



HOLY SATURDAY

“With Mary in her Liminal Space.”

Opening Song: [*Buried in the Grave - All Sons and Daughters*](#)

***“Now the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden,
and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid...
They laid Jesus there.”***

(Jn 19: 41-42)

This tomb provides us with a pause in the story.

Between the darkness of Good Friday and the light of Easter Sunday, Holy Saturday hangs suspended. It’s a liminal space—neither here nor there.: things are not as they were, nor are they as they will be. There’s a tension between what we’ve known and what’s ahead. This was a situation of Mary on Holy Saturday. If we take the time to enter in, we’ll feel it too.

Joseph in prison. Israel in the desert. Jonah in the fish. David in the pasture. Mary with child. Jesus in the wilderness. These were not bridges, simply moving them from one place to another; these were transformative places and spaces and times—transformational encounters with God.



Image from Villa Lante

As we journey through life, we also have these in-between times. We walk into liminal space... Sacred moments of deep encounters with God.

Liminality is a chrysalis, a womb where we can grow into the life ahead. And sometimes, like Holy Saturday, liminality takes the shape of a tomb—dark, despairing, disorienting, but still: a place where new life is formed and birthed. Transformation happens in liminal spaces. Will you stay in the tension as long as it takes?

Take a pause (10 minutes) and recall a time in your life when you experienced the liminal space. A situation when you felt, like Mary, you were at the threshold. There was emptiness, and anguish and you had no answers. You did not know how long. You could no longer visualize what comes next. Perhaps your prayer became that of the Psalmist. *“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and sorrow in my heart all day long?”* (Ps. 13:1-2)

Stay with this experience for a while:

***What made you sustain this moment?
What strengthened you at this moment?***

Spend time with Mary at the tomb in deep silence waiting, praying, deepening your faith and strengthening your discipleship.

In the storm of life, there are people/ groups who cry out to God all the time. In the depths of this silence bring them to Mary.



The cry of those born in poverty who die as yet another statistic in a roll call far too great for our hearts to bear.

The cry of those without work, whose dignity is lost, and whose lives so often spiral into despair.

The cry of those who live with constant pain as age and infirmity eat away at their lives.

The cry of those who suffer from a terminal illness as they long for a miracle.

The cry of those victims of natural disasters mourning the loss of their loved ones.

The cry of the victims of war and violence longing for peace.

The cry of our own lives as we look for a glimpse of the divine amid our joys and sorrows.

Add your own list...

Concluding prayer

***Lord, we give to you the times we have in own lives,
where all we can do is wait, when all we hold is hope.***

***We give you those times when all we have
is faith in new life, new beginnings and heavens call.***

***Be with all those who today wait in that cold,
uncertain place.***

References: Ruth Rosell, Director of Buttry Center for Peace and Nonviolence, Grace like Scarlet by Adriel Booker

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