

Holy Saturday Devotion
April 11, 2020



Hans Holbein the Younger, 1521

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Phone: (301) 345-5111 Email: myholycross@verizon.net
Website: www.myholycross.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossgreenbelt

Holy God, Holy and Immortal, Holy and Almighty
Have mercy upon us we pray.

He 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

For 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 a man who has no strength,

like one set loose among the dead,

like the slain that lie in the grave,

like those whom you remember no more,

for they are cut off from your hand.

You have put me in the depths of the pit,

in the regions dark and deep.

Prayer 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 lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

O strangest of all miracles, You, O Christ,

Who has given me life, is buried this day bay reft of breath.

You were laid in the tomb this day,

while armies of angels stood guard and were amazed.

All the assembly of Heaven was saddened to behold You, O Christ the Savior,
numbered among the dead, You Who raised Lazarus.

Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in the palm of His hand. **A stone covers him, Who covers the heavens with virtue.**

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

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

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray to God, Who alone makes us dwell in safety: For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

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

Amen.

Holy Saturday Prayer

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. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

"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. Amen."