



**ST. PAUL'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY SATURDAY

March 30, 2024  
8:30 am

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*The mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to explore and celebrate  
God's infinite grace, acceptance, and love.*

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*The service begins with silent prayer. Please kneel.*

# ABOUT HOLY SATURDAY

**Holy Saturday marks the deep and astounding mystery** that is the pasch: the place-in-between, where the eternal God, the divine source of all life, joins and “dissolves” in loss, death and catastrophe. It honors the indivisible mystery of suffering and salvation—of life breaking forth “inside” of death. Holy Saturday finds us where we live, stretched between suffering and salvation, living in the latter through hope, even in the midst of the former, and its pain.

The service is brief and spare, almost conveying a sense of bafflement at what one should do with oneself in this liminal moment; in this place-in-between Christ’s death and his resurrection.

*drawn from James Farwell’s This is the Night*

*The service begins with silent prayer. Please kneel.*

*Presider*     The Lord be with you.

*People*       **And also with you.**

*Presider*     Let us pray.

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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People*       **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON: JOB 14:1-14

*Please be seated.*

Job said, “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 judgment 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 laborers, 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.”

*The lector closes the reading, saying*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence and stillness*

## THE PSALM: PSALM 31:1-4, 15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 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.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

## THE SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 4:1-8

Since 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.

*The lector closes the reading, saying*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence and stillness*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 27:57-66

*Reader*        The conclusion of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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.

HOMILY ..... *The Rev. Evan D. Garner*



## ANTHEM

BCP 492

*To be spoken as call and response*

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.

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

Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;  
shut not your ears to our prayers,  
but spare us, O Lord.

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

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

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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 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.

## THE GRACE

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

*Please depart in silence.*



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