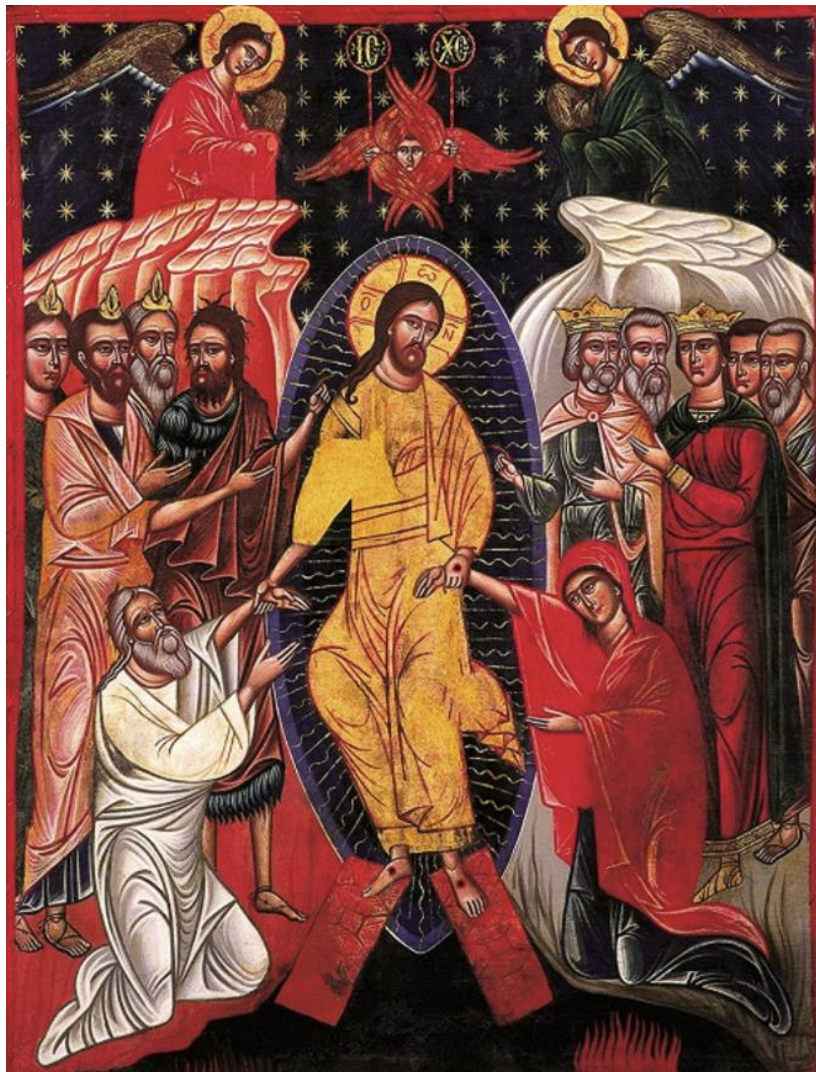




**ST. THOMAS**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,  
declare Christ's Mission for us:  
to grow as a Church  
in the spiritual strength  
of community,  
and to care, reach out,  
and include all people in Christ's love.

## Holy Saturday



9:00 AM

March 30, 2024

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

A reading from Lamentations [3:1-9, 19-24]:

I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago. He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has locked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked. The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 130** (*We will pray Psalm 130 responsively, by half verse.*)

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; \*  
**let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
**O LORD, who could stand?**
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
**therefore you shall be feared.**
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
**in his word is my hope.**
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
**more than watchmen for the morning.**
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
**for with the LORD there is mercy;**

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
**and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

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 Judeans, 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 Judeans. 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.**

### Reflection

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

### Anthems

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for strength,  
but You, O Lord, who for our sins are justly displeased?

**Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty,  
O holy and most merciful Savior,  
deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.**

You know, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;  
Do not close your ears to our prayers;  
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

**O holy and merciful Savior, Judge eternal,  
Do not let us, at our last hour, through the pain of death, fall away from you.**

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

**He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead  
will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

**You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. 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. [*2 Corinthians 13:14*]

**Amen.**