



Holy Saturday Liturgy
Church of the Advent
April 4, 2026 at 10:00am
The Columbarium

About the Liturgy

The Gospel writers (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19) all attest to Holy Saturday. After Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus, the women were unable to prepare His body with spices and oils before the Sabbath.

Based on the Apostles' Creed, Christians also understand this day as the Harrowing of Hell, when Jesus preached to those who had died before Him and brought them to be with God.

Holy Saturday's liturgy reminds us of Jesus' death and burial. Even though we know the resurrection is coming, we remember the great sacrifice He made and His promises to deceased believers. This day also prompts us to consider our own future death and that of our loved ones. Holy Saturday is thus a time for mourning and reflecting on the Holy Spirit's guidance during Lent, or, like the women, a time for preparing our hearts.

Observing Holy Saturday in the Columbarium during Advent highlights the reality of death within our community, reminding us of our baptismal vows and the promise of resurrection. Even as we bury our loved ones, we sing alleluias, trusting God's promises. We remember those who have died in the past year, resting in faith, confident in our Lord's promise of being with Him.

The Liturgy of the Word

BCP p. 283

Collect of the Day:

Presider O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of thy 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 now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The First Reading

Job 14:1-14

A Reading from the Book of Job.

14 'A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,

² comes up like a flower and withers,
flees like a shadow and does not last.

³ Do you fix your eyes on such a one?

Do you bring me into judgement with you?

⁴ Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?

No one can.

⁵ Since their days are determined,

and the number of their months is known to you,

and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass,

⁶ look away from them, and desist,

that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days.

⁷ 'For there is hope for a tree,

if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,

and that its shoots will not cease.
⁸ Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,
⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.
¹⁰ But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?
¹¹ As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,
¹² so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.
¹³ O that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
¹⁴ If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

31:1-4, 15-16

Please read in unison.

**¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.**

² Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

**³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and
my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ **Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.”**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 4:1-8

A Reading from the First Book of Peter.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. ⁴Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Third Reading

Matthew 27:57-66

A Reading from the Book of Matthew.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also 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 So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door 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 what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would 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 with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Homily

The Rev. Brian McVey

Anthem: In the Midst of Life

Presider In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?
from you alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to
our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us
away from you at our last hour.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty. Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are
the dead who from now on die in the Lord."

People **"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for
their deeds follow them."**

Presider We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us
in faith, who have shared with us in God's gifts of life, of peace
and forgiveness through the hearing of the Gospel, of new life
and the promise of resurrection through His Son in baptism,
who with us have been fed the body and blood of his Son at this
holy table, and who now have been called to the heavenly feast
that will never end. We remember especially this day **Ellen
DiLorenzo, Patsy Gross, Carey Cheij, and Ingrid Sevin.**

Please add any names of those who have died since last Easter.

Silence

Presider Let us pray.

Lord, look upon Your holy Christian Church, the communion of saints here on earth. Strengthen and keep us in the one true faith, and make us grow in fervent love for You and for one another. Bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting, that with them we may sing Your praise forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Presider And now, as Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to say

Together.

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People **Amen.**

HOLY SATURDAY

Joseph came and took him down from the hill.
Nicodemus also came, with aloe
And myrrh—seventy-five pounds, just to kill
The death smell—and they wrapped him head to toe
In linen, which is how it was done then.
They needed to bury him somewhere soon.
Not far from Golgotha was a garden,
And in that garden was an open tomb
Where no body had yet been laid to rest.
The Jewish Day of Preparation meant
There were laws these righteous men did their best
To keep, so they, of all the people, went
To Pilate, made it happen. Who can tell
If they loved God? They loved their neighbor well.

Andrew Peterson, Lent Sonnets, Holy Week 2017
Published by the Rabbit Room on the blog, April 16, 2017.

EASTER DAY SERVICES, TOMORROW, APRIL 5

Please join us for

CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I, 8 AM, *followed by a festive reception*

CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II, 10:30 AM, *followed by a festive reception*

Children's egg hunts will begin at Noon.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Fr. Brian McVey, *Rector*..... frbrian@adventnashville.net
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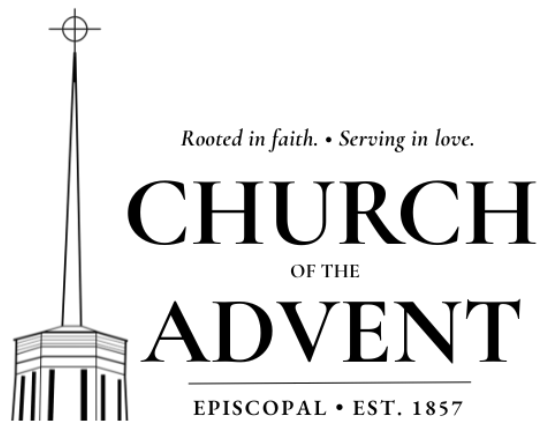
VESTRY

Nancy Allen (2026), *Sr. Warden*
Candida Banister (2028), *Jr. Warden*
Jeri Platt (2027), *Clerk*
Rosemary Kelley (2026)
Janet Brown (2026)

Valerie Stogdill (2027)
Flora Ukoli (2027)
Robyn Duffy (2028)
Hunter McCarty, *Treasurer*

DIOCESE OF TENNESSEE

Bishop John Bauerschmidt



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