

**To all members of our International English-Speaking Community of the Parish of Luxembourg Notre-Dame**

This week is Holy Week.

From Monday to Wednesday, we suggest you take some time (ca. 15 minutes or more), each day, to quietly and slowly read and pray with one the first three Songs of the Servants in the Book of Isaiah<sup>1</sup>. They correspond to the first reading at Mass for each of these days.

***Suggested Way of Proceeding***

- Make sure your smartphone, your computer and any other electronic device is switched off in order for you not to be disturbed whilst you take this time for silent meditation.
- Determine how much time you wish to devote to this quiet time of inner reflection and stick to it (it may be 15, 20, 30 minutes, etc. Simply make sure that you can have that time in full for you alone without being interrupted).
- Find a suitable place where you can really be in silence and a suitable bodily position so that you are not disturbed by an aching joint or any other physical disturbance.
- Turn inwardly to God "your Father who is in that secret place" (Mt 6, 6)
- Read the Song of the Servant for that day only.
- Take your time to pause wherever a verse, a sentence, even one word, gives you an occasion to ponder, to reflect, to pray...
- You may read the passage a second time if you wish.
- At the end of your prayer, offer your own prayer to the Lord, according to what the Holy Spirit will inspire you to entrust God with.
- If you wish you can then listen to the track sound that is suggested for each day (see next pages).
- Finally, formally conclude your prayer with the Lord's Prayer (*Our Father*)

Overleaf you will find the text of the first three Songs of the Servants for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and a suggested sound track for each day.

From Thursday onwards, we invite you to join online services for the Triduum. There is a wide variety of possibilities. You may even find one in your mother tongue if it is not English.

Here, we only refer to Pope Francis who will celebrate all services online from Rome. The full schedule with a direct link to each celebration live on the day and appropriate time is available at: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en/special/2020/settimanasanta2020.html>.

After Easter we will be back with the continuation of *The Mass on the World* by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth” (Ps 123 (124), v. 8)

Fr HP

---

<sup>1</sup> There are altogether four Songs of the servant in the Book of Isaiah. The fourth Song (Is 52, 13-53, 12) is read on Good Friday during the Passion of the Lord.

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Book of Isaiah, Chapter 42, verses 1-7 (Is 42, 1-7)**

1. Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have sent my spirit upon him, he will bring fair judgement to the nations.
2. He does not cry out or raise his voice, his voice is not heard in the street;
3. he does not break the crushed reed or snuff the faltering wick. Faithfully he presents fair judgement;
4. he will not grow faint, he will not be crushed until he has established fair judgement on earth, and the coasts and islands are waiting for his instruction.
5. Thus says God, Yahweh, who created the heavens and spread them out, who hammered into shape the earth and what comes from it, who gave breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:
6. I, Yahweh, have called you in saving justice, I have grasped you by the hand and shaped you; I have made you a covenant of the people and light to the nations,
7. to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

(Source: <https://www.bibliacatolica.com.br/en/new-jerusalem-bible/isaiah/42/>)

Suggested soundtrack for the day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHu233C6ilc>

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Book of Isaiah, Chapter 49, verses 1-6 (Is 49, 1-6)**

1. Coasts and islands, listen to me, pay attention, distant peoples. Yahweh called me when I was in the womb, before my birth he had pronounced my name.
2. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, he hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow and concealed me in his quiver.
3. He said to me, 'Israel, you are my servant, through whom I shall manifest my glory.'
4. But I said, 'My toil has been futile, I have exhausted myself for nothing, to no purpose.' Yet all the while my cause was with Yahweh and my reward with my God.
5. And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to re-unite Israel to him; -I shall be honoured in Yahweh's eyes, and my God has been my strength. -
6. He said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the "the remotest parts of earth.

(Source: <https://www.bibliacatolica.com.br/en/new-jerusalem-bible/isaiah/49/>)

Suggested soundtrack for the day:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA88AS6Wy\\_4&list=RDIA88AS6Wy\\_4&start\\_radio=1&t=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA88AS6Wy_4&list=RDIA88AS6Wy_4&start_radio=1&t=7)

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Book of Isaiah, Chapter 50, verses 4-9a (Is 50, 4-9a)**

4. Lord Yahweh has given me a disciple's tongue, for me to know how to give a word of comfort to the weary. Morning by morning he makes my ear alert to listen like a disciple.
5. Lord Yahweh has opened my ear and I have not resisted, I have not turned away.
6. I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting.
7. Lord Yahweh comes to my help, this is why insult has not touched me, this is why I have set my face like flint and know that I shall not be put to shame.
8. He who grants me saving justice is near! Who will bring a case against me? Let us appear in court together! Who has a case against me? Let him approach me!
9. Look, Lord Yahweh is coming to my help! Who dares condemn me?

(Source: <https://www.bibliacatolica.com.br/en/new-jerusalem-bible/isaiah/50/>)

Suggested soundtrack for the day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzhBr1T-LHc>