

THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 2, 2023



Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606
www.ststanserie.org
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM
*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

2220 Reed Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.456.0671
www.holytrinityrc.org
email: parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM
*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

What's your car? Let's say it's a fancy silver Toyota. Now imagine you're having lunch in a restaurant and suddenly see two men outside attempting to steal it. You run outside and confront them. They respond, "The master has need of it." How do you respond? Would you just let them take it, and leave you without a car? I don't think I would.

Yet that is precisely what the owners of the colt on Palm Sunday do. Stunningly, and perhaps a little comically, Jesus instructs two of his disciples to commandeer a colt for him to ride. And when they hear the disciples say, "The master has need of it," they let them take it. Of course, Jesus knew they'd let it go. He gave them the grace to let go of what is rightfully theirs. The result? That colt became perhaps the most famous and important animal ever. The beast plays a role in the redemption of the world.

As Holy Week begins, Jesus perhaps will send people to you to ask for something valuable to you. Perhaps it's your car. More likely it's something like your attention, time, or energy. It's natural to resist at first. We've got things to do, after all. But if the interruption is from Jesus himself, listen to that voice which calmly says, "The master has need of it." And simply let it go. You'll be amazed what the master will do with it.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the week of April 2, 2023

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15-17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31-34/Mt 26:14-25

Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-14/Ps 116:12-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:6, 12-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday: Easter Vigil: See *Breaking Bread*

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-23/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.



*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity
Partners in Faith & Mission*

“PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN” MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

“PRAYERLINE” MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452.3395) from St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at Holy Trinity.

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, music minister, or usher/greeter, please let one of your priests know.

“PRAYER SHAWL” MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Sue (450-2987).

THE “ZABAWA COMMITTEE”

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray (882-1032).

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

“PRAYER CANDLE” MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church’s left over bee’s wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: New Registration Change of Address Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Apr. 3rd - Private Intention
 Tues., Apr. 4th - Carl Frances & Charles Trochowski (Family)
 Wed., Apr. 5th - Martin Stella & Florence Radomski (Family)
 Thurs., Apr. 6th - Holy Thursday Mass at Holy Trinity (6:00PM)
 Fri., Apr. 7th - Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity (2:00PM)
 Sat., Apr. 8th, 8:30PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Apr. 9th, 9:00AM - Joan & John Oldenski (Shirley Widomski)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **HELEN & EDWARD MACIEJEWSKI**, as gifted by the Family.



Easter is only a week away, and churches everywhere in the West are beginning the holiest of weeks. For a moment, even the secular world will bow to religious observances: closings on Good Friday, Easter baskets filled with treats, and television specials featuring Biblical figures. You and I will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we have died and risen with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we have prepared well for this Holy Week observance, or we are left lamenting that maybe next year will be when we get back on track. The question before us is: "To whom are we accountable?" Did our Lenten observance only have to do with us? Does it matter to anyone if we really took this time seriously or not? Both faith and community are gifts from God to us. The Church exists so we may live out that faith and respond to God's call, being strengthened by the grace imparted through the sacraments and the community in which we find ourselves. If we are accountable to no one, then the community is simply an option on a Sunday morning, much like golf or household chores. If we are not accountable to God, then our faith is simply something we look to periodically when we are sad or frightened. However, if we are accountable to each other and to Jesus Christ, then we must answer for our stewardship gifts of faith and community. The Body of Christ is counting on us. Without a strong sense of accountability, we think our actions only affect us. In the end, we are connected to each other through Christ in such a manner that no one ever stands alone.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Julie Aleksandrowicz on March 17th. Please keep Julie and her family and friend in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

CSA UPDATE

It has been about a month since we kicked off the 2023 CSA annual campaign. To date, we have \$20,450 pledges from only 50 families, \$16,4350 of which has already been paid! Thank you for your generosity! Our goal this year is \$23,269. If you have not yet pledged or contributed, please consider doing so. Remember: no amount is too small. Again, many thanks for those who have already demonstrated your generosity!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SPRING FLING 2023

The Holy Name Society will be hosting their traditional Spring Fling on Saturday, April 15th, from 4:00-8:00PM, in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$25 and admits 2 people. Only 150 tickets will be sold. See any Holy Name Member for tickets, or contact the Parish Office. There will be one \$1,200 winner; one \$300 winner; four \$100 winners; and twelve \$50 winners. Food and refreshments will be served. Come join us and bring a friend!

WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society will meet on Sunday, April 2, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The cruel death of Jesus tells us bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also tells us God is present during the suffering. Bad things happen but God does not abandon us.

APRIL LOTTERY

The Holy Name Society has raffle tickets available for the April lottery. Tickets are only \$5 each and gives the buyer 30 chances to win during the month of April, one chance each day of the month. Tickets are available in the back of the church, from any Holy Name member, in the sacristy, or in the Parish Office.

HOLY WEEK 2023

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 26TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$162,084.00
Amount Received	\$1,899.00	\$93,638.00
Net over/under	(\$2,257.00)	(\$68,446.00)

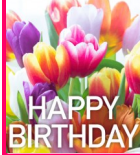
Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 58; 9:00AM = 58
 Envelopes: 48/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week for the **PARISHIONERS OF HOLY TRINITY & ST. STAN'S.**



4/6 - Alice Koziel
 4/8 - Michelle Wiley
 4/9 - Lindsey Korytowski
 4/10 - Debbie Smith

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Apr. 3rd - Chrism Mass at the Cathedral (1:00PM)
 Tues., Apr. 4th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
 Wed., Apr. 5th - For All Deceased Mothers
 Thurs., Apr. 6th - Holy Thursday Mass (6:00PM)
 Fri., Apr. 7th - Good Friday Service (2:00PM)
 Sat., Apr. 8th - Easter Vigil at St. Stanislaus (8:30PM)
 Sun., Apr. 9th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

We begin this Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. It is fitting that during this week we intensely focus our minds and hearts on the steps of our Savior as He laid down His very life for us. But let us also examine the seemingly small acts of stewardship by some who encountered Jesus during this most eventful week. One occurred when Jesus gave instructions about the room where He would celebrate the Passover. Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him..." "In your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." While we do not know this man's name, we do know he agreed to this request — he shared the material gift of his home and the gift of hospitality. Because of his good stewardship, his own home became the site of the institution of the Eucharist! There was also Simon the Cyrenian, who offered the gift of his physical strength, helping the Lord to carry His Cross. Consider, too, the actions of Joseph of Arimathea — he generously shared a material gift of the tomb that was his, and he gave the gift of service to our Lord by giving Him a proper burial. Then there were the "two Mary's" who gave Jesus the gift of their time. Keeping watch in tender vigil after His death, they "remained sitting there, facing the tomb." Each of these were simple acts of good stewardship, yet God used them in mighty ways. God invites each of us, too, to cooperate with Him in small ways through the sharing of our time, talent, and material gifts. Small gifts can become mighty deeds when placed in God's service.

CSA UPDATE

We are happy to report that as of March 20th, we have received \$19,002.00 in pledges, of which \$14,712.00 has been received with \$4,555.00 due. 45 parishioner families have pledged to the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal. Our parish share to the Diocese is: \$12,909. As of March 20th, \$6,291.00 will remain at Holy Trinity.

We will be sending follow-up letters to those families we have not heard from yet. Our thanks to our parishioners for their financial support for the work and mission of the Church.

USHERS' MEETING

Holy Trinity Ushers Meeting Tuesday, April 4th, at 7:00PM in the Gathering Place with a report on the annual breakfast and plans for the upcoming Pre-election Gathering on Sunday, May 14th. Members are encouraged to attend.

HOLY WEEK 2023

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 26, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,059.00 (33/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$149,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$88,800.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,059.00	\$86,036.00
Net (over/under):	(\$341.00)	\$2,764.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 34; 10:30AM = 48

Palm Sunday!

E E I L O T K L J D B F B X P W O
 X T S Z A C H Q G Y R C T J V N F
 E H I W F L B W I Z A M O U N T P
 S T A P Q O Y I Z V N Y D G D V S
 X L W F H A R V S H C Z W O P M T
 E Q G K T K Y I E M H Z N L T F B
 Z Q M C H S X L O F E M J I C L J
 C H C R O W D L T C S Y S V K O L
 O A L A T H T A X X G G O E X L A
 L W N C B V O G X V H Z N S A F B
 T K J E S U S E B L E S S I N G F
 X J T C P X A V O P R O P H E T D
 Y L F A H O S A N N A C L N J Y K
 E K R A P A L M S T S L P Y Q P G
 A Z A O I F U Y P M N I J B E M N
 V J W D O N K E Y A Y D K H X O Z
 W A F S Q K L U W R U Z P O U N V

Jesus	Palms	Crowd	Village
Prophet	Blessing	Son	Hosanna
Branches	Cloaks	Colt	Donkey
Olives	Mount		



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

- Matthew 21:9

News for Our Partnership

TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday

6:00PM @ Holy Trinity

Good Friday

2:00PM @ Holy Trinity

Blessing of Baskets

2:00PM @ both Holy Trinity & St. Stanislaus

Easter Vigil

8:30PM @ St. Stanislaus

Easter Morning

9:00AM @ St. Stanislaus

10:30AM @ Holy Trinity

Lent has been a season of renewal and reform. The church and each one of us in its continuous need of renewal and reform in preparation for the celebration of the high holy days of the Easter triduum: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Easter Sunday. Each year we re-enter the sacred actions of our Savior and walk with him, not just in present time but in the eternal time of sacramental mystery, which some authors have labeled as the "eternal now."

When we celebrate sacraments and liturgies of the church we are not just saying pious words and performing liturgical actions; we are immersed in the very mystery of those events which happened to Jesus and which we re-enter liturgically in a special way during these days. What a unique privilege to be that close to our Savior as he walks the road of suffering for our sake and the sake of the whole world.

If it has been awhile since you have gone to Holy Week services, I encourage you to take the opportunity this year. Give yourself and your family a real experience of walking with Jesus in this way. To everyone, we wish the very best for a wonderful celebration at Easter Sunday Mass and a terrific time gathered with family and friends to remember the most important things in this passing life. Life is a gift; no one has the right to the next day or even the next breath. Give God his due by praying every day, attending Mass every Sunday, living a good and upright moral life, doing good and avoiding evil, putting first things first: God, family, work, parish and community. Let us be grateful to Christ who has made all things possible, especially the gift of eternal life to those who accept him and follow him. Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia!

SOUP & BREADS DINNER

The evening will begin at 5:30PM with Stations of the Cross with dinner to follow. A brief presentation on the various aspects of the Liturgy will be offered by Fr. Jason. Our final gathering of the season will be:

Wednesday, April 5th @ St. Stan's

FISH & PIEROGI DINNER

The final Lenten Fish & Pierogi Dinner will take place on Friday, April 7th, from the end of Good Friday Services until 7:00PM at Holy Trinity. As it is Good Friday, all dinners will be "take-out" only. Thanks for your support!

RECIPE BOOK

If you recall, prior to the pandemic, we were collecting recipes to organize and publish a recipe book. Unfortunately, then the pandemic hit, that project was stalled. We now have a small committee together to resume that work. If you have recipes that you are willing to share, please place them in the collection basket, drop them off at the parish office, or give them to Michelle Wiley or Fr. Jason. We hope to have the book published by the fall. Thank you!

CARD PARTY

The Saint Mark Seminary Auxiliary is hosting its annual card party on Thursday, April 20th, starting at 6:00PM; doors open at 5:00PM. The event will take place in the seminary's gymnasium (429 East Grandview Blvd.). The evening includes Grand Prizes, Gift Auction, Money & Lottery Trees, and more. A light meal will also be served. For more information, and for reservations, contact Betsy (814-504-2720). Reservations required by April 10th.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

4/3) Jeannie McGinley, Judy Tucceri, & Jackie Vargo; 4/4) Patty & Ed Czulewicz, & Marie Przepierski;
4/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 4/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw; 4/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky;
4/8) Steve Rimpa, Stephanie & Bill Wycech, & Charlie & Charlene Schroeck; 4/9) Edie Luniewski & Rose Marie Radomski;
4/10) Elizabeth Dalton & Eleanor Walker

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

4/3) Msgr. Bob Brugger; 4/4) Fr. Matt Ruyechan; 4/5) Msgr. Gerry Koos; 4/6) All Vocations;
4/7) All Deceased Priests of the Diocese of Erie; 4/8) Bishop Persico;
4/9) For All Priests of the Diocese of Erie; Fr. Ben Dagher

Sunday, Apr 02, 2023

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Matthew 21:1-11; Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
"...not as I will, but as you will."

Duty calls

Catherine de Hueck Doherty founded Friendship House to foster interracial understanding. Her spirituality was centered on the "duty of the moment," which she described as "what you should be doing at any given time, in whatever place God has put you... If you have a child, your duty of the moment may be to change a dirty diaper. So you do it. But you don't just change that diaper, you change it to the best of your ability, with great love for both God and that child..." This Passion Week, do your duty.

Monday, Apr 03, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
"Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus..."

Final accounting

The seventh corporal work of mercy is to bury the dead. Everyone deserves a dignified burial, and anyone who has lost a loved one knows how many arrangements go into caring for the body of the deceased until they are interred and making sure their soul is commended to God. The process is an act of love. It can go beyond the burial too - ongoing prayer for the deceased, visiting the gravesite, and even disposing of their material things. This can be a special kind of charity.

Tuesday, Apr 04, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38
"... you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later."

Practice extreme love

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died this day in 1968. On the night before his assassination, King gave his famous "I Have Been to the Mountaintop" speech. But it's King's words in "Letter from Birmingham Jail" that provide a lens to the Lord's Passion this week. "Though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist," King wrote, "I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love: 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.'" How will you acknowledge God's extreme love this week?

Wednesday, Apr 05, 2023

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25
"See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?"

Keep moving toward justice

On this day in 1968, the Catholic mayor of Chicago, Richard J. Daley, infamously authorized his police department to use lethal force in the riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the previous day. The event would lead to a national uproar and also to the founding two weeks later of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, an organization that persists to the present day. The organization's leaders would play a pivotal role in what is now known as the "Black Catholic Movement," integrating black spirituality into their liturgies and practice of the faith. As we remember the life and legacy of Dr. King and so many other freedom fighters, let us also make use of our faith in the holy struggle for justice and solidarity.

Thursday, Apr 06, 2023

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
"If I... have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."

Break bread together

The Eucharist, instituted at the Last Supper, which we commemorate today, is called the "source and the summit of Christian life" (Lumen Gentium 11). The idea is that we become what we eat, that we take on the characteristics of Jesus by consuming his body. Because of the centrality of the Eucharist—and to uplift its unifying force—the U.S. bishops have organized a Eucharistic Revival that includes a Eucharistic Congress this July, to be followed by a "year of mission." As these sacred days unfold, allow the Eucharist to unite you to Christ and your sisters and brothers.

Friday, Apr 07, 2023

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
"When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit."

Words count

"It is finished" is among the final phrases of Jesus found in the four gospels, collectively known as the "Seven Last Words." The others are "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." "Woman, behold your son. [Beloved disciple], behold your mother." "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" "I thirst." "Father, into your hands I commend your Spirit." Taken together these words tell us everything about who Jesus was, why he lived and died, and what he calls his disciples to do. "Who will we be if we listen to the lessons of the Last Words of Jesus?" Alice Camille asks and answers in her brilliant little book *Seven Last Words*. "People of love and joy, ready to forgive, buoyed by hope." May we be such people.

Saturday, Apr 08, 2023

HOLY SATURDAY
Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

"His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow."

Silent emptiness

Christ has died. The church is empty. The altar is bare. The tabernacle is vacant. The Real Presence feels like the Real Absence. Following an ancient tradition, the church does not celebrate the sacraments on this day. For that reason, Holy Saturday is a great time to visit your church and meditate on the emptiness and silence of the building. Our experience of God often seems empty and silent, with no outward sign of the divine help we always need. All we have is our faith, hope, and trust in God's abiding attendance in our lives.



God as we walk through Holy week toward the cross, May we remember the wonder of who you are. Beyond sin your love is inexhaustible, Beyond brokenness your forgiveness is incomprehensible. Beyond betrayal your grace is poured out eternally, Beyond death your life is unimaginable. Beyond human understanding, Your ways are always higher than ours.