

ISAIAH 52: 13 - 53: 12

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

52:13 See, my servant will prosper,  
he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights.

14 As the crowds were appalled on seeing him  
– so disfigured did he look  
that he seemed no longer human –

15 so will the crowds be astonished at him,  
and kings stand speechless before him;  
for they shall see something never told  
and witness something never heard before:

53:1 ‘Who could believe what we have heard,  
and to whom has the power of the Lord been revealed?’

2 Like a sapling he grew up in front of us,  
like a root in arid ground.

Without beauty, without majesty we saw him,  
no looks to attract our eyes;

3 a thing despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering,  
a man to make people screen their faces;  
he was despised and we took no account of him.

4 And yet ours were the sufferings he bore,  
ours the sorrows he carried.

But we, we thought of him as someone punished,  
struck by God, and brought low.

5 Yet he was pierced through for our faults,  
crushed for our sins.

On him lies a punishment that brings us peace,  
and through his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We had all gone astray like sheep,  
each taking his own way,  
and the Lord burdened him  
with the sins of all of us.

<sup>7</sup> Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly,  
he never opened his mouth,  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house,  
like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers  
never opening its mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By force and by law he was taken;  
would anyone plead his cause?  
Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living;  
for our faults struck down in death.

<sup>9</sup> They gave him a grave with the wicked,  
a tomb with the rich,  
though he had done no wrong  
and there had been no perjury in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord has been pleased to crush him with suffering.  
If he offers his life in atonement,  
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life  
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

<sup>11</sup> His soul's anguish over  
he shall see the light and be content.  
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,  
taking their faults on himself.

<sup>12</sup> Hence I will grant whole hordes for his tribute,  
he shall divide the spoil with the mighty,  
for surrendering himself to death  
and letting himself be taken for a sinner,  
while he was bearing the faults of many  
and praying all the time for sinners.