

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

December 28 2025

“Not By Proxy”

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Today's Big Idea

*A God above the heavens could **send** a Savior or **become** a Savior. The cost differential is immense. The latter takes coming down into our weeping.*

Distance Helping

Referral, advice-giving, check-writing

In-Person Helping

Time, sweat, tears, and the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

The more powerful and rich

The more likely the “distance help” model

Today's Bouquet: A God who shares our affliction

Spotlight texts: Isaiah 63:9 and Hebrews 2:14, 17

The theology of Incarnation: fully human, fully God

Jesus made perfect through suffering? Hebrews 2:10

The “perfect” (*complete*) Savior: rescuing with empathy

Transactional versus personal: what maximizes intimacy

A Trinity-perspective priority on the highest good

He is not ashamed to call us siblings: Hebrews 2:11,17

Saint Damien of Molokai

The bottle of tears: Psalm 56:8

Value he places on a human soul suffering

The memorial of intermingled tears in the age past sorrows

The voice(s) of in Ramah: Matthew 2:18; Jeremiah 31:15-17

The difference between our tears of despair and Jesus' tears of indignation: John 11:33-35

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Isaiah 63:8-9</i>	<i>Psalms 148:12-14</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:10, 14-18</i>	<i>Matthew 2:16-18</i>
<p>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.</p>	<p>Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!</p>	<p>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering...</p> <p>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.</p> <p>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.</p>	<p>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:</p> <p>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."</p>