

HOLY WEEK
Holy Saturday

HOME PRAYERS



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC · *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds*





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The Cathedral Church of the
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Holy Saturday

HOME PRAYERS

Holy Saturday is the time we recall the day when he crucified Christ was among the dead while his body lay in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. In the ancient church, on Holy Saturday those preparing for baptism continued the fast they began on Good Friday. Holy Saturday ends at sunset.

Gather at a convenient time on Saturday morning. Together say this prayer:

The Collect

All **O God, creator of heaven and earth,
as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb
and rested on this holy Sabbath, so may we await with him
the coming of the third day and rise with him to newness of life;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever**

The Readings

THE FIRST READING

One person reads:

A Reading from the Book of Job.

Job 14:1-14

A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,
comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last.
Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgement with you?
Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can.
Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you,
and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, look away from them,
and desist, that they may enjoy, like labourers, their days.
For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant. But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they? As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up, so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep.
Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me
until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service
I would wait until my release should come.

Reader

Here ends the reading.

○.....○
Silence may be kept.

PSALM

All say this psalm together:

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

“My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

THE SECOND READING

One person reads:

A Reading from the first letter of Peter.

1 Peter 4:1-8

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves also with the same intention
(for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin),
so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires
but by the will of God.

You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do,
living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry.
They are surprised that you no longer join them
in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme.
But they will have to give an accounting to him
who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.

For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead,
so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged,
they might live in the spirit as God does.
The end of all things is near; therefore be serious
and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Silence may be kept.

THE GOSPEL READING

One person reads:

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 27:57-66

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea,
named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus.
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;
then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.
So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth
and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.
He then rolled a great stone to the door 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 what that impostor said while he was still alive,
‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure
until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away,
and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’
and the last deception would 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 with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

One The Gospel of Christ.
All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Silence may be kept.

Meditation

One person reads theologian Karl Rahner's meditation on Holy Saturday:

A MEDITATION FOR HOLY SATURDAY

by Karl Rahner, SJ

From Sermons Broadcast on Bavarian Radio during Holy Week, 1967

What a strange day, Holy Saturday—mysterious and silent.

It is a day without the eucharistic liturgy.

And thereby Holy Saturday might serve as a fitting symbol of ordinary, everyday life, which stands somewhere between the abject horror of Good Friday and the exuberant joy of Easter Sunday.

For most of the time, most of us live in between the two, at a midpoint that can and must also be a transition.

Perhaps the worst in life is already behind us;

perhaps, we cannot know for certain.

Certainly, the final consummation of life still lies before us.

On Holy Saturday, we have “come through.”

Our old wounds no longer bleed.

We have become wiser and more modest in our desires.

We expect less from ourselves and from others.

Our resignation grows easier and less painful.

This is a good thing.

For we cannot always have everything summed up in one single spiritual practice, as a medieval mystic says.

We need not every day be confounded by the incomprehensibility of life nor entranced by its glory. Some days, this day,

we find we can live without celebrating the highest liturgy of death and life.

The ordinary, too, can be a blessing.

But this ordinariness of the in between must be understood as a transition, the transition from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

For the Christian, the human being, is unfailingly oriented toward the infinite horizon of God's love.

The fact that we can bear up under our pain must not be allowed to replace our blessed hope for the joy of new and unending life.

Because God is all and in all, God can demand all.

Because death has died in Christ Jesus, even our resignation must die.

Holy Saturday prepares us for Easter, the persistent hope for the final glory of God.

If we live the Holy Saturday of our ordinary life properly,
this hope will be much more than a pious ornament
to the inevitability of living in between.
Hope will take shape in what makes our everyday life specifically human:
in the patience that knows how to wait,
in the sense of humour that refuses to take things too seriously,
in being prepared to let others go first,
in the courage that always seeks for a way out of difficulties.
The virtue of ordinary, everyday life rests in the hope
that does what is possible and trusts God to do the impossible.

To express it somewhat paradoxically, but nevertheless seriously:
the worst has already happened; we exist here and now,
not even death can deprive us of this.
Today is the Holy Saturday of our ordinary life.
But Sunday will dawn, our true and unending life

The Lord's Prayer

All

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace

All

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**



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