LENTEN VESPERS

Preparing for Resurrection in a Time of Lament

April 2, 2025 5:00 p.m.

As we turn on lamps at dusk, we greet the evening by welcoming God to abide with us anew.

Hymn: In Deep Distress *(see page 4)* John Bell

Opening

Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me. *Psalm 51:10*

Prayer

Holy God, in love you created us and called our being "good." With open hearts, we praise you for your unfailing love. With open hands, we offer you our labors. Bless and guide us now as our day turns toward evening; through your grace, may we share with others the love we receive from you. In the name of God our Creator, Jesus our brother, and the Spirit who lights our way.
Amen.

Reading

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his 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.

Matthew 27:59-61

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and, taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Mark 15:46-47

Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Luke 23: 53-56

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.

John 19:40-42

Reading: John 20: 5-7
He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Reflection Mickey Jacoba

Music Interlude

Prayers
God of Compassion, we are overwhelmed with news of suffering, war, greed, cruelty. May we learn from you how to share love and hope in these unsettling times. Show us the possibilities of transformation, of resurrection.
O God, hear our prayer.

God of Compassion, help us to trust that your Spirit will fill our hearts each day of this Lenten season with the courage to face our broken and divided world and to bring to the forefront an unwavering call for mercy and justice.
O God, hear our prayer.

God of all Creation, we lament the fragile state of our Mother Earth and our part in the present climate crisis. May your grace lead us to more deeply respect the interdependence of all of creation and choose "to live more simply so that others may simply live".
O God hear our prayer.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Holy One, You are our refuge.
Your love is everlasting.

Lord's Prayer
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.

Prayer

May the blessing of God whose love embraces
all that we do and are,
whose love endures
all that we don't do and aren't,
be with us as we seek the courage
to offer our wounds to receive the blessing
that you have for each one of us.
This is the love that gave birth to all that
is life, trees, stars, mountains,
ocean, birds and bears. This is the love
that will burn through our darkness
to show us the way to healing and wholeness.
This is the love who creates life out of death.
Grant us peace, in the name of your son,
Jesus the Christ.
Amen. The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling

Hymn: God be in my head *(see page 5)*

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In Deep Distress



2. Though punishment should be our prize,
another gift is given;
for pardon is your property,
the greatest grace of heaven.
We fear your love more than your might
because you exercise the right to name
our sins forgiven.

3. So now my soul in penitence
affirms the hope I stand on.
Like those who wait to see the dawn,
I yearn to know your pardon.
No power can weaken or deform
God's will to challenge and transform,
abase but not abandon.

God be in my head Hymn 694, *The Hymnal 1982*



Words: *Sarum Primer*, 1514
Music: *Lytlington*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)