

Holy Week Readings

Wednesday

Below you will find the readings for Wednesday, April 8, which are part of the holy week readings. If for whatever reason you did not have an opportunity to do the readings yesterday – not to worry. Just start today and move forward from there. All of the readings are independent and so just enjoy the stories for today and see if you can determine what God is communicating to you through the Scriptures. Enjoy!

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9

Isaiah is speaking to the people of Israel in exile. The prophet speaks about Christ who will be the obedient servant. He tells how the servant of the Lord suffers in order to sustain others. This is the third of four servant songs, which anticipate the Messiah. This song focuses on the servant as a rejected prophet.

Second Reading: Psalm 70

This short Psalm is an individual lament, an urgent prayer for rescue from the prevailing threat. The psalmist realizes that God is in fact the source of our deliverance from those things that threaten us and he asked God not to delay.

Third Reading: Hebrews 12: 1-3

In these short verses the Hebrew writer, reminds us that a huge crowd of witnesses surrounds us. The large cloud of witnesses are those who have lived before us in faith and those who are currently living out their faith in Christ. Then the writer encourages us to strip away all those things that would prevent our growth and then in his words “run with endurance the race that God has set before us”. It is a passage reminding us of the quality of enduring - especially in times like this.

Fourth Reading: John 13:21 –32

If you have ever had a troubled spirit this is a wonderful passage for you. It reminds us that at this point in Jesus' life he also had a troubled spirit, which means he understands us when our spirit is troubled as well. Jesus knows, at this point, that the stress and suffering in his life is going to increase. When Jesus announces that one of the 12 is going to betray him the disciples are in a state of disbelief - they look around at each other wondering whom it will be. This passage of course is about the betrayal of Judas Iscariot, but it also reminds us of our own moments of betrayal, which is hard for us to acknowledge and accept.