

## **Opening Prayer:**

*Something strange is happening- there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the Kings 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.*

From an ancient homily for Holy Saturday – Office of Readings – Universalis App

**Chant:** *'Oh Lord hear my prayer,'* followed by **Centering Prayer**

## **Lectio Divina:**

*"And now a member of the Council arrived, a good and upright man named Joseph. He had not consented to what the others had planned and carried out. He came from Arimathea, a Jewish town, and he lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God.*

*This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put it in a tomb which was hewn in stone and which had never held a body. It was Preparation day and the Sabbath was beginning to grow light.*

*Meanwhile the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus were following behind. They took note of the tomb and how the body had been laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. And on the Sabbath day they rested, as the Law required."*

Luke 23:50-56 (NJB)

## **Closing Prayer:**

*With a synchronising glance  
they seal the tomb with stone  
and so their earlier fear  
and cowardice atone.*

*There is something deeply touching  
in the touching of the men  
a liturgy of reparation, or preparation  
of communion  
before the great 'Amen.'*

Fr Richard Nesbitt 2021, Atonement Hour in *'Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land;'*  
Warkshire, Friends of the Holy Land. Pp 88-89