

## **Holy Saturday**

### **Prayer:**

Almighty God, your name is glorified even in the anguish of your Son's death. Grant us the courage to receive your anointed servant who embodies a wisdom and love that is foolishness to the world. Empower us in witness so that all the world may recognize in the scandal of the cross the mystery of reconciliation. Amen.

Revised Common Lectionary

### **Reading:**

Holy Saturday is the day of emptiness. In Protestant congregations there are no services. In the Roman Catholic Church no masses are said. Worship is suspended! It is a day without liturgy-the work of the people in praise of God. It is a day without a Gospel reading in the daily lectionary. What do we do while Jesus lies in the cold of Joseph's tomb? The day feels like a gap, a space, a blank; it seems to have no legitimate content of its own. There is a hole in the universe. It is a day of waiting; traditionally, it is a day of fasting. Holy Saturday is a lonely day for Christians.

And yet, Holy Saturday is not the last word. Unlike the disciples, from our present perspective we know the story does not end with Holy Saturday. That knowledge blunts the sharp point of the commemoration of Jesus' death and takes away some of the terrible emptiness and ambiguity of Holy Saturday. A theology of glory waits impatiently in the wings, eager for center stage.

Andrew Purves, *The Resurrection of Ministry*