



**Daily Prayer
+ Holy Saturday +**

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: Glory be to Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 102:18-28

L: Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:

C: that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,

L: to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die,

C: that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD, and in Jerusalem his praise, when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

L: Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

C: The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- [1] Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- [2] Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
- [3] Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
- [4] Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Reading**Matthew 27:57-66**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day,

that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Holy Saturday has always been a slow and quiet day for me. Good Friday is a loud and busy day. Easter Sunday, an even louder and busier day. But Holy Saturday has always been slow and quiet and peaceful; a day of rest. This year will be no different.

If tradition holds, we will wake in the morning on Saturday to hot cross buns. *Thank-you Pam and Emily and Liz.* I will make the coffee and then we will watch the Gospel of Matthew on the television all morning.

If you would like to join me in this tradition, the movie we watch each year is available on Amazon Prime. Just search for The Gospel According to Matthew. It's the one starring Bruce Marchiano and produced by The Visual

Bible in 1995. It is 4 hours and 17 minutes long, so we don't so much as watch it as we have it playing in the background throughout the morning. You might find this a strange tradition; but try it.

In the afternoon we pick up Easter flowers and get them arranged in church. Then we go for a walk outside and I'm usually in bed pretty early to get a good night's rest for Easter morning.

Slow, quiet, peaceful, rest. Those are Holy Saturday words. For on this day we remember our Lord's long, quiet, peaceful, rest in the tomb. The Savior who died for our sins on Good Friday and who was raised from the dead on Easter morning; he rested in the tomb on Holy Saturday.

Holy Saturday is a day of rest for Jesus in the tomb. His work is done. He has completed his assignment from the Father. He has died for the sins of the world. His body has been broken. His blood has been shed. Jesus has done what he was sent into the world to do. He has won for us peace with God through his death on the cross.

His resurrection will soon come; a vindication of his trust in the Father and a victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Easter Sunday will come and soon. But for Saturday, the time has come for rest. Holy Saturday is a day of rest for Jesus.

Holy Saturday is a day of rest for us as well. Today we rest from our own spiritual work and labor. All of our efforts

to make peace with God on account of sin have come to nothing. All of our efforts to pay God back for sin have failed. We tried to reconcile ourselves to God. We tried to undo our sin. But were unable to do it.

Instead, we now have a Savior. And our work to appease God has come to an end in him. For in him, one, final, perfect offering for sin has been made. He has done the work for us. And so today we rest in him. We rest from earning God's favor. We have God's favor in Jesus Christ.

And so, today, enjoy the day that God has given to you. Enjoy your quiet time at home. Enjoy your family, close by or distant. Enjoy the peaceful world outside. Enjoy a day of quiet prayer and meditation on Jesus Christ. And rest in God's peace won for you this day by him. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collect

L: O God, you made this holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which you have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve you purely; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

Hymn

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[1] Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer,
As a victim won the day.

[2] Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us His Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.

[3] Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing,
Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded
On the cross His dying breath.

[4] Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption,
For the weight that hung on thee!

[5] Unto God be praise and glory;
To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor
Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest
While the timeless ages run.