



CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

Good Friday
March 29, 2024, 12p



IT IS FINISHED

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross (also called the Way of the Cross) is a traditional liturgical practice commemorating the last day of Jesus' life. The practice originated with pilgrims in Jerusalem retracing the traditional steps Jesus is believed to have followed on Good Friday. Since not all Christians could make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, however, the custom arose of replicating the practice in congregational and individual settings, often with images or carvings on the walls of a church to commemorate each of the traditional 14 stations (or stops) on the Way of the Cross.

The Church through the centuries has used many forms of praying the Stations of the Cross. The form here offers the opportunity for Christians to meditate on each of the stations by contemplating our individual need of Christ's atoning death as well as the implications of our forgiveness to a world in need of repair. The practice challenge us to think about how we—the ministers of God's reconciliation in Christ—can honor Christ's sacrifice by offering ourselves to the healing and repair of the world God sent his Son to save.

Opening Prayer

Officiant—

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation—

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our debts

as we have forgiven our debtors

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen.

Officiant—

We will glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Congregation—

In whom is our salvation, our life, and our resurrection.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

THE FIRST STATION: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Officiant—

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)

—Directive—

As you consider the anguish which our Lord suffered, consider the cost of love he has for you. Consider the lengths of humiliation and not taking advantage of his deity so that he might both show us the path of righteousness as well as redeem us from our first parents' sin in the Garden of Eden.

Take time to reflect on the loneliness he felt and the pain of being misunderstood—even by his closest companions. Remember the great love he has for you in taking the cup of God's wrath and drinking it on your behalf.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

God did not spare his own Son:

Congregation—

But delivered him up for us all.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen*

Congregation—

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us your strength and wisdom,
that we may seek to follow your will in all things**

SECOND STATION: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

(Mark 14:43-46)

— Directive —

As you consider the time that Judas spent with Jesus hearing his words and seeing his signs, take time to reflect on the warning he offers each of us to not conform God's ways into our ways. Whereas Judas wanted a king to demolish the oppressive forces of Rome, Jesus points each of us to the evil that can easily overtake each of our expectations of what God ought to do.

Spend time submitting your will to God's will. What area have you been trying to manage? What areas of sin in your life have you made amends with? Confess them now and ask God for help to walk in the Spirit and thereby not gratify the desires of the sinful flesh.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

Officiant—The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

Congregation—

For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us the courage of our convictions

that our lives may faithfully reflect the good news you bring.

THIRD STATION: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Officiant—

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth." (Luke 22: 66-71)

—Directive—

The religious leaders of Jesus' day had scoured the Scriptures, thinking that in them they had life...but it was to Jesus that they testified. Jesus came to his own and his own did not receive him.

The Righteous Son of God was maligned and called the devil.

Take heed that religion alone cannot save us. God uses the spiritual disciplines to shape us and form us and make room in our hearts to receive the very life of God.

Spend time reflecting on your own spiritual practices and consider where God would have you re-commit yourself to his ways. Consider your prayer life. Your Scripture reading. Your silence and solitude. Your acts of mercy for your neighbor. Where might you spend time in concerted effort to commune with the living God through these gifts of grace?

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Officiant—

Surely he has borne our griefs,

Congregation—

And carried our sorrows.

Officiant—

Let us pray. O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation—
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us your sense of righteousness
that we may never cease to work
to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised.

FOURTH STATION: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Officiant—

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Matthew 26: 69-75)

—Directive—

We can understand that Judas, a thief, might betray Jesus...but if we consider that one of his three closest friends also abandoned him. Out of fear. Out of embarrassment. Out of confusion, Peter did not have a lapse of judgment. He denied that he even knew Jesus three times.

Spend time considering if there are relationships you have where you are embarrassed or fearful of what your devotion to Christ might mean.

Surrender your desire to be liked and affirmed by others and find that Jesus did not chastise Peter after the resurrection. Rather, he welcomed him and reinstated him in grace and love. Know that even if we deny him, he will not deny us because we are his.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Officiant—

A sword will pierce your own soul also,

**Congregation—
And fill your heart with bitter pain.**

Officiant—

Let us pray. *O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a reminder that he was despised and rejected by friends. He was one from whom friends hide their face. He knows our loneliness. He knows our weakness, that we are but dust. And yet, he does not despise or reject us. Amen.*

**Congregation—
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us the gift of honesty
that we may not fear to speak the truth even when difficult**

FIFTH STATION: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Officiant—

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas... [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified. (Mark 15:1-5, 15)

—Directive—

The King of all Kings was judged by a prefect. A middle manager in the Roman Empire. What is more, he was condemned by a crowd of cowards—unwilling to follow the Prince of Peace who would lay his precious life down for those who would mock him.

In our day, it is popular to baptize the political powers in a self-righteous and us versus them mentality. It is popular for good things to sell our birthright as suffering servants.

As you reflect on Christ offering hope to the man and people who would condemn him, consider your own hunger for power and being right. Consider your own tendency to condemn those who disagree with you politically. Consider Pilate's question to Jesus: "What is truth?"

See in the battered face of Christ the invitation to embrace him who is the way, the truth, and true life.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Congregation—
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Officiant—

Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” (John 18:33-38)

Officiant—

I am the way and the truth and the life;

Congregation—

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us discernment

that we may see as you see, not as the world sees.

SIXTH STATION: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Officiant—

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (John 19: 1-3)

—Directive—

Notice the juxtaposition of our King being mocked and beaten. The one who sustains the very life of the ignorant and wayward soldiers opens not his mouth. He receives the pain and suffering at the hands of the who gives them life and breath and everything.

The one who cursed the ground because of our first parents' rebellion, causing it to sprout forth thorn and thistle, willingly receives the fruit of the curse on our behalf.

As your gaze into the face of our Savior, how might your present suffering and distress become a fellowship with him? Consider that pain and suffering is not God's abandonment or absence.

Truly, he is with you in the pain as he has entered into our suffering and sympathizes with us in our pain.

Pray: "Lord, Jesus, help me to bear my suffering as sweet communion with you. Convert my eyes and ears and heart to enjoy your fellowship in the darkness and sadness and misunderstanding I am currently undergoing. Give me resolve and determination and perspective to carry this cross."

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Officiant—

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

Congregation—

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Officiant—

Let us pray. O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us patience in times of suffering

that we may offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Bears the Cross

Officiant—

When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19: 6, 15-17)

— Directive —

In saying, "We have no king but Caesar," the Jewish people were denying the kingship of their covenant-keeping Lord. They had effectively replaced him and bent their knees of devotion to the idol of Rome.

We often find our security and hope in what we see with our eyes.

We are reminded that faith calls us to a deeper and higher calling. Faith reminds us that what is seen is passing away, but the eternal reign and rule of God, unseen to the natural eye, is what is true and lasting.

As you hear the crowds crying out "Crucify," spend a moment to consider your own proclivity to want God to leave you alone to your own desires and devices. Spend time confessing that we too want Christ to be crucified when we abandon him and exchange the glory of God for created things.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Officiant—

But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

Congregation—

Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Congregation—
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us strength of purpose
that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Officiant—

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. (Mark 15: 21)

—Directive—

Stumbling on the way to Golgotha, our Lord fell. Too weak to continue to carry the weight of the insufferable cross. In his curious grace, Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Christ.

In this way our Lord invites us into his suffering.

As the Apostle Paul says, our lives can become living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God. And in another place he says that his own ministry was filling up what is lacking in Christ's sufferings.

In other words, Christ carves a path of delightful and painful obedience to the will of the Father. Sometimes we may be compelled to take up our crosses when we consider that there is nowhere else we can go because Jesus has the words of true life.

As you behold Simon's service to our Lord, how might your cross be re-interpreted as a service to our Suffering Servant? As you bear your cross on the way, what could it reveal about God's adoption of you as his beloved child?

Spend time re-committing to the cost he has asked you to pay so that you might know him in his sufferings.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

As they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

Officiant—

Those who sow with tears,

Congregation—
Will reap with songs of joy.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Congregation:
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us willing spirits
that we may be your instruments on earth.

NINTH STATION: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Officiant—

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23: 27-31)

—Directive—

See the compassion that our Lord had on those who were weeping. He is not unaware of the pain that surrounded him. Even while he suffered unjustly for the sins of others, he sees the pain in the faces of the women of Jerusalem, who had suffered so much.

Hear his admonition to weep for our sins that have separated us from the love of God that is freely offered each day.

Consider that the judgment of Jerusalem's abandoning their King would fall upon them in AD 70.

Spend time asking God to give you the grace to be sober-minded and honest about your need to repent and believe. Instead of distracting yourself with all the suffering around you (which is overwhelming, indeed!), consider how you have contributed to others' pain and suffering through backbiting, slander, gossip, half-truths, self-serving attitudes, walking by the way instead of stopping to care for the wounded and broken.

Consider the sins you have done and those things you have left undone. Confess your need for Christ's cleansing power and his mercy to wipe the tears from your eyes.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. "Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!"

Officiant—

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

Congregation—

And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Officiant—

Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us gentle spirits

that we may comfort those who mourn.

TENTH STATION: Jesus is Crucified

Officiant—

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23: 33-34)

—Directive—

Jesus was not only misunderstood during his ministry, but even at the point of death he died as one who was considered a fraud and criminal.

Have you ever been misunderstood or maligned?

The utter lack of justice and righteousness is painful.

Feeling forsaken, our Lord cries out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Hear his cries for justice. Hear his cries for communion with his Father. Hear his benediction of forgiveness over you for the sins you know and those that you do not know you have committed. Hear his absolution and intercession for you.

Consider that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of Life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the Law of Sin and Death.

Surrender to his declaration over you of FORGIVEN and ACCEPTED...even at the moment of our greatest offense against him.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

Officiant—

They gave me gall to eat:

Congregation—

And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us merciful hearts

that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)

—Directive—

Jesus saved to the uttermost those who would mock him and refuse him. His mercy spills over the cup of God's wrath. His arms, pinned wide open, welcome you to run to him in your refusal to obey and in your mocking his ways as evil and for calling evil good.

We see in the criminals the two choices we have: To deny or to receive.

No one is so far from the mercy of God that he cannot be forgiven and accepted.

Perhaps you feel far from God right now. Perhaps a loved one you have interceded for years continues in their unbelief. Perhaps you feel the proneness you have to wander.

Hear his words that there is a place prepared for us in Paradise. Hear the great hope we have due to his words of welcome. Due to his sacrifice to you, too, are welcome and no longer far off. Verily, you are next to him.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

Officiant—

They pierce my hands and my feet:

Congregation—

They stare and gloat over me.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.*

Congregation:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us perseverance

that we may never stop seeking you.

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

Officiant—

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19: 25-27)

—Directive—

Though abandoned by his friends, we see a glimmer of hope that there was still a remnant who drew near to him. When friends abandon their faith and family refuses to heed the call to repent and believe, take comfort in your flickering flame of devotion. Celebrate the fact that you desire the things of God. He has revealed his grace to you and has caused you to be convinced that he provides for all your needs...That no good thing do you lack because you love him and are called according to his purposes.

As he dies on the Cross, even there he is tending to the future needs of Mary by entrusting her into the care of John.

Consider that Christ knows what you need before you even ask. He tends to your soul in a myriad of ways that you cannot now fathom.

Spend a few moments reflecting on his care for you both now and in the future. What fears or anxieties do you have about your future? About your vocation? Your relationships? Your physical and emotional and spiritual needs?

May the thought of Christ's foreknowing provision is laid before you. He has seen your path and prepares it for you.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

Officiant—

Christ for us became obedient unto death:

Congregation—

Even death on a cross.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us constancy

that we may be willing to stand by those in need.

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Officiant—

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23: 44-46)

—Directive—

Utter darkness covers the face of the earth. As at the beginning of the Creation of all life, it begins in darkness.

As a sign of the destitution and darkness that covered the hearts of the people, for three hours darkness persisted. There was no doubt that they had crucified the Lord of Glory and the brightness of that glory was snuffed out.

Left in the dark without his guiding light, the onlookers were left with confusion and groping in the darkness.

Yet, in that very darkness, the curtain prohibiting people from entering God's holy presence was rent...allowing all people everywhere to enter.

Spend a moment considering his invitation for you to enter into the joy of your Master even now because of Christ's infinitely valuable sacrifice of his very life.

And we have no fear of darkness and the grave, because in him we have the pioneer of our faith. The one who allows us to truly rest in peace.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. "Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

Officiant—

Her tears run down her cheeks:

Congregation—

And she has none to comfort her.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Grant us trust in you that when our time on earth is ended our spirits may come to you without delay.

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Officiant—

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matthew 27: 57-60)

—Directive—

At the end of the story of Good Friday, nothing but death remains. Humanity has brought God's Son to the tomb, sealing him behind an immovable stone. But to God, through whom all things are possible, no barrier is immovable. Through the sacrifice and death of Christ, even death itself is no longer a barrier to life for the children of God.

Where are you having difficulty believing God's promises to you and his overtures of love for you? What sin do you feel has closed in on you so that there feels like there is no escape?

Born of a virgin womb as an acclamation of his divinity...Buried in a virgin tomb in hope of a first fruits harvest of righteousness. Our Lord seeks to open up the furrows of your heart to find a place to rest his head. As we submit to the silence of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we find a place of rest for our own souls as the Lord seeks to make his dwelling within each of us. Commit afresh to welcome him into the dark places of your heart. Invite him to shine the light of his glorious presence in the nooks and crannies of the house of your heart.

Officiant—

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

Congregation—

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Officiant—

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

Officiant—

You will not abandon me to the grave:

Congregation—

Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Officiant—

Let us pray. *O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Congregation—

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Grant us your compassion

that we may always provide for those in need.

Officiant—Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

Congregation—Save us, and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.

Officiant—Let us pray. *We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has welcomed us to life through death, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

Congregation—Amen.

Officiant—To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Congregation—Amen.

****Please depart in silence****



CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

We are united by our Core Values

Community | Discipleship | Liturgy | Mercy + Mission | Simplicity

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