

Saturday, March 26

Today we remember that our Lord Jesus was buried. In his burial, Jesus sanctified the graves of the saints, so that they are no longer places of terror to us, but resting places where we may lay quietly and peacefully until our own resurrection.

The Prayer of Confession

*For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit.*

Psalm 88:3-4a

The Gospel Reading

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

John 19:38-42

The Psalm of Response

*Every day I call upon you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you?
Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?*

Psalm 88:9b-12

The Prayer for the Day – of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, I your unworthy servant give you humble thanks for all your goodness and steadfast love to me and to all that you have made.

I bless you for creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, I pray, give me such an awareness of your mercies, that with a truly thankful heart I may show forth your praise, not only with my lips, but in my life by giving up myself to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all my days.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

Book of Common Prayer, 1979

The Closing Psalm

*In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
Incline your ear to me;*

rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;
you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Psalm 31:1-5