

Saturday in Holy Week

Bible reading: Luke 23:50–56

The Burial of Jesus

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 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.

Reflection

Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body for burial. It is interesting that Joseph, who was a respected member of the Council, was in his heart waiting for the coming Kingdom of God. Pilate gave permission; and later in the day Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped the body of Jesus in linen with the spices according to the Jewish custom. Then in a new tomb, not far from the place where Jesus had been crucified, they buried him. A period of waiting began; and in the Christian tradition this became a silent vigil observed by millions throughout the ages. Waiting is always difficult. Many, many individuals, families and communities are waiting now. Waiting for the time when the danger of virus is passed and we can all be free from our isolation again. On this day of waiting, between death and resurrection, we hold with those who first mourned the death of Jesus in their grief. In the midst of our challenging lives, on this holy day we become silent and listen for that still small voice which accompanies our lives. And as we wait, God waits too, in solidarity with all God's people. Amen.

Prayer

**Lord, may I wait with a patient heart,
a calm mind
and a quietened soul.**

Song: Faithful One

**Faithful one so unchanging
Ageless one You're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on You
I call out to You again and again
I call out to You again and again**

**You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is the anchor
My hope is in You alone**

Blessing

May God bless us and the whole world in these days of waiting, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**