

St James's Church, Piccadilly

EVENING PRAYERS FOR HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday 3rd April 2021 at 6.30pm

LIVE ON YOUTUBE FROM ST JAMES'S CHURCH

This is a service to mark the setting of the sun and the fading of the light. Sunset marked the end of the day (and on Easter Eve, the end of the Sabbath) for the disciples who followed Jesus and saw him crucified.

PREPARATION

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Lead your people to freedom, O God.

And banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

As our evening prayer rises before you,

O God,

so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise now and for ever.

Amen.

Silence.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

(taken from Holding the Silence at Midday)

Spirit of Wisdom,
take from us all fuss,
the clattering of noise,
the temptation to dominate by the power
of words, the craving for certainty.

Lead us through the narrow gate of not knowing,
that we may listen and obey,
and come to a place of silence and stillness,
of true conversation and wisdom.

Amen.

Silence.

PSALM 62

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
from God comes my salvation.

*God alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.*

How long will you assail me to crush me,
all of you together, * as if you were a
leaning fence, a toppling wall?

*They seek only to bring me down from my
place of honour; * lies are their chief
delight. They bless with their lips, *
but in their hearts they curse.*

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, my hope is in God.

*God alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be
shaken.*

In God is my safety and my honour, *
my strong rock and my refuge.

*Put your trust in God always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before the One who is
your refuge.*

Those of high degree are but a fleeting
breath, * even those of low estate cannot
be trusted. On the scales they are lighter
than a breath, * all of them together.

*Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no
empty pride; * though wealth increase,
set not your heart upon it.*

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
* that power belongs to God.

*Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, * for you
repay all according to their deeds.*

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal
Word and Holy Spirit. As it was in the
beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Silence.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Job 19.21-27

read by John Russell

Have pity on me, have pity on me,
O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?

‘O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the
earth; and after my skin has been thus

destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

RESPONSORY

To you O Lord I lift up my soul.

O my God in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation.

To you O Lord I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God in you I trust.

Remember Lord your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

To you O Lord I lift up my soul.

O my God in you I trust.

Silence.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 15.42-16.1

read by Chris Davies

When the evening had come, and since it
was the day of Preparation, that is, the day
before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea,
a respected member of the council, who
was also himself waiting expectantly for
the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate
and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already
dead; and summoning the centurion, he
asked him whether he had been dead for
some time. When he learned from the
centurion that he was dead, he granted the
body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a
linen cloth, and taking down the body,
wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a
tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.
He then rolled a stone against the door of
the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the

mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

Silence.

O God,
you have searched the depths we cannot know,
and touched what we cannot bear to name:
may we so wait, enclosed in your darkness,
that we are ready to encounter the terror of the dawn, with Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CANTICLE

THE MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.*

From this day all generations will call me blessed; *the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him, *from generation to generation.*

He has shown strength with his arm *and has scattered the proud in their conceit,*

Casting down the mighty from their thrones *and lifting up the lowly.*

He has filled the hungry with good things *and sent the rich away empty.*

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, *to remember his promise of mercy,*

The promise made to our ancestors, *to Abraham and his children for ever.*

Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR HOLY SATURDAY

Mother God,
you have always given bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor, today I believe.

Almighty God,
you have always given strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

Calming God,
you have always given peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart, today I believe.

Steadfast God,
you have always kept me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Companion God,
you have always marked the road for the coming day; and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Holy God,
you have always illuminated this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here, today I believe.

God of stillness,
you have always spoken when time was ripe;

and though you be silent now, today I believe.

Silence.

**Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.**

**From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;**

**Tread under foot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

*Please pray for the world, for the church,
for all who suffer, especially those who
grieve.*

*Please pray for those you love, remember
those you miss, and pray for yourselves.*

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours
of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this
fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal
changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those

who sleep.

Tend the sick,
give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake,
O Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.
**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me,
Lord God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

Glory to God, Source of all Being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
**Hide me under the shadow of your
wings.**

Silence.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

We remember, O God, the grief of the
disciples when Jesus died.
Lead us beyond our fear of death to the
joyful knowledge of eternal life in the One
who lives forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we wait for the new dawn, let us pray to
God in the words that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Silence.

FINAL PRAYER

God, bless us this night
and keep us from all harm.
Be with us as we wait, and bring us to life
in the kingdom of Heaven.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.