

Journeying with Jesus in Holy Week
Black Saturday & Easter Eve ~ 11th April 2020

Job 14:1-14, Psalm 31:1-5, 1 Peter 4:1-8, Matthew 27: 57-end

St George's Prayer

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more; may we feel your love and care through each other; may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

SATURDAY DAYTIME: BLACK SATURDAY

Today is the Saturday of Holy Week – it is a strange day – a day of absence. It is also called **Holy Saturday**. Some people even call it Joyous Saturday, Hallelujah Saturday, Glorious Saturday, the Saturday of Light.

Some of these titles seem opposites. In reality it depends whether we are looking at it as it was for those who accompanied Jesus and who must have had a sense of enormous loss and a great absence. Scripture tells us that as it was the Sabbath the disciples 'rested' and were faithful even in the midst of difficulty – a challenge to us in this very unusual Holy Week.

However, we can also view the day looking back from the other side of the Resurrection and know that Christ was working his victory and that his resurrection led to the great cry of the early church *Christus Victor!* What a glorious message.

Today as we reflect on absence, here are some suggestions to aid us in our meditations:

It was on Saturday that our Lord laid in the tomb. We are invited to gather as the disciples did in despair, yet for us, with the knowledge of our Lord's resurrection on the third day. Here are two prayers to reflect on today (slightly edited):

1. Ambrose 4th century AD

Merciful Lord, the Comforter and Teacher of your faithful people,
increase in your Church the desire which you have given,
and confirm the hearts of those who hope in you
by enabling them to understand the depth of your promises;
that all your adopted sons and daughters
may even now behold with the eyes of faith, and patiently wait for,
the light which as yet you do not openly reveal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th century AD

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery;
and by the peaceful operation of your providence,
carry out the work of our salvation.
And let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin;
even through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING: EASTER EVE

Normally tonight, Deborah, myself and some others from St George’s make our way to the church in Plaza Bonanova to welcome in Easter with the blessing of light as we all hold candles lit by the fire of Easter. Here are some thoughts to aid us in our Easter Eve reflections. *Light a Candle*

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, eternal Creator of day and night, to you be glory and praise for ever! Now, in this night, hear the prayer of your faithful people. As we look for your coming in glory, wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire and make us temples of your Holy Spirit. By the light of Christ, dispel the darkness of our hearts and make us ready to enter your kingdom, where songs of praise for ever sound, Blessed be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

O gladdening light, of the holy glory of the immortal Father heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ, we see the evening light and we give praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worthy are you at all times to be worshipped with holy voices, O Son of God and giver of life: therefore all the world glorifies you.

Verses from Psalm 141 may be said and incense may be burned.

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

All

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

All

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

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.**

The Word of God

God of glory, you nourish us with your word which is the bread of life. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Some readings may be: Philippians 2: 5-11 and Colossians 1: 15-20.

Kindle in our hearts, O God, the flame of that love which never ceases, that it may burn in us, giving light to others.

May we shine for ever in your temple, set on fire with your eternal light, even your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Redeemer. *Columba (521-597)*

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us with every spiritual gift as we wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. All **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

