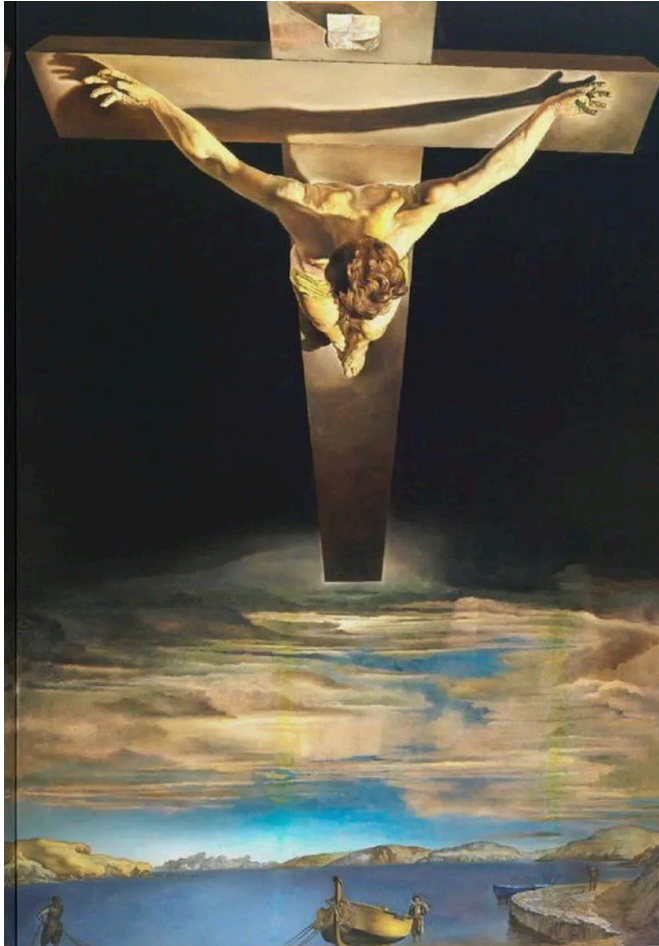


Jesus Christ, Our Savior, Is Our True Peace and Sabbath Rest



Christ of St John Salvador Dali 1951

our body and life, that is, between our old Adam and the new man (Rom. 7:23). By the Spirit of Christ, we “*desire to do what is right,*” but we are not able to do so because “*nothing good*” dwells in our sinful flesh (Rom. 7:18). “*Thanks be to God,*” therefore, “*through Jesus Christ our Lord,*” who delivers us from “*this body of death*” (Rom. 7:24–25). We rejoice in Him, our gentle King, who comes “*righteous and having salvation*” (Zech. 9:9). He speaks peace to our embattled hearts, and by His blood of the New Testament He sets us “*free from the waterless pit,*” and He returns us to the stronghold of our Baptism (Zech. 9:10–12). Though we “*labor and are heavy laden,*” He calls us to Himself and gives rest to our souls through His free and full forgiveness (Matt. 11:28), not because we are “*wise and understanding,*” but by the “*gracious will*” of God the Father, whom “*the Son chooses to reveal*” in love (Matt. 11:25–27).

Background: We have celebrated “America’s liberty with great fanfare, as well we should. While Israel was the original called nation by God, no country has been so blessed as the United States. Our charity to the rest of the world is noteworthy, and reflects our Christian heritage. Yet it was God that has generated true “Peace” by sending His Son to pay the full price for our sins by submitting him to a cruel death on a cross. Without this gift, and without the Holy Spirit constantly reminding us and causing us to know and believe the full price of our sins have been paid, we would live in eternal fear that when God calls us to account for our life, we will be sent straight to hell and forever apart from our God—The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So thanks to Christ we already live in “**Peace with God.**”

The Lessons: Zechariah 9:9–12, Romans 7:14–25a, & Matthew 11:25–30:

Though we have died with Christ in Holy Baptism, and we are raised to new life in Him, we find “*another law waging war*” in