

**LIVING LENT
THE BURIAL OF JESUS**



**O Death, I will be your death.
O Grave, I will be your destruction.
Liturgy of the Hours**

Leader: Sing hymns to Him, O earth-born,
Praise the One Who suffered and died for us.
He is sleeping in the tomb, but in a short while
we shall see Him among the living.

All: For Christ is going to be resurrected from the tomb
and He will make us new.
He will come to fill us with joy, we who are sorrowful
and afflicted.

HYMN: WERE YOU THERE

**Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "It is finished." And bowing His head, He handed over His spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into Jesus' side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled:

"Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says:

"They will look upon Him Whom they have pierced."

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took His body.

Nicodemus, the one who had first come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.

Now in the place where He had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.

So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

John 19: 30 - 42

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

but thanks be to God,

Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

Corinthians 15:54-57

OUR RESPONSE

For our sakes, Jesus the Lord took the form of a slave.

He Whose home is above the heavens, descended from the earth and beneath the earth.

For our sakes and the sake of the human race, He became like a man without help.

For our sakes He was betrayed, suffered and crucified.

See on His face the spittle He received in order to restore to us the life that He once breathed into us.

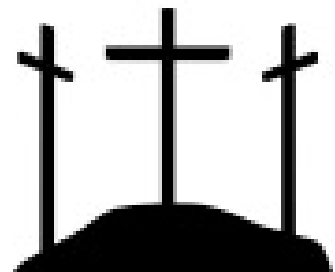
**See there the marks of the blows He received in order to refashion
our warped nature into His image.
On His body, see the marks of the scourging He endured to remove
the burden of sin that weighs us down.
See His hands and feet, nailed firmly to the wood of the tree for us.
See, He Who is Life itself, is now one with us.
O happy fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer.**

**We are seized with fear and trembling
and arrested by a respectful silence before this great mystery:
the Death of Christ God. No words, no prayer, no funeral hymn is
worthy to celebrate the Lord.
And we, like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus,
we approach the holy tomb and venerate with love
this unfathomable mystery:
Be amazed, O heavens!
Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!
Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead
and sheltered in a lowly tomb.
Today hell cries out groaning:
"My dominion has shattered.
I received a dead man as one of the dead,
but against Him I could not prevail.
From eternity I had ruled the dead, but behold, He raises all.
Because of Him do I perish".
Glory to Thy Cross and Resurrection,
O Lord!**

HYMN: BEHOLD THE WOOD

**Behold the Wood
Behold, behold the Wood of the Cross
On which is hung our Salvation,
O Come let us adore**

- 1. Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
Upon the ground and die
It shall remain but a single grain and not give life.**
- 2. And when My hour of glory comes
as all was meant to be,
You shall see Me lifted up upon a tree**



CANTICLE TO CHRIST

**O most strange of wonders,
what new deeds we now see!
He Who gave my life's breath, lies unbreathing now,
borne to burial at noble Joseph's hands.
Now You have been hidden
like the sun beneath the earth
and been covered over, veiled by the night of death.
Dawn again, O Savior, dawn more brightly still.
Life of all life, how can You perish, or how dwell in a tomb?
Yet the royal hall of Death You now bring to nought,**

and from Hades' realm You raise the dead again.
Like a burning lamp stand concealed under a bushel
here the life of our God lies hidden in the earth.
He Who governs all things is here is seen as a corpse;
new the grave in which His body is laid to rest,
He the One Who empties graves of all their dead.
In the tomb they laid You,
You, O Christ, Who are Life itself;
death itself You brought to nothing by Your own death,
and became the Fount of Life for all the world.
Guilty with the guilty You were judged, O my Christ,
at the very moment You wrought justice for us all;
from the ancient trickster's foul and evil deeds,
by the greatest trick of all, You ransomed us whole.
By Your Passion, Jesus most beloved,
all creation was changed,
all things suffered with You, knowing You to be
the Alpha and Omega of all living things.
How could Hell endure it,
Today a tomb holds Him Who holds all creation in His palm.
A stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory.
Life sleeps and hell trembles while Adam is released from his bonds.
Lord of glory, we praise and laud the grace by which You save us from
death and hell and grant us an eternal Sabbath in the bosom of
Your love. Amen.