

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

December 30-January 5, 2025

Monday:	Isaiah 51:1-52:12	Proverbs 24:23-34
Tuesday:	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Proverbs 25
Wednesday:	Isaiah 54-55	Proverbs 26
Thursday:	Isaiah 56-57	Proverbs 27
Friday:	Isaiah 58-59	Proverbs 22:28
Saturday:	Isaiah 60-61	Proverbs 29
Sunday:	Isaiah 62:1-63:6	Proverbs 30

Weekend Reflection

We read this week one of the most incredible chapters of prophecy about the life, work, and sacrificial death of Jesus: Isaiah 53! For your faith and joy at the beginning of this new year, meditate this weekend on the truths we see in Isaiah 53. In particular, consider 53:10. "It was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief."

There were many who wanted to kill Jesus, and they did very specific things to make it happen. Judas betrayed him. The Jews arrested and "tried" him. The religious leaders stirred up the crowd to pressure the Roman Governor, Pilate, to sentence him to death. Pilate gave the order. The Roman soldiers did all of the execution dirty work.

Yet, above all of those things, it was the will of the Lord that was accomplished in the death of Christ. Truly, as Jesus said, "No one takes my life. I lay it down of my own accord." Jesus was not in the wrong place at the wrong time, or swept up into unfortunate circumstances. He knowingly and willingly sacrificed himself for you and me. God willed it to be. Ponder his love for you!

SUNDAY SERMON

The sermon on **Sunday, January 5** is on John 6:1-15. Take some time to read this thoughtfully before the service, in order to prepare your heart for the preaching of God's Word.

Faith Groups

- In what sense was Jesus testing them with the way he asked where they might buy bread for the crowd?
- Is it significant to the story that Jesus gave thanks? What should this mean for us?
- Do you think there is any significance to the amount of food that was left over?
- Discuss the people's response to this sign. Was it faith?
- What are some ways we practically apply the truths we learn from this account?