

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena, IL – 7 April 2023**  
**Good Friday - Year A**

**1st Reading: *Isaiah 52:13—53:12***

**Gospel: *John 18:1—19:42***

**Meditation** - *Vicar Thomas J. Mosbø*

A seemingly foolish God. A weak God. This is what Paul writes to the Corinthians about the Gospel. Although the crucifixion of Jesus seems to some to have been a tragic mistake, it was God's intention, his choice to give himself for each one of us, to love us, to give us his life when we had given ourselves over to death. His ultimate expression of love for his creation. Allowing himself to be crucified instead of just snapping his fingers and making everything all right. So Paul says that to some this seems to be foolish and to others to be simply weakness, "but to those who are called, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." And Paul concludes that "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

So let us contemplate God's wisdom and power in the one who "was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" as we hear the Passion of our Lord according to John, and pray for all people and the whole of God's creation.

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