

# Looking for the Light

a devotional from  
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, April 11, 2020

by Henrietta Harris

## HOLY SATURDAY

### Scriptures to Read:

- Job 14: 1-14
- Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
- 1 Peter 4:1-8
- Matthew 27:57-66
- John 19:38-42
- Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

### Scripture to Focus:

*Matthew 27:62-66 (ESV)*

#### The Guard at 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 the guard.

### What is Holy Saturday?

HOLY SATURDAY (Latin: Sabbatum Sanctum), the Saturday of Holy Week, also known as HOLY AND GREAT SATURDAY, the GREAT SABBATH, BLACK SATURDAY, JOYOUS SATURDAY, HALLELUJAH SATURDAY (in Portugal and Brazil), GLORIOUS SATURDAY (in the Philippines) or EASTER EVE, and called “Joyous Saturday” or “the Saturday of Light” among Coptic Christians, is the day after Good Friday. It is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week in which Christians prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that Jesus’ body lay in the tomb and the Harrowing of Hell.

### Reflect:

SATURDAY—THE FORGOTTEN DAY (see *Matthew 27:62-66*)



The Saturday following Jesus' crucifixion might be the most unique and overlooked day in the history of the world—the day between Jesus' death and His resurrection. Less is written about this day than any other in the scope of this week. Yet what makes it so unique is that this is the only full day in history where the body of the crucified Christ lay buried in a cave.

The day before, He was crucified. The following day, He rises from the grave. But what about Saturday? Though we may not make much of this day, when we look at the few verses the Gospels give us accounting for it, we find this was by no means a forgotten day to the Chief Priests who handed Jesus over to death. During His earthly ministry, Jesus said many times that He would die in Jerusalem at the hands of the Chief Priests, but on the third day rise again (Mt 12:40, Mk 8:31, 9:31, 10:34).

Of course, the Chief Priests scoffed at this. But they didn't forget it. On the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Jesus' prediction preoccupied their thoughts such that they simply couldn't leave it alone. Matthew 27:62-66 tells us the strange story of how they couldn't seem to simply dismiss out of hand the possibility that Jesus might have known something they didn't.

Rev. Russ Ramsey  
Christ Presbyterian Church

**Pray:**

*A Prayer for Our Time*  
by Rev. Frederick J. Streets

Spirit of All Creation:

May our faith in you and one another guide us as we cannot yet see our way through this time of crisis.

May our hope in you and the goodness of our neighbors strengthen us as we endure our discomforts and fears.

Give comfort to all who are emotionally, physically and spiritually distressed.

Bless our health care providers and all who are taking care of those who are ill.

Grant wisdom and discernment to those who are researching and searching for medicines to combat our diseases, the coronavirus and other illnesses.

Help us to reassure and comfort our children and protect them from harm and danger.

Grant, O God, those who lead our governments, institutions, hospitals, our schools and local organizations, safety and emergency services and us, wisdom beyond our own wisdom to contain the coronavirus; faith beyond our own faith to help us to fight our fears and strength beyond our own strength to be resilient and sustain all of our vital institutions through this time of turmoil.

Although we are physically separated from one another help us, Eternal One, to maintain our social connection to one another by our creatively and ethically using social media.

Help each of us to know that there is something in us stronger than fear. Birth in us a new sense of hope that will help us to rise above the clouds of despair.

Grant, Eternal Love that we emerge from this time of crisis a more loving people who are more committed to the welfare of all and the earth that sustains us. Amen.

To send us your prayer requests, click on [this link](#) and our church staff and prayer group will add you to our weekly prayer list. You will have the option to specify your request as confidential.

If you would like to contribute to our daily devotionals, please email Pastor Sarah, [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org).

[www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org)

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