

The Episcopal Church *of the* Transfiguration

Holy Saturday
April 4, 2026
12:00 pm



The Mission of Church of the Transfiguration
is to be a Christian community;
accepting and inviting all persons to share in worship,
witness and service; as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.

What's So Special about Holy Saturday?

Egeria, the 4th-century nun who wrote about her pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, didn't report on a service on Holy Saturday. Given the marathon services that had taken place starting on Palm Sunday, and that everyone was in a two-day fast in preparation for the Easter Vigil, it's not surprising that there wasn't a service. Only two ancient liturgies, one from 7th century France and the other from 8th century Milan, have a service. Both used readings from Genesis about the Flood, and the account of Jesus' burial from Matthew. Both also included elements from the burial rites of the Church.

In continuation with these medieval services, the Anglican Communion is one of the very few Christian denominations that has a Holy Saturday service. In the first Book of Common Prayer (1549), the second reading was from 1 Peter 3:17-22 in which Jesus goes to the place of the dead to share the good news of the Gospel with those who died in the Flood. Jesus' descent to the dead (part of the Apostles' Creed), often referred to as the Harrowing of Hell, is also in view in the reading that we use in our service (1 Peter 4:1-8). Our 1979 BCP restored the name of the day to "Holy Saturday" and uses the Sarum (Salisbury) tradition of reading the burial account from John's gospel. Then, using part of our Rite II burial liturgy, we remember Jesus' burial and, by doing so, connect our burial liturgy with this day in Holy Week.

This service is an invitation, according to the Collect, to wait with Jesus on this holy Sabbath (day of rest from work) for his resurrection from the dead.

~ Sister Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard, AF

Ministers of Worship

Officiant: Sr. Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard, AF

Voice 1: Doug Reinhard

Voice 2: Sandy Rafferty

Voice 3: Carole Conners

People: Jefferey Spivey

All participants are invited to pray the voice of the People (**bold italics**) while muted.

GATHERING

Please join the service a few minutes before it is scheduled to begin. Please note that you will enter with your video off and your microphone muted. Unless you are a reader, please keep your microphone muted.

ENTRANCE

At noon, the service begins with the host sharing screen with appropriate art and an invitation to holy silence.

Officiant Let us enter now into a time of silence.

After a time of silent prayer, the Officiant says

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

1 A Reading from the Book of Job

14:1-14

Job said, "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?

No one 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, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.
Oh that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Officiant As the assigned readers read the Psalm, all are invited to read along with their microphones muted.

Psalm 31:1-5

- 1** In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2** Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3** 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.
- 1** Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 2** Into your hands I commend my spirit, *

for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, of God of truth.

2 A Reading from the First Letter of 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People *Thanks be to God.*

3 A Reading from the Gospel of 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE FUNERAL ANTHEM:

The funeral anthem "In the midst of life" is used in place of the Prayers of the People. (BCP, pg 492)

Officiant Please unmute your microphones and join in the responses as you are able.

- 1 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.

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

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

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

- 3 O worthy and eternal Judge,
do not let the pains of death
turn us away from you at our last hour.

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

The service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.

All pray together, with only the assigned voices unmuted. Everyone else prays aloud with their microphones muted.

Officiant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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.**

THE GRACE

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People **Amen.**

*No blessing or dismissal is added.
Please depart the digital space in silence in keeping with the solemnity of the day.*

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