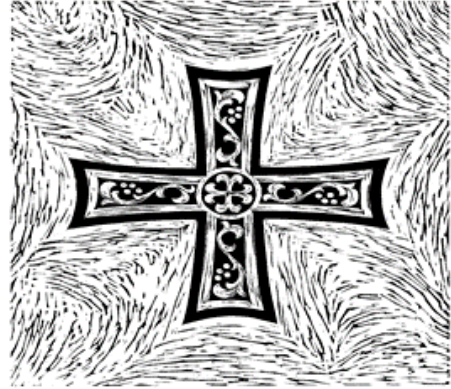


THE WAY OF THE CROSS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

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ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Clergy In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

Clergy Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Clergy Lord, have mercy.

All **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Clergy We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:
All **In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Clergy Let us pray.

Clergy 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. Amen.

FIRST STATION

Lector Jesus is condemned to death.

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

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

Lector As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, “He deserves to die.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

God did not spare his own Son:

All **But delivered him up for us all.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

SECOND STATION

Lector Jesus takes up his Cross.

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

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

Lector 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.

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

All **For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

THIRD STATION

Lector Jesus falls the first time.

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

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

Lector 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. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Surely he has borne our griefs:

All **And carried our sorrows.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

Almighty and everliving 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 every day in the way of his love; we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

FOURTH STATION

Lector Jesus meets his afflicted mother.

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

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

Lector 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.

A sword will pierce your own soul also:

All **And fill your heart with bitter pain.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

O God, who willed that in the passion of your son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may never forget the cries of those who lose their children to violence, greed and apathy; we pray through him who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

FIFTH STATION

Lector The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene.

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

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

Lector As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

All **Cannot be my disciple.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

SIXTH STATION

Lector A woman wipes the face of Jesus.

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

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

Lector And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

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

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

Almighty God, look with pity upon our sorrows and on all who wait patiently for deliverance from suffering. Remember your people with mercy; nourish us with your strength; comfort us with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon us; and give us peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

SEVENTH STATION

Lector Jesus falls a second time.

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

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

Lector 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.

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

All **Scorned by all and despised by the people.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

Almighty and everliving God, In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. May we be ever grateful for your grace and mercy. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

EIGHTH STATION

Lector Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

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

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

Lector There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

Those who sowed with tears:

All **Will reap with songs of joy.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

NINTH STATION

Lector Jesus falls a third time.

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

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

Lector 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!"

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

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

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of humiliating and horrific 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 bringing the grace of eternal life closer to all humanity; we pray in the name of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

TENTH STATION

Lector Jesus is stripped of his garments.

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

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

Lector 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.”

They gave me gall to eat:

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

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

ELEVENTH STATION

Lector Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

Lector We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Lector 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.”

All They pierce my hands and my feet:
They stare and gloat over me.

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
 Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One,
 Have mercy upon us.**

TWELFTH STATION

Lector Jesus dies on the Cross.

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

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

Lector 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.

Christ for us became obedient unto death:

All **Even death on a cross.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

THIRTEENTH STATION

Lector The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

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

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

Lector 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.”

Her tears run down her cheeks:

All **And she has none to comfort her.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector Let us pray together:

Holy God, save us from speaking in hate or living in bitterness, shield us from despair and teach us to hope, so that, relying in your grace and mercy, we may become more and more like our savior, Jesus Christ, who prayed for those who persecuted him, and in whose name we now pray. Amen.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

FOURTEENTH STATION

Lector Jesus is laid in the tomb.

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

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

Lector 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.

You will not abandon me to the grave:

All **Nor let your holy One see corruption.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Lector 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.

All **Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Clergy Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:
All **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

Time is kept for silent meditation.

Clergy 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 recalled us to life, 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. Amen.

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. Amen.

All **Amen.**