Land Acknowledgement

**Bell x 3.**

O Lord, Your sorrowing Mother stood by Your Cross; help us in our sorrows to share Your sufferings. Like the seed buried in the ground, You have produced the harvest of eternal life for us; make us willing to be buried, so that we might become alive to God. Shepard of all, in death you remained hidden from the world; teach us to love our hidden spiritual life with You and to trust in Your work in the hidden and dark places within ourselves. **Amen.**

**Poem: Easter Saturday, by Elizabeth Rooney**

*A curiously empty day,*

*As if the world’s life*

*Had gone underground.*

*The April sun*

*Warming dry grass*

*Makes pale spring promises*

*But nothing comes to pass.*

*Anger*

*Relaxes into despair*

*As we remember our helplessness,*

*Remember him hanging there.*

*We have purchased the spices*

*But they must wait for tomorrow.*

*We shall keep today*

*For emptiness*

*And sorrow.*

**Offering of gratitude.**

God of all Goodness and Mercy,

your love breathes life into us day after day.

You are our hiding place, even when at times you seem hidden from us.

You preserve us from trouble.

You surround us with glad cries of deliverance.

Like the Israelites, we are led through a wilderness

where we are forced to depend on you for our daily bread.

We rejoice that you saved them from harm and led them on the right path.

We pray that your righteousness may save us from harm on this Holy Saturday

and show us the level ground on which we can firmly stand.

For you alone are our refuge and our strength,

our sole source of salvation.

**Hear us, gracious God,**

**as we join creation's song and sing your eternal praise...**

(free prayers of gratitude or thanksgiving)

**Psalm (chanted): Ps 31:1-4, 15-16;**

**After the psalm chant the following:**

Praise to you source of all being,

Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be

World without end. Amen.

**Gospel acclamation**

*Lord to whom shall we go*

*Lord to whom shall we go*

*You are gracious and merciful*

*Lord to whom shall we go*

*Slow to anger and abounding in love*

*Lord to whom shall we go*

*Lord to whom shall we go*

*Let us trust in your word.*

**Gospel reading: Matthew 27:57-66.**

**Bell x 1**

Silence for reflection.

**Open reflection time.**

**Prayers for the world, each other, ourselves, and anything stirred in the readings.**

**May God bless us this day with discomfort….**

At easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,

So that we may live deeper within our hearts.

**May God bless us this day with anger…**

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,

So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

**May God bless us this day with tears…**

To shed for those who suffer from virus’, pain, rejection, starvation, and war,

So that we meay reach our hands to comfort them

And turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us this day with courage to sit in this dark stillness,

**So that we might see the dawn and new light.**

**Amen.**

**Our Father….**

**Song: Taize ‘Our darkness’**

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:*

*The deepest night is clear as the daylight. (x6)*

May the grace of the Word of life rest upon you;

the love of the Source of life embrace you;

and the transforming power of the Breath of life

help, strengthen and surprise you,

this day and all your days. ***Amen.***

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Bell x 3.**