

PRAYING SATURDAY of the SACRED TRIDUUM
Holy Saturday – The Vigil of Easter

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Let us pause and remember that we are
always and everywhere in God's holy presence.
Holy is God, holy and mighty, holy and living forever.

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The body of Jesus was taken from the cross and wrapped
in a linen shroud and laid in a rock-hewn tomb
where no one had ever yet been laid.

The women who had come from Galilee
followed and saw the tomb and how the body had been laid.
Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

Joseph of Arimathea laid the body in his own new tomb,
rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and departed.

REFLECTION:

When we call upon Christ the Redeemer, we join our efforts with his
intention to free humankind from the slavery of sin and the sin of slavery.
We pray in His name for the great gift of the liberty of the daughters and
sons of God. Christ is the Redeemer not only of souls and of separate
individuals; He is the Redeemer of the whole person and of the whole world.
He wants to restore our wholeness and liberty...

We can pray and act in the name of Christ the Redeemer when we are truly
freeing ourselves and are working not only for an individualized freedom
but for freedom for all, especially those most oppressed, most discriminated
against and outcast.

(Bernard Haring, *Prayer, the Integration of Faith and Life*)

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O death, I will be your death!
Hell, I will be your destruction!

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

The right hand of the Lord has struck with power;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted.

I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

Romans 6:3-11

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death? Through baptism into His death we were buried with Him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we too, might live a new life. If we have been united with Him through likeness to His death, so shall we be through a like resurrection.

This we know: our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him. We know that Christ once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over Him. His death was death to sin, once for all; His life is life for God. In the same way, you must consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive for God in Christ Jesus.



Lighting of candle

Blessed are You, Lord our God
Who raised up Jesus from the tomb
and has gathered us together.

As the Light of God overcame the darkness of death,
may this light be for us a sign of the flame of life
that burns within our hearts.

May the Light of Christ call us to Your eternal Easter feast.



Father, with great joy we come to this Easter Vigil
as we continue our remembrance of the suffering, death and resurrection
of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, as well as our own redemption.

We rejoice too,
in the resurrection of spring,
as birds, flowers and fields come alive
after the long sleep of winter.
Let us lift up our hearts to God in gratitude
for this holy time of joy of this Easter feast.
May we share the Joy of Life.

Litany

We thank You, Almighty God, for the gift of water which sustains, refreshes and cleanses all life. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

We thank You, Father, for the waters of Baptism in which we are buried with Christ in His death, and share in His resurrection. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

We thank You for Your Spirit sweeping over the waters bringing us light and life. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

We thank You, gracious God, for the waters of Baptism which wash us of our sins. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

We thank You, O Creator God, for those who are baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. You bring them into Your family, the Church. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

We thank You, Loving Father, for the gift of the Baptismal waters which fill us with grace and hope. Lord of life, renew Your creation.

Hymn

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are Mine,
I have called you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are Mine.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him;
He will bring you His light and His peace.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him;
He will bring you His joy and His hope.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him;
He will bring you His care and His love.

(Michael Joncas, 1979, New Dawn Music)

INTERCESSIONS:

Jesus, Son of God, come to set us free, lies bound in the earth.
All who hoped in Him await a new day, and so we pray: Christ deliver us.

Jesus, You died to set us free.

Give true freedom to those bound because of race, gender, creed
or way of life.

Jesus, death released You from the agony of the cross.

Be present to all who are ill; have pity on the elderly and the dying.

Jesus, You are the Source of new life.

Bless, guard and guide all of us and most especially,
those who will be received into the Church this evening.

Jesus, You are the God of Everlasting Promise.

Be with us as we journey to You. Keep us faithful.

Jesus, You died revealing God's love for us.

Enlighten those who have no love for themselves or others.

Let them grow in Your love.

Jesus, You are our Resurrection.

Make us Easter people and let Alleluia be our cry.

Let us pray:

O God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and call us once again to life in
the Resurrected Christ so that we may be one with Him in praising You.

Blessing

May the light of Christ surround us.

May the love of Christ enfold us.

May the power of Christ protect us.

May the presence of Christ watch over us.

May all the earth be ablaze with the glory of God.

May the Light come to burn away the darkness.

May the Light of Christ shine out through the darkness.

May the love of Christ burn ever in our hearts.



Through Baptism

we have become members of the Body of Christ.

Consider yourself honored

to suffer like Him and for Him.

Glory only in the cross of your Savior,

and conform your heart to the heart of Jesus.