



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK,
NORTH CAROLINA

THE LITURGY OF HOLY SATURDAY 8:30 AM

A prayerful silence precedes the service.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 FIRST LESSON

Lamentations 3: 1-9, 19-24

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,
and broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
he has put heavy chains on me;
though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,
he has made my paths crooked.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 **If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, ***
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 **For there is forgiveness with you; ***
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 **I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; ***
in his word is my hope.
- 5 **My soul waits for the Lord,**
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 **O Israel, wait for the Lord, ***
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 **With him there is plenteous redemption, ***
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE SECOND LESSON

First Peter 4: 1-8

Since 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 accounting 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 19: 38-42

Gospeler

The Conclusion of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

A period of silence follows.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE ANTHEM

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.

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

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GRACE

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

2 Corinthians 13:14