

**A SERVICE FOR HOLY SATURDAY  
An Easter Prayer Vigil**

**GATHERING MUSIC** "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done" UMH 287

**INTRODUCTION**

This is a service for Holy Saturday, which lasts until sundown. It is primarily a service of silence, punctuated at times by words...

**ENTRANCE**

*Silent procession as worship leader carries a Bible to the lectern or altar.*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

L: Come this day and open your hearts. Wait for the Lord.

**P: We come from the emptiness of loss and await God's word for us.**

L: There is time. The Word will be given.

**P: We will wait and pray.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

O God, creator of heaven and earth,

The crucified body of your Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath.

*(Silent pause)*

May we await with him the coming of the third day,  
and rise with him to newness of life. Amen.

*(Silent pause)*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Embodying the Word**

Good Friday is the most agonizing service of the Christian year.

Holy Saturday is the most contemplative...

**FIRST READING** Job 14:1-14

*A lament on the finality of death.*

*(Pause)*

**SONG** "At the Name of Jesus"

UMH 168

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

UMH Psalter 764

*A cry for God's protection in the face of danger and death.*

*(Read in unison, pausing between verses; if online all are on mute and read aloud.)*

*(Pause)*

**SONG** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

UMH 117

**SECOND READING** I Peter 4:1-8

*Be prepared to suffer in this life, as Christ suffered, and put sin to death for the sake of your prayers.*

*(Pause)*

**SONG** "Depth of Mercy"

UMH 355

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 27:57-66 (all stand)

*Joseph of Arimathea requests the body of Jesus be placed in a new tomb he owns. Some religious leaders ask Pilate to place a contingent of guards around the tomb to ensure the followers of Jesus cannot steal the body and claim Jesus rose from the dead.*

*(Pause)*

**SONG** "Jesus, Remember Me"

UMH 488 (4 times)

**THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray for the church and the world:

Hear our silent prayers, O God...

*(Pause)*

Hear these prayers:

For the leaders and mission of your church in every place...

*(Pause)*

For all that lives and moves upon the earth, and all that sustains our lives...

*(Pause)*

For every leader and all who work for justice, freedom, and peace...

*(Pause)*

For all who labor and the fruits of their work...

*(Pause)*

For the sick, all prisoners, and the lonely, and all who remember and care for them...

*(Pause)*

For all who are born this day, and all who will die...

*(Pause)*

