

Saturday - April 8

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:4 (CEB)

Today is Holy Saturday. A day of emptiness, a day of silence, a day in between. In between brutal and painful death and a light and joy-filled resurrection of Jesus Christ. In between despair and hope. In between sorrow and gladness. In between thorns of death and white cloth of life. In between the golden leaves of fall and the newly sprouted growth of spring. We find ourselves in between places in our lives all the time.

After the death of a loved one, there is a long period of winter in our souls, when our spirits are crushed, hearts broken, and bodies exhausted.

When we lose a job. When we get separated or divorced. When our beliefs do not match anymore the life we are leading.

These are the places of change, places of unknown, places where God seems distant and silent. These places have a potential to corner us into anger or resentment, because of how uncomfortable they might feel. Yet these places can hold potential for transformation, new beginnings and new life to come out in a new way. These are uncomfortable holy Saturdays.

I personally feel like I have been in Holy Saturday for some time. My brother's suffering and death led me to seek counseling and as a result of that I uncovered many childhood traumas and abuse. I feel like I am unraveling for the last year and a half. I am not where I was mentally, spiritually, emotionally, yet I have not arrived at a place of resurrection and light-filled hope. Yet I learn to be still and trust the silence of this in between space. I trust God to guide the process of healing without me controlling it; for God to take care of me and wipe away my tears; for God to stretch my compassion towards myself and the whole humanity; for God's resurrection to enter my heart so I can breathe anew sweet air of hope and wholeness that God gifted us and this whole earth through the life, ministry, death and the resurrection of Christ Jesus. Yet today, we sit in between death and resurrection.

Pastor Katya

Prayer: O God of Holy Saturday and many Holy Saturdays in our lives, as we find ourselves in that in between place, may Your gentle spirit wipe away our tears. May we trust that the former things have passed away and may we find courage to do the hard work of letting them go. May we lean into the hope, light, newness of the resurrection of Jesus that can't come soon enough. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.