encourage you?

7: What is one passage that inspires you? How does it inspire you?

8: Is there anything confusing within these passages?