

Holy Saturday Devotion

April 3, 2021



Christ in the tomb (Hans Holbein the Younger, 1521)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Holy God, Holy and Immortal, Holy and Almighty

C **Have mercy upon us we pray.**

P He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

Psalm 88:3-6

P For my soul is full of troubles,

C **and my life draws near to Sheol.**

P I am counted among those who go down to the pit;

C **I am a man who has no strength,**

P like one set loose among the dead,

C **like the slain that lie in the grave,**

P like those whom you remember no more,

C **for they are cut off from your hand.**

P You have put me in the depths of the pit,

C **in the regions dark and deep.**

Prayer of the Day

P O God, Creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 6:19-23; 25-27

19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 4:7-11

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:57-66

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.

Message

The Lamentations

P O strangest of all miracles, You, O Christ,

C Who has given me life, is buried this day bereft of breath.

P You were laid in the tomb this day,

C while armies of angels stood guard and were amazed.

P All the assembly of Heaven was saddened to behold You, O Christ the Savior,

C numbered among the dead, You Who raised Lazarus.

P Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in the palm of His hand.

C A stone covers him, Who covers the heavens with virtue.

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C By Your holy cross and tomb You have redeemed the world.

Prayer of the Church

P In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help? From You alone, O Lord, Who by our sins are justly angered.

C Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P Lord, You know the secrets of our hearts; shut not Your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

C Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us away from You at our last hour.

C Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father,

C accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy Saturday Prayer

P All-powerful and ever-living God, Your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In Your goodness raise up Your faithful people, buried with Him in baptism, to be one with Him in the eternal life of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

P The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C Amen.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Phone: (301) 345-5111 Email: myholycrosslcms@gmail.com

Website: www.myholycross.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossgreenbelt

Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz, *Pastor* Rev. Suah S. Deddeh, *Assistant Pastor of Welcoming & Outreach*

Roberto Vela, Esq., *Organist*

Executive Steering Committee: Jeff Burt, Greg Clem, and Ebenezer Emmanuel