

Silent Witnesses
Lent Study - Week 6
The Stone
Scripture Readings

First Lesson A reading from Isaiah 54:1-3

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD. "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

Psalmody from Psalm 22

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

All nations will remember the Lord. From every part of the world they will turn to him; all races will worship him.

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

The Lord is king, and he rules the nations. All the proud will bow down to him; every mortal will bow down before him.

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

Future generations will serve him; people will speak of the Lord to the next generation. Those not born will be told: 6'The Lord saved his people.'

Second Lesson A reading from 1 Peter 2:4-9

As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy

nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Theme Reading A reading from
*Matthew 27:60b—66***

Joseph rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.