

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
Saturday, April 4, 2026
Holy Saturday

Officiants: Amy Hunter and Lois Freeman

On this solemn day we begin and close with silence.

Officiant 1 When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death; so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. *Romans 6:3-4*

Officiant 2 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, whom the Lord hath afflicted. *Lamentations 1:12*

Officiant 1 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. *Collect for Holy Saturday*

Officiant 2 Grant O God, that we who are baptised into the death of your Son Jesus Christ, may continually die to sin and be buried with him, that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his sake, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for Holy Saturday, A New Zealand Prayer Book

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 *Said antiphonally breaking at the half verse*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame*

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *

make haste to deliver me.

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.

My times are in your hand; *

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Lessons

Officiant 1 **A Reading from the 1st Letter of Peter** *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.

Officiant 1 The Word of the Lord

Officiant 2 Thanks be to God

Anthem "In the midst of life" *Said antiphonally*

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.

Officiant 2 **A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

John 19:38-42

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 laid Jesus there.

Officiant 2 The Word of the Lord

Officiant 1 Thanks be to God

The Prayers

Officiant 2 The Lord be with you.

Officiant 1 And also with you.

Officiant 2 Let us pray.

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.

Officiant 1 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.

2 Corinthians 13:14

The congregation leaves in silence.