

*As follows in Jesus' name:*

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.” (ESV)

*This is Your Word, heavenly Father; sanctify us in the truth, Your Word is Truth. Amen.* (John 17:17)

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

On the first day of the week, the **Light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** John 1:5, 4

During that week the Word of God continued to speak.

He formed and filled His creation with the beauty of His words.

He spoke and it was so.

His words gave life.

Then it was the 6th day (Friday as we know it today). It was a special day.

Man was different.

God had made him in His image, having a perfect righteousness and knowledge of God.

On that day, the Father looked down and declared that the situation was “Not good.”

There was not a **helper fit for Him.** Genesis 2:18

The Man fell asleep.

And while He slept, from His side, God brought forth the Man's bride,

Ephesians 5:27

**not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

And what was the first thing they were to do? Rest.

The sabbath day, the rest day, had come. The 7th day.

The man rested in the garden... and God rested from all the work of recreating He had done.

Of course, it was a little different this time.

Instead of God exhaling and breathing into man to give him life,

God exhaled and **breathed His last.**

And laying Him in the tomb, Jesus rested from all His work of redemption that He had done.

...

The soldiers were surprised that Jesus was dead so soon.

Rather than breaking His bones, they dispatched a spear into Jesus' side  
and what flowed out was blood and water, St. John testifies.

These are the very things that Christ uses to **sanctify** His bride the Church, to make you **fit for Him.**  
**so that... having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ...** (in holy Baptism)

**He might present you to Himself in splendor.** Ephesians 5:28

You see, things were no longer **good** between humanity and God.

After the first Adam had eaten the forbidden food, the image of God had been lost.

Where there had been righteousness, now there was sin.

Where there had been love, now there was enmity.

Where there had been life, now there was death.

Where there had been unity, now there was separation...

separation from God and from one another.

Adam tried to hide (in guilt and shame) but where can you hide from God?

So God sought Adam and his wife out. He came down to them.

He promised that one from woman's seed would come into the world and crush the serpent's power.

And so the Son of God now shares bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.

He will never put off our humanity... He is united to us, not until death parts us, but **FOREVER**.

By His death He has created unity and peace with God again for us.

He has atoned for your guilt and shame. **It is finished**, He cried.

All His work of redemption is completed... accomplished.

As one who has been washed in Jesus' blood, baptized with water and His Word,

you have been **baptized into His death...** and **buried with Him by baptism into death.** Roman 6:3&4

You have been joined to Christ.

**What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.** Matthew 19:6

Not by love of sinning;

not by negligence in your devotion;

not by confidence in your own works;

not by pride in the face of temptation.

Instead, Jesus now bids you, **Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Just as the Lord bid Adam and His newly formed bride to rest on the 7th day, the Sabbath Day,

before they set to work in the garden;

just as Jesus rested in the tomb,

so the Lord bids us to find our rest in Christ and His redemption earned for us already.

This rest is an opportunity to marvel at the nail holes left in His hands and His feet...

and the gash in His side, the very signs and tokens of God's love for you.

This rest is an opportunity to marvel at His great love for you,

not simply to marvel at creation in the beauty & wisdom with which God formed & filled the world,

but to listen to your Bridegroom and rest in His words of comfort and forgiveness.

These words of God are not "sweet nothings" whispered in your ear,

but they are the words and breath of eternal life.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*Soli Deo Gloria*