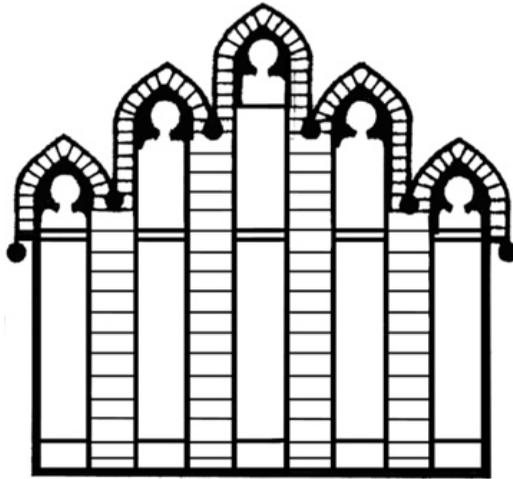


HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 4, 2026
8:00AM



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
73 S. FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ
SLECHURCH.ORG
973-744-6220

"Joyfully Seeking and Serving Christ"

OPENING SENTENCES *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 283)*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

Please be seated for the readings.

THE FIRST READING

From the Book of Job (14:1-14)

‘A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,
comes up like a flower and withers,
flees like a shadow and does not last.

Do you fix your eyes on such a one?

Do you bring me into judgement with you?

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can.

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,
look away from them, and desist,

that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days.

‘For there is hope for a tree,

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

and that its shoots will not cease.

Though its root grows old in the earth,

and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud

and put forth branches like a young plant.

But mortals die, and are laid low;

humans expire, and where are they?

As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,
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.
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!
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.**

We will say the appointed Psalm antiphonally by half verse.

PSALM 31:1-4, 15-16 *(St. Helena Psalter)*

In you, O God, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *

make haste to deliver me.

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.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *

for you are my tower of strength.

My times are in your hand; *

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness, save me.”

SECOND LESSON

A reading from the First Epistle of Peter (4:1-8)

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE THIRD LESSON

A reading from Matthew's Gospel (27:57-66)

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 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. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command that the tomb 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.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.' 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.**

HOMILY *The Rev. John A. Mennell*

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 96)*

Officiant Standing together with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today, and let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Book of Common Prayer, pp. 383-385)*

Leader With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

Leader For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For this township, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our parish prayer list: *(leader will insert names here)* let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Leader In the communion of Luke and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

All **To thee, O Lord our God.**

THE ANTHEM (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 492*)

Officiant 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.

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

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

All

Our

Mother	who art in heaven,
Father	
Creator	

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.

Then may be said

DISMISSAL (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 365*)

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** (*Ephesians 3:20, 21*)