**Holy Saturday**

**The Collect**

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 and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

**Old Testament**

**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, 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;

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.”

**The Word of the Lord**

*Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 130**

Out of the depths have I called to, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice;\*

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,\*

O, Lord, who can stand?

For there is forgiveness with you;\*

therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;\*

in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the watchman for the morning,\*

more than the watchman 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.

**The Epistle**

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**The Gospel**

**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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*

**Homily**

**Anthem In the Midst of life**

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 Lord’s Prayer (the New Zealand Prayer Book)**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your kingdom of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From the trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen

**The Grace**

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