

HOLY *Saturday*

DEVOTIONAL

REFLECTION

The forgotten day. The awkward in-between. The silent, unexciting, unassuming, and yet profoundly sacred day of Holy Saturday. This is the in-between day - between death and resurrection. The Gospels do not provide much information on what happened on that day. It was a Sabbath day—a weekly day of rest. Only this Sabbath was less celebratory and more solemn.

Our lives are a reflection of Holy Saturday. Spiritually, we who were dead in our sins are made alive in Christ Jesus (Colossians 2:13, 3:3; Romans 6:11-13). But our mortal, physical selves are awaiting our future bodily resurrection (Romans 8:23). The resurrection of Jesus in the past is a foretaste

of our bodily resurrection in the future (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 35-49). But in the present, we are in the awkward, challenging, beautiful and holy middle day - Holy Saturday.

Our temptation is to rush past Good Friday, ignore Holy Saturday, and get right to Resurrection Sunday. And celebrating Jesus' resurrection is great—we are resurrection people after all! But before the celebration of Sunday's resurrection is Friday's cross and Saturday's unassuming silence. Let us not bypass the sacred silence of this holy day. Let the silence, the uncomfortable in-between of this day remind us that we ourselves are in the in-between.

READINGS

Job 14:1-14

Psalm 130

John 19:38-42

EXERCISE

Take a moment of silence. What fills the gap of silence? What anxious thoughts bubble up to the surface? Just as Christ descended into the darkness of the world and the grave, invite the Spirit of God to come into the places in you that you prefer to leave unattended.

PRAYER

God of the living, on this day your Son our Savior descended to the place of the dead: Look with kindness on all of us who wait in hope for liberation from the corruption of sin and death, and give us a share in the glory of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen. (From the Anglican Book of Common Prayer)