

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Cycle B

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 52:13 – 53: 12.

God 's Servant is wounded for our sins.

**Psalm Response:** Psalm 31: 2, 6, 12 – 13, 15 – 16, 17, 25.

Father, into your hands I Commend my Spirit.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Hebrews 4: 14 -16; 5: 7 – 9.

God granted us Salvation by teaching us obedience.

**Gospel:** John: 18: 1 – 19: 42.

God loves us so much, God sent Jesus to save us.

God is good, **all the time**, All the Time, **God is good**

Fr. Paul offered me the opportunity to break open the word on this occasion and for some reason I jumped at it, not thinking about how difficult this key component to our faith is to express in a short period of time. I remember being in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Sr. Tarsisius asking us how much God loved? Couldn't come up with the words then either but she just extended both of her arms out full wide, while standing under a crucifix. Indeed that was the correct answer. Today we celebrate Jesus' transformation of an instrument of violent torture into an altar of salvation. So today we venerate (albeit at a distance) the cross.

What was Jesus saying as he was lifted up high on the cross? "I Love you and there ain't nothing you can do about it!" He died and by dying destroyed death (our greatest fear) and restored us to life: eternal life. That is the kind of God we have! A lover not an enforcer.

I attended a conference about 32 years ago where Tony Compolo was the keynote presenter. He said:

It's Friday --- Jesus was nailed dead on a cross ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- Mary's crying her eyes out 'cause her baby Jesus is dead ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- The disciples are running in every direction like sheep without a shepherd ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- Pilate's strutting around, washing his hands 'cause he thinks he's got all the power and the victory ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- People are saying, "As things have been, so they shall always be. You can't change anything in this world." ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- Satan's doing a little jig saying, "I control the whole world." ... but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday --- the Temple veil ripped from top to bottom – the earth shook – the rocks split, and tombs opened. The centurion screamed in fear: "Truly he was the Son of God!" ... Sunday's coming.

It's Sunday – The Angel like dazzling lightening, rolled the stone away exclaiming, "He is not here! He is risen!" ... It's Sunday, It's Sunday, It's Sunday!

It is important for us to remember we are not "Good Friday People," rather we are "Easter People!" Suffering is not an end for us, but Resurrection is. Such a God we have.

God is Good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**