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**Subject:** Your Holy Saturday Devotion

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The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep.

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## Holy Saturday

### Christ In the Tomb



**"If a man die, shall he live again?  
All the days of my service I would wait,  
till my release should come."  
Job 14:14**

*On this day, there is a reading in the Liturgy of the Hours  
that is both haunting and beautiful. It contemplates  
the mystery of the death of the Son of God.*

*It comes from an ancient  
Holy Saturday homily:*

## "Something strange is happening—

there is a great silence on earth today,  
a great silence and stillness.

The whole earth keeps silence  
because the King is asleep.

The earth trembled and is still  
because God has fallen asleep in the flesh  
and he has raised up all who have slept  
ever since the world began.

God has died in the flesh  
and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent,  
as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those  
who live in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve,  
he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord  
approached them bearing the cross,  
the weapon that had won him the victory.

At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created,  
struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone:

'My Lord be with you all.'

Christ answered him: 'And with your spirit.'

He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying:  
'Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead,  
and Christ will give you light.'



I am your God, who for your sake have become your son.

Out of love for you and for your descendants I now  
by my own authority command all who are held in bondage  
to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened,  
all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake.

I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell.

Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.

Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image.  
Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you;  
together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son;

I, the Lord, took the form of a slave;

I, whose home is above the heavens,  
descended to the earth and beneath the earth.

For your sake, for the sake of man,

I became like a man without help,

free among the dead. For the sake of you,

who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews  
in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.



See on my face the spittle I received  
in order to restore to you the life  
I once breathed into you. See there  
the marks of the blows I received in order  
to refashion your warped nature in my image.  
On my back see the marks of the scourging  
I endured to remove the burden of sin  
that weighs upon your back.  
See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree,

for you who once wickedly  
stretched out your hand to a tree.

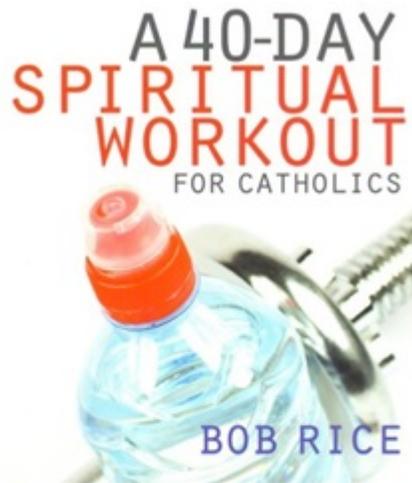
I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side  
for you who slept in paradise and brought forth  
Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours.  
My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell.  
The sword that pierced me has sheathed  
the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place.  
The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise.  
I will not restore you to that paradise,  
but I will enthrone you in heaven.  
I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life,  
but see, I who am life itself am now one with you.  
I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded,  
but now I make them worship you as God.  
The throne formed by cherubim awaits you,  
its bearers swift and eager.  
The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready,  
the eternal dwelling places are prepared,  
the treasure houses of all good things lie open.  
The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you  
**from all eternity."**

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## CATHOLIC CONTENT FOR YOU



### How To Experience The Sacred Triduum With Children

Beginning with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem, and ending with Easter Sunday, Holy Week progresses to its final days with great solemnity. Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is referred to as the Sacred Triduum—these are considered the three holiest days of the liturgical year.



### How to Pray the Stations of the Cross

Although most popular during Lent, this season is not the only good time to pray the Stations of the Cross. It is always recommended to the faithful to meditate on Christ's Passion frequently, especially on Fridays as a perpetual day of penance, to obtain graces and grow in holiness. "There is no pr..."



## The Last 7 Words of Jesus: A Lenten Meditation

Few Christians can recall all seven of Our Lord's last words on the Cross. As you contemplate His Passion and Death this season, remember that these words, although spoken nearly 2,000 years ago at Calvary, were meant for every generation. Nothing our Lord said or did was without meaning. Prepare yo...

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