

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

*A welcoming spiritual community, living,
acting and witnessing our love for God.*

Holy Saturday

The Commemoration of the Burial of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Holy Saturday: What thing is this? Today there is great silence upon the earth, great silence and stillness, for the King sleeps.

The service begins in silence then the Leader offers the Collect of the Day:

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. Amen.

The Word of God

The First Reader:

First Lesson-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 judgment with you? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? None 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,

Leader: Father, into your hands * I commend my spirit.

All: Father, into your hands* I commend my spirit.

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

Leader: Incline your ear to me; *make haste to deliver me.

All: Father, into your hands; I commend my spirit.

Leader: 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.

All: Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.

Leader: Into your hands commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

All: Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me." Father, into your
hands, I commend my spirit.

The Second Reader: Second Lesson 1st 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 Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Sequence (Psalm 130) *Saying all together*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore, you shall be feared. I wait for the Lord; in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy.

With him there is plenteous redemption, "

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

. Gospel-John 19:38-42

Leader: The conclusion of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they hid Jesus there.

Prayers

Leader: In the midst of life we are in death· from whom can we seek help? From you alone, O Lord, who by our sin are justly angered.

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

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

All: Into your hands commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

Leader: Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your loving-kindness save me."

All: Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.

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

Leader: Worthy and eternal Judge do not let the pains of death turn us away from you at our last hour.

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

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. *Amen.*

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

All Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.



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