

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Holy Saturday Family Devotion in Absence

***Holy Saturday - April 11, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 881 “Christ, Mighty Savior”*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

PSALMODY *Psalm 88:1, 3, 6-7, 9b*

My soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
O LORD, God of my salvation;
I cry out day and night before you.
You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
Every day I call upon you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
My soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Daniel 6:1-24*

¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom;
² and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.” ⁶ Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the high officials of the

kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³ Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” ¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” ¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. (ESV)

EPISTLE 1 Peter 3:17-22

¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 27:57-66*

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 543 “What Wondrous Love Is This”*

SERMON

The first Sabbath rest was on the seventh day at the beginning of time. God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them for six days; and on the seventh day he rested from all the work he had done. So, God blessed the seventh day, the Sabbath day, and made it holy. The Lord then blessed his people in the Old Testament with Sabbath rest on the seventh day. For six days they labored; but on the seventh day they rested and shared in the Lord’s rest. As God’s people, they worked together with the Lord for six days, doing their part in the ongoing work of sustaining and perpetuating God’s creation. We do the same.

But our works are imperfect and sinful. Since our first parents fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, our works are tainted with sin. We are full of sin ... sin that separates us from God and from each other ... sin that turns us in on ourselves and away from God and others. Because of our inherited sin, we are not capable – in our sin and unbelief – of doing any truly good work that is pleasing to God. All of our labors that are done in sin and unbelief cannot ever fulfill God’s law and will. And it is for that reason that Christ came to work and labor for us.

Christ fulfilled God’s law by perfectly loving God and loving his fellow human beings, loving us. God so *loved* the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, and the Son willingly lived and worked and labored in our place – loved us – to pay for our sins and fulfill God’s holy law for us. This payment – this atonement – was accomplished during holy week in six days when Christ worked and labored to make a new creation. By his suffering and death on the cross, he redeemed us for God. He worked harder than anyone ever had or ever will to please God and fulfill the divine law; and after giving his life for you and for me, he rested on the Sabbath day.

There is a Sabbath rest that remains for the people of God, for you and for me. Even though Christ fulfilled the Sabbath law of the Ten Commandments and there is now no regulation for Christians to rest on Saturday, we still share in God’s rest. We rest from our labors not only on one day of the week, but any time that we receive God’s Word and Sacraments. For most Christians, this is usually on Sunday – the day of the resurrection – but we have Sabbath rest in Christ any time when he works in us through the gospel. His Word makes us into new creations in Christ, not only to rest, but to work and love and fulfill God’s law and will by giving of ourselves and all that we are and have for the sake of God and his Kingdom, and for the sake of

the needs of our fellow human beings. As Christian people, even when we work physically, we have God's peace in Christ and rest in our souls. Everyday of life in this world and in our blessed Christian death, we rest with and in Christ in the sure and certain hope of our own resurrection in our own bodies on the Last Day. Dear friends in Christ, be at peace and rest in your souls, for you have forgiveness and eternal life from the Holy Father, in the Holy Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *LSB 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"*

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