

† Holy Saturday †



**“Secure the Grave”
Matthew 27:57-66**

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠
“Deeper Discipleship & Closer Communion with Jesus”
Saint Luke’s Lutheran Church | April 11, 2020

Invocation

We gather in sadness as we remember our Lord Jesus who was betrayed, abandoned, denied, beaten, mocked, crucified, and buried. Yet we gather in hope that even in the face of death our Creator is with us and will win the day. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ✠ **Amen.**

Holy Saturday Litany

Death surrounds us and always seems to have the last word,
✠ **but we trust you, O Creator, to speak your final word of life.**
When all seems lost we continue to look to you,
✠ **we trust that your planted seeds will come to life.**
We keep our hope in the face of death,
✠ **we will patiently wait on you, O Lord, forever.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Even though Jesus was killed by the authorities of Civilization, we light the Christ Candle. We trust that our Creator is the God of the living and that there is still life through him even when it seems that death has won.

Song ✠ *LSB 878 “Abide With Me”*

- ♪ *Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. ♪*
- ♪ *I need your presence ev’ry passing hour. What but your grace can foil the tempter’s power? Who like yourself, my guide and strength can be? Through good and evil, Lord, abide with me. ♪*
- ♪ *Swift to its close now comes life’s little day. The world’s joys fade, its pleasures pass away. Death and decay in all around I see—oh Lord who never dies, abide with me. ♪*
- ♪ *I fear no foe with you at hand to bless. Though ills have weight and tears their bitterness. Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, your victory? I rise anew if you abide with me. ♪*
- ♪ *Hold now your cross before my closing eyes. Grow me through loss and help me to arise. New life breaks through as death is forced to flee. In life, in death, oh Lord, abide with me. ♪*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, give us hope in the midst of darkness, help us look to you even when it seems that all is lost and when our world arrogantly believes it has defeated you. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

† The Word of God †

Psalm ✕ Psalm 31

In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge,

✕ **so rescue me with your justice.**

Incline your ear to me

✕ **and be my stronghold of strength.**

You are my rock and my fortress,

✕ **you lead and guide me.**

You will pull me out of the net

✕ **in which I have been caught.**

Into your hands I commit my spirit,

✕ **for you will save me, O Lord.**

Be gracious to me, for I am in distress

✕ **and my life is wasted away from grief.**

I have become an outcast

✕ **to even my neighbors and friends.**

I have heard the slander of many,

✕ **as they scheme to take away my life.**

But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord,

✕ **I say, “You are my God.”**

My life is in your hands,

✕ **rescue me from the hand of my enemies.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant,

✕ **save me in your lovingkindness.**

Law & Prophets ✕ Genesis 6:5—8:22

The reading comes from Genesis 6. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of the Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(silence for prayer/reflection)

Law & Prophets ✕ Exodus 14:5-31

The reading comes from Exodus 14. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of the Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(silence for prayer/reflection)

Epistle ✕ Romans 6:3-13

The reading comes from Romans 6. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of the Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(silence for prayer/reflection)

Epistle ✕ 1 Peter 3:18—4:19

The reading comes from 1 Peter 3. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of the Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(silence for prayer/reflection)

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 27:57-66

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it; if you want to save your life, let it go. Take up your cross, deny yourself. Come, follow me, follow me.* ♪ (tune: GC2 688)

The holy Gospel comes from Matt 27. ✕ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**
This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✕ **We will trust and obey.**

Message

(silence for prayer/reflection)

Song ✕ *LSB 752 "Be Still, My Soul"*

♪ *Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to your God to order and provide. In ev'ry change he faithful will remain. Be still, my soul, your loving, heav'nly friend, through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.* ♪

♪ *Be still, my soul, your God does undertake to guide the future as he has the past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake. All now mysterious will be clear at last. Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know his voice who rules them as he dwells below.* ♪

♪ *Be still, my soul, when dearest friends depart, and all is darkened in the veil of tears. Then you will better know his love, his heart. He comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul, your Jesus can repay from his own fullness all he takes away.* ♪

♪ *Be still, my soul, the hour has now come here, for we are now forever with the Lord. We are no longer ruled by grief or fear, in the midst of sorrow we are restored. Be still, my soul, your time alone is past, the Lord has come to dwell with us at last.* ♪

Holy Saturday Prayer

Father, bring light where there is darkness.

✕ **Bring life where there is death.**

Bring justice where there is injustice.

✕ **Bring relief where there is suffering.**

Bring joy where there is mourning.

✕ **Bring provision where there is poverty.**

Bring freedom where there is captivity.

✕ **Bring hope where there is despair.**

Father, we do not yet behold the fullness of your Kingdom with our eyes,

✕ **but we trust that you will come through and will not abandon us. Amen.**

† Baptism †

As we reflect on the death of Jesus we renew our own Baptism journey of taking up our own cross and following in Jesus's footsteps.

Baptism Remembrance

Our heavenly Father makes us his children through Baptism as puts to death Civilization's Way of control within us and then raises us to Jesus's Way of faithful obedience. As we are Baptized into our Lord Jesus, we join his story and our whole lives, in body and spirit, become committed to reflecting his image into the world.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you cleansed and saved your creation through the waters of the flood. You cleansed and saved your people through the waters of the Red Sea. Now you cleanse and save your creation and your people through the waters of Baptism into Jesus. Father may the power of your Holy Spirit come down through your Son, Jesus, to bless this water, so that all who have died with Jesus in Baptism may rise again to life with him. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

Today we remember our Baptism into the death of Jesus by reaffirming our commitment to walk in new life with him:

- Do you renounce being a child of Civilization and its satanic way of control? ✠ **Yes.**
- Do you trust our heavenly Father, who is the Creator of all things, and his declaration that you are his child and that he will be with you, protect you, and provide for you in every way? ✠ **Yes.**
- Do you pledge your allegiance to his Son, Jesus, alone by promising to listen to and follow his word as the only guide for your life? ✠ **Yes.**
- Do you promise to nurture the Holy Spirit's work of guiding you, challenging you, and transforming you into the image of Jesus? ✠ **Yes.**
- Do you promise to practice and live the faith of Jesus by daily listening to his word, confessing your sins, letting go of your addictions, and following his Way? ✠ **Yes.**
- Do you promise to practice and live the faith of Jesus by daily worshiping him, sharing everything with his community, caring for each other, and inviting others into his Way? ✠ **Yes.**

All the Baptized are invited forward to receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads as a reminder of Jesus's calling upon their lives through Baptism.

"You have died in Baptism to rise to a new life of following Jesus."

Baptism ✠ Immanuela Shalome Kammrath

Today we also witness the beginning of the lifelong journey of Baptism for a new child of God. Immanuela will enter the waters to die to the brokenness of human arrogance in the hope that she will rise to new life in Jesus. Through this, Immanuela is being claimed by God as she joins our community that is

centered around listening to and obeying the word of Jesus.

As the community of Jesus that is responsible for raising Immanuela in the faith of Jesus, I ask you to soberly commit to this task before God and men.

- Do you promise to train Immanuela in the Way of Jesus through your words and example? **Yes.**
- Do you promise to faithfully point Immanuela to Jesus in all things, even above your own interests, plans, and agendas? **Yes.**
- Do you promise to correct Immanuela when she wanders from Jesus and then fully forgive her when she repents? **Yes.**
- Do you promise to support Immanuela in body and soul by helping bear her burdens and care for her needs? **Yes.**

Immanuela Shalome, I baptize you in the name of the Father, who transforms your mind and heart to focus on him alone. In the name of the Son, who transforms your feet to follow him alone. And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who transforms your hands to love all of the Creator's creation.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we ask you to fulfill your promises to Immanuela as you daily kill the arrogant Way of Civilization within her and raise her as a new creation in Jesus. Walk with her on her lifelong Baptismal journey, providing her with all she needs and protecting her from everything that may try to pull her away from you. Strengthen all of us as we walk alongside her and guide her in following Jesus, so that we may all experience new life today as well as bodily resurrection on the last day. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

We now light this candle as a symbol of the light of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is at work within Immanuela. May we nurture this tiny flame within her and keep it from being extinguished by daily feeding and nourishing her with the word of Jesus.

Let us welcome Immanuela into the communion of Jesus. **Immanuela we welcome you into our communion and family as our sister in Christ.**

Song ✻ *GC2 527 "Canticle of the Turning"*

♪ Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me. And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight. Could the world be about to turn? ♪

REFRAIN: ♪ My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn. ♪

♪ From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. ♪
(REFRAIN)

♪ Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. ♪
(REFRAIN)

Closing Prayer

Let us pray. Father, comfort us as we mourn the brokenness, violence, and hatred in our world. Shine your light upon us in the midst of this darkness. Show us your presence even when it seems that all is lost. Strengthen our trust in you as we daily die to the selfish ways of the world and rise to a new life of following Jesus. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

Exit in Silence

We return tomorrow morning as the journey of Jesus reaches its climax . . .