

## Holy Week Devotionals

By R. L. Tigh

### Saturday “Sabbath”

Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

“Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and 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 23:50-56

Soon after Jesus died at three in the afternoon on Friday, He was removed from the cross and buried so as not to profane the Sabbath day “...for that Sabbath was a high day...”<sup>1</sup> For it said in the Law “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.”<sup>2</sup> Isn’t it ironic that after killing the Lord of Glory they buried Him so as not to dishonor God by leaving Him hanging on the cross overnight?

So, on the seventh day Jesus rested from all his labor. This is an echo of the creation account “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation”<sup>3</sup> In the space of six days God created the heavens and the earth and then He rested. In the space of six hours Jesus crushed the head of the serpent and put an end to the domination of sin, death, and the devil and then He rested.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”<sup>4</sup> It is Jesus who is our true Sabbath rest. “So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.”<sup>5</sup> “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”<sup>6</sup>

#### Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This” an American folk hymn, Trinity Hymnal page #261

#### Family Activity

Field Trip: Pack a picnic meal and go for a restful outing to a local park or other retreat location. (Optional: Visit a local cemetery to put flowers on the graves of family and/or friends.)

<sup>1</sup> John 19:31 <sup>2</sup>Deuteronomy 21:22-23 <sup>3</sup>Genesis 2:1-3 <sup>4</sup>Matthew 11:28-29 <sup>5</sup>Hebrews 4:9-11 <sup>6</sup>Ephesians 2:8