

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We will not be able to gather together this year for Holy Week. It pains me to write those words, but as Christians we are called to be a people who love one another, and in this time of COVID-19 we must find ways to distance ourselves physically from one another and strive to stay at home as much as possible for the good of all.

That said, the Church has never been defined by the building, nor even by the people of God gathered together. The Church is God's people, it is you and me, adopted into God's family through Baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit following Jesus in the midst of our daily life. Yes, the church does gather on Sundays and other holy days to celebrate and pray, but the Church, Christ's Body, is you and me living and breathing in God's world.

What follows here are resources for you and those with whom you live, to use for praying together on the three central days of the Christian year. While Easter is celebrated every Sunday, these Three Days are like one great annual Sunday. But because of the pandemic, we cannot walk through these important services together. While Easter is a joyful festival, we keep it now in a time of difficulty and world-wide sorrow. Still, we believe that Christ is with us in Scripture, by the Spirit drawing us together as one before God. And we believe that the Gospel of Christ gives us strength amid distress and comfort in the face of our sufferings.

These three services are really one event, stretched over three days. As a sign of our unity you might consider using these resources for prayer on each of the nights (Thursday and Friday) at 8:00pm and on Saturday at noon.

You may also join the live services at <https://www.stmarksma.org/learn/sundays-at-st-marks-1> by following the links to Facebook Live and YouTube.

On each occasion you will need to set out one or more physical symbols: first, a bowl of water, a clean towel and a candle on Thursday; then a cross or crucifix and a candle on Friday, and finally an empty bowl on Saturday.

Then gather with me and with each other via Facebook or YouTube for our Sunday morning Easter celebration. (The Easter bulletin will be mailed out mid-week.) I tell you the truth, nothing, not pain, not COVID-19, not fear, NOTHING can keep Christ in the tomb. Christ is indeed alive, and we are Christ's people. So please, join with me and celebrate these holy days.

I am yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Swarr

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

HOME WORSHIP

THE THREE DAYS

9-11 APRIL 2020



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 9, 2020



THE FIRST OF THREE DAYS

Set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. First, remember God's forgiveness:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace we have been saved.
Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.
Almighty God strengthen us with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Then pray the prayer for this night:

Holy God, source of all love,
on the night of Jesus' betrayal,
Jesus gave us a new commandment,
to love one another as he loves us.
Write this commandment in our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others
as he was servant of all,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Then read this reading:

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Then read the Gospel:

***GOSPEL: John 13:1–17, 31b–35**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**
Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that

he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Having read these readings, think of this:

This word about the love of Jesus is always the beginning of any time. By remembering the Passover and the Last Supper and the footwashing, we are not trying to get back to an old time. In the face of the suffering and death with which the world is filled, our trying would not come to much. But God's word comes to us now. To our time. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, this word — which takes these three nights to say — comes to us: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness. He is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, he has washed our feet and our lives. And he turns us toward our neighbors. In this word — and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night — Easter comes out to hold us already.

You might now read or sing

Hymn #602 Jesu Jesu

Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh-bors are rich___ and poor, neigh-bors are black___ and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
love. All___ are neigh-bors to us and you.
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

Here you may wash your hands, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Think of the love and servanthood which Jesus modeled in this action and called us to live out in our daily lives.

Then you may pray together with all of us these intercessions for our church and world:

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words **Your mercy is great.**

A brief silence.

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant Bishop Fisher and all our clergy faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism.

A brief silence.

Hear us, holy God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

A brief silence.

Hear us, bountiful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy.

A brief silence.

Hear us, sovereign God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

A brief silence.

Hear us, faithful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for those we name before you now.

A brief silence.

Hear us, gracious God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, loving God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, whom we name before you here.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.

Hear us, eternal God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

Amen.

Remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night, flows, pray this Psalm (Chanted via livestream.)

PSALM 88

- 1 O LORD, my God, my Savior, *
by day and night I cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer enter into your presence; *
incline your ear to my lamentation.
- 3 For I am full of trouble; *
my life is at the brink of the grave.
- 4 I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; *
I have become like one who has no strength;
- 5 Lost among the dead, *
like the slain who lie in the grave,
- 6 Whom you remember no more, *
for they are cut off from your hand.
- 7 You have laid me in the depths of the Pit, *
in dark places, and in the abyss.
- 8 Your anger weighs upon me heavily, *
and all your great waves overwhelm me.
- 9 You have put my friends far from me;
you have made me to be abhorred by them; *
I am in prison and cannot get free.
- 10 My sight has failed me because of trouble; *
LORD, I have called upon you daily;
I have stretched out my hands to you.
- 11 Do you work wonders for the dead? *
will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?
- 12 Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? *
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
- 13 Will your wonders be known in the dark? *
or your righteousness in the country where all
is forgotten?

14 But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help; *
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

15 LORD, why have you rejected me? *
why have you hidden your face from me?

16 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the
point of death; *
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.

17 Your blazing anger has swept over me; *
your terrors have destroyed me;

18 They surround me all day long like a flood; *
they encompass me on every side.

19 My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, *
and darkness is my only companion.

Light a candle and either sing or speak the Taize Chant "Stay with me"

Hymn (WLP 836)

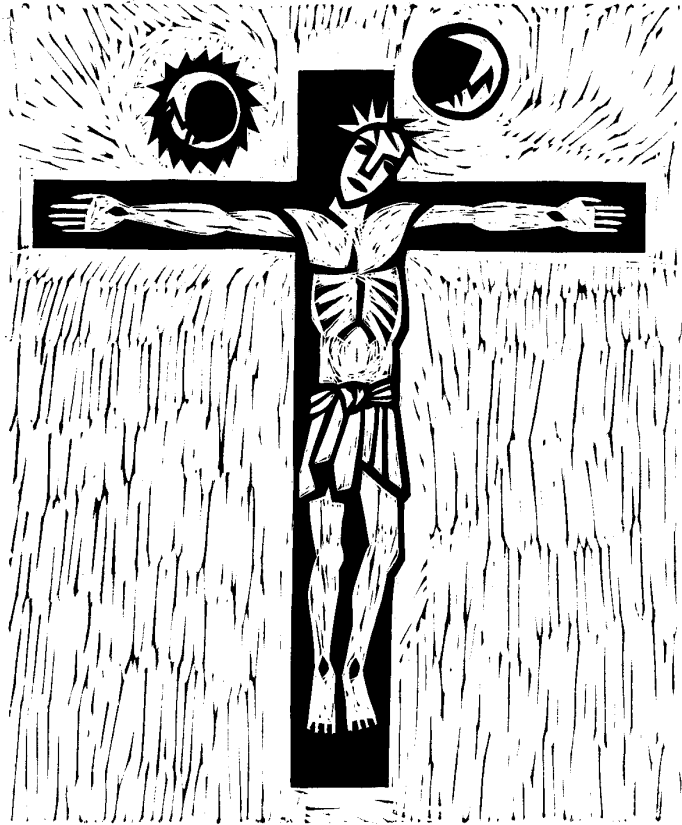
Stay with me

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
No - ho pu, no - ho mai me ia'u, ki - a'i a
pray watch and pray.
pu - le, kiai a pule.

Join the all-night vigil via Facebook Live or YouTube

The Three Days continue tomorrow with the service for Good Friday.

**GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 10, 2020**



Materials needed

A cross and a candle

*At the beginning of the service, light your candle to represent the light of Jesus in this world.
Place a cross or crucifix near the candle*

As we go through the Way of Cross Service, included below, look at the Cross before you to meditate on and reflect on the Love of God made known to us in Jesus' sacrifice.

Opening Prayers Before the Altar

In the Name ✠ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

He who bore the Holy Cross did break the power of sin, death, and the grave. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

Tell out among the nations:

That the Lord has reigned from the tree.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Grant unto us, your servants, to be made partakers of the grace of his resurrection: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

FIRST STATION:

Jesus is condemned to death

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

God did not spare his own Son:

But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, though you were condemned to suffer and die, all judgment has been placed in your hand. Grant that we may be saved from all false judgments against our neighbor, and at the last may stand before you, forgiven by your great mercy, for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

**Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,
bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,
now at length the sword hath passed.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

THIRD STATION:

Jesus falls the first time

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Surely he has borne our infirmities:

And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray.

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**O that silent, ceaseless mourning,
O those dim eyes, never turning
from that wondrous, suffering Son.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

FOURTH STATION:

Jesus meets his afflicted mother

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow: For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage: My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns, my heart is wrung within me; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.

Great as the sea is your grief:

Who shall heal you?

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose Blessed Mother watched your passion and death in deep sorrow; comfort, we pray you, all those who must stand helpless while those they love suffer. Hear the cry of all victims of terror and abuse, give hope and solace to those who are bereaved. Grant that we may use such strength as we have to comfort, support, and protect all who grieve or are in need, for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

**Who, on Christ's dear mother gazing,
in her trouble so amazing,
born of woman, would not weep?**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

FIFTH STATION:

The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The soldiers led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**By which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.**

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, by whose condemnation we are acquitted, in whose death we have life, and whose cross is our hope; keep us mindful of your boundless love and when we are called, like Simon, to bear the cross, make us to rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for your sake and unite what we offer with your perfect sacrifice, through the merits of your eternal redemption.

Amen.

**For his people's sins, in anguish,
there she saw the victim languish,
bleed in torments, bleed and die:**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

SIXTH STATION:

A woman wipes the face of Jesus

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Let us pray.

Lord, teach us to see your face and to find its imprint in all acts of mercy and compassion, and in all for whom you died; by your Holy Spirit, change us, and conform us to your own image, that through our lives, your light may shine in this dark world, for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

**Saw the Lord's anointed taken,
saw her child in death forsaken,
heard his last expiring cry.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

SEVENTH STATION:

Jesus falls a second time

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. We proclaim Christ crucified, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Let us pray.

Lord, we fall again and again: seek us out and recall us to yourself; in your strength let us stand and in our paths let us walk secure, for your passion and death are our forgiveness, our salvation and our life. **Amen.**

**Jesus, may her deep devotion
stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind;**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

EIGHTH STATION:

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

The elders of the daughters of Zion have thrown dust upon their heads:

The young girls of Jerusalem bowed their heads to the ground.

Let us pray.

Lord, grant us to mourn with those who mourn, and to repent of all cruelty and disregard of which we are guilty; in danger, be our confidence that we may stand and accomplish your loving purposes, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**That my heart fresh ardor gaining,
and a purer love attaining,
may with thee acceptance find.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

NINTH STATION:

Jesus falls a third time

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Those who were my enemies without cause have hunted me like a bird; they flung me alive into a pit and hurled stones on me; water closed over my head; I said, "I am lost." I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit. Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

And like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, save us from all false pride and keep us from despair; that in strength or weakness, we may face the difficulties and challenges of our lives, seeking to serve you and to accomplish your will. We ask this for the sake of your love.

Amen.

**In the passion of my Maker,
be my sinful soul partaker,
may I bear with her my part;**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

TENTH STATION:

Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

They gave me gall to eat:

And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you stood before all the world, with no one beside you and nothing to protect you, exposed to ridicule and grievously wounded: make us strong in the face of suffering, strip from us all false pride and for your sake, who suffered such cruelty, make us abhor all injustice and violence. **Amen.**

**Of his passion bear the token,
in a spirit bowed and broken
bear his death within my heart.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

ELEVENTH STATION:

Jesus is nailed to the cross

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

They pierce my hands and my feet:

And have numbered all my bones.

Let us pray.

Bring us to stand close enough to your cross, O Lord, that we hear your voice, and in your promise of forgiveness and welcome, let us rest our hope for this life and for the life to come. **Amen.**

**May his wounds both wound and heal me,
he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me,
be his cross my hope and stay.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

TWELFTH STATION:

Jesus dies on the cross

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Kneel for silence and for the prayer that follows.

Christ for us became obedient unto death:

Even death on a cross.

Let us pray.

By your death, O Lord, we are given life; grant that we may receive this great gift with awe and humility, and let our lives be no longer our own, but yours, now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.

**May he, when the mountains quiver,
from that flame which burns for ever
shield me on the judgment day.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

THIRTEENTH STATION:

*The body of Jesus is placed
in the arms of his mother*

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can heal you?

Zion spreads forth her hands:

And there is none to comfort her.

Let us pray.

For the sake of your Blessed Mother, who was stricken with grief: be comfort and strength, Gracious Lord, to all who are bereaved; be light and hope to the dying and, by your own merits and through the prayers of all the saints, bring us all through life's sorrows to the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

**Jesus, may thy cross defend me,
and thy saving death befriend me,
cherished by thy deathless grace;**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

FOURTEENTH STATION:

Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave. You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me, my companions are in darkness.

You will not abandon me to the grave:

Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Let us pray.

Lord Christ, as your body was laid in a tomb, you descended into hell, to break its ancient doors and free those held in its grasp; Give to us, and all the faithful departed release from sin and the torment of separation from you, for you are mighty to save, now and forever. **Amen.**

**When to dust my dust returneth,
grant a soul that to thee yearneth
in thy paradise a place.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

168 *O sacred head, sore wounded*

- 1 O sacred head, sore wounded,
 defiled and put to scorn;
 O kingly head, surrounded
 with mocking crown of thorn:
 what sorrow mars thy grandeur?
 Can death thy bloom deflower?
 O countenance whose splendor
 the hosts of heaven adore!
- 2 Thy beauty, long-desirèd,
 hath vanished from our sight;
 thy power is all expirèd,
 and quenched the light of light.
 Ah me! for whom thou diest,
 hide not so far thy grace:
 show me, O Love most highest,
 the brightness of thy face.
- 3 In thy most bitter passion
 my heart to share doth cry,
 with thee for my salvation
 upon the cross to die.
 Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
 to stand thy cross beneath,
 to mourn thee, well-belovèd,
 yet thank thee for thy death.
- 4 What language shall I borrow
 to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this thy dying sorrow,
 thy pity without end?
 Oh, make me thine forever!
 and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never,
 outlive my love for thee.
- 5 My days are few, O fail not,
 with thine immortal power,
 to hold me that I quail not
 in death's most fearful hour;
 that I may fight befriended,
 and see in my last strife
 to me thine arms extended
 upon the cross of life.

Final Prayers Before the Altar

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of your tender love toward humankind, has sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May the glorious passion of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ bring us to the joys of paradise. **Amen.**

At the end of the service blow out the candle, reflecting Jesus' life departing from this world. Pay attention to the feeling of loss and darkness that come from extinguishing that flame. Recognize that Jesus now lies dead in the tomb, and we wait, and watch, and weep, along with the disciples and his Mother.

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 11, 2020



Materials needed

An empty bowl and an unlit candle

Take your empty bowl and place it before you. Reflect on how there is nothing in it. It is empty, vacant. Just as Christ's body lay empty and vacant of life in the tomb. And yet that bowl is ready to receive what is given to it just as Christ, and we ourselves, is ready to receive new life in the mystery of Easter. Place the unlit candle next to the bowl representing Jesus' extinguished life.

Pray this prayer:

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.*

Then read

Psalm 130

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.

For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

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.

Sit in silence and then read the Epistle

Epistle 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 account 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. **Thanks be to God**

Then read the Gospel for Holy Saturday

Gospel 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 that the tomb 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

After the Gospel pray the following Anthem "In the midst of life" which comes from the funeral office. In some ways today's reflection is a bit like taking part in a funeral for our Lord. Imagine those emotions of loss and grief.

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 service then concludes with the Lord's Prayer

Place an unlit candle in your bowl and leave it out for Sunday services...in anticipation of new life entering into the emptiness of Jesus' broken body.

Be sure to join us for Easter Services via YouTube or Facebook or your own bulletin-based observance at 10am Sunday.