



**ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE
WITH AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON**

**The Way of the Cross¹
Good Friday 2021**

The Gathering

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

Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace. (Ephesians 2:13-14)

Let us pray

¹ Adapted from Common Worship (Times and Seasons), A Walk in Jerusalem and All Desires Known (with thanks to St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong).

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem,
from then to now,
Let us follow Jesus.

To heal the sick,
to mend the broken-hearted,
to comfort the disturbed,
to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple,
to liberate faith from convention,
Let us follow Jesus.

To carry the cross,
to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world
and take it away,
Let us follow Jesus.

Today,
to this place,
to us,
Let us follow Jesus.

THE FIRST STATION:

Jesus is judged

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and, plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on him. (Mark 15:15-17)

Reflection/Meditation

Jesus had been arrested the previous evening in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Those who caused his arrest were unable to convict Jesus of any capital crime by their own laws. They were forced to bring him before the Roman Governor on a charge of rebellion against the occupying power, Rome.

The crowd is unruly. The quiet dignity and calm assurance of the prisoner disturbs Pilate profoundly, but he is too weak to stand up to the crowd. Finally the governor yields, and he sentences Jesus to death by crucifixion, the terrible death reserved for slaves, pirates and rebels against the state.

Let us pray:

for politicians, government officials, leaders, especially those in our own countries,
that they may seek the common good - peace, equity and justice;
for judges and magistrates, that they may administer true justice impartially and with mercy;
for those who have power of life and death over others;
for every occasion when human beings use their skills to hurt and kill;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those condemned to death for whatever reason;
for those imprisoned, lawfully and unlawfully, justly and unjustly;
for those serving very long or indeterminate sentences;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves;
when we judge others and for those who condemn;

when we stand judged or condemned, rightly or wrongly;
that we may know the witness and humility of Christ;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *O Saviour of the World – John Goss*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QLS98Y47Vs>

O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

SECOND STATION:

Jesus receives his cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. (John 19:16-17)

Reflection/Meditation

While they are waiting for those whom they will crucify to be brought from their cells, the soldiers in the execution detail idle the time away with a rough gambling game. They see Jesus as a condemned terrorist whose activities threaten their very lives. So they unhesitatingly gamble for the privilege of tormenting him along the way with blows and words.

The condemned men – there are three of them – each receives a single beam to carry across his shoulders to Golgotha. A placard declaring each man’s crime will be carried in front of him. The death procession forms, and the order is given to move out through the crowded streets.

As we walk the stations in our mind eye’s today, let us think about the prisoner condemned as The King of the Jews “despised and rejected”, carrying so much more than a heavy, bruising, rough beam of wood. He is “enduring the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne”.

Let us pray:

for all police officers, prison officers and those required to carry out death sentences and corporal punishment;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who mock and torment others and for those who are mocked and tormented;

for all victims of violence and those who commit violence against others;

for those who live under military rule or occupation;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves;

when we mock, insult or hurt others;

when we ourselves are hurt or put down;

that any suffering we may have to endure may be fruitful for ourselves and for others as was Christ’s suffering;

and that we may be preserved from indifference to the sufferings of others;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *He was despised: G F Handel - The Messiah*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YpakMroSWU>

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. *Isaiah 53:3*

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls for the first time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)

Reflection/Meditation

Jesus falls for the first time, pinned down by the weight of the cross beam he is carrying ... Yet his meek acceptance of humiliation and weakness is the mighty weapon with which he is disarming sin and suffering and death.

Jesus will fall three times during his walk to Calvary. God falls. God is not supposed to fall, but God does fall. Like the crown of thorns, this is divine reversal. Everything we hold to be so important – power, physical strength – is turned upside down. God becomes weak, no longer the all-powerful but one who can fall, one who can die. God becomes human in the person of Jesus. On the Via Dolorosa, we confront the humanity of God in the act of Jesus falling.

Let us pray:

for those who are weak and in pain, especially those living with Covid-19
and other incurable diseases;

for those who experience physical exhaustion;

for those who are weak and sick with hunger;

for those suffering the weakness of advanced age;

for those facing failure;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who care for the physically weak, the sick, the elderly;

for doctors and nurses, social workers, counsellors, hospital workers, and families;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves;

when we face sickness, physical weakness, tiredness and exhaustion;

when we experience failure;

that we may know the power of Christ's experience on the cross;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Surely he hath borne our griefs: G F Handel – The Messiah*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63tsdDnJtdQ>

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken,
smitten of God, and afflicted. *Isaiah 53.4*

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34-35)

Reflection/Meditation

This is one station at which we all have something in common, because we all have been mothered. We think about Jesus' mother, Mary, as she saw her son in agony and in pain, and we lift up mothers who have to see their sons and their daughters suffer. We know the tremendous pain of parents seeing their child in pain, seeing their child in any kind of agony, seeing their child die.

We also have an opportunity at this station to lift up, in our own prayers, difficult times we may have had with our own mothers, times when the relationship was not as we would have liked it to be, times when we have hurt our mothers or times when our mothers have hurt us.

At the same time, we lift up, in thanksgiving, times of joy and happiness that we have had with our mothers.

Let us pray:

in thanksgiving for the example, love, and prayers of our Lady Mary, the Mother of Our Lord;
for our own mothers and fathers, naming them now in our hearts before God;

in thanksgiving for all the love and joy that they have brought to us, and in sorrow for all the ways in which we may have hurt them;

for all who have been “mothers” and “fathers” to us and who still are;

for those living on this side of the narrow curtain of death, and those who have died and are living beyond it;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those to whom we are mother or father physically, spiritually, by adoption, or personally,
that they may grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God, with themselves,
and with others;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, as children and as parents, that we may know the love, commitment, and gentleness of Mary and of Jesus, our Lord, in all our relationships;

and that we, like Mary, may treasure all these things in our hearts;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Stabat Mater: Pergolesi*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTHwodbnTrs>

Stabat Mater dolorósa
Juxta Crucem lacrimósa,
Dum pendébat Filius.

At the cross her station keeping,
Mary stood in sorrow weeping
When her Son was crucified.

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

And 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. (Luke 23:26)

Reflection/Meditation

The officer in charge of the execution detail orders a visitor to Jerusalem, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the crossbeam for him. We do not know the colour of Simon of Cyrene's skin. We do not know if he was black, or white, or olive-skinned. All we know is that he came from the area of North Africa that is now Libya.

At the Fifth Station of the Cross, we are given the opportunity to lift up our own prejudices and fears to God: prejudices and fears that make us less than human because of the anxieties they provoke.

Some become anxious when they encounter someone with a different skin colour, a different religious tradition, or a different ethnicity. We lift up and surrender our prejudices and our fears at this station so that we may be healed and live as Christ lived.

Let us pray:

in gratitude that it was an African who helped Jesus on the way to Calvary;
for all the peoples of Africa;
for the newly emerging and developing nations, in Africa and in other parts of the world;
for those nations and peoples still seeking freedom and independence;
for international understanding and cooperation, to foster mutual respect and security
between nations, especially in a time of global emergency;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for all who suffer because of colour, race, or creed;
for the removal of all barriers of resentment and prejudice between peoples;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, in deepest thanksgiving that God finds us lovable;
that God gave Jesus Christ so that we may have eternal life;
that we may be free from all prejudice,
and be freed from self-love and selfishness
in giving, serving, affirming, and nurturing others;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *"Take up thy cross," the Saviour said*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS3q4uTEAik>

"Take up thy cross," the Saviour said,
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me."

Take up thy cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the Cross endured
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
t'will guide thee to a better home
and lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ
nor think till death to lay it down:
for only he who bears the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heav'nly life that knows no end.

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes Jesus' brow

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 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. (Isaiah 53:2-3)

Reflection/Meditation

A woman sees Jesus approaching and she wipes his ravaged face. Later she will discover an icon of that face marvelously imprinted on her towel; she will come to be known as Veronica. The word Veronica means "true icon", and icon means "image". God has sent his Son, the exact likeness or "icon" of his own being.

We, too, are created in the image of God. We are created in the icon of God. Even more important, we are called ourselves to be icons of God, so that, when others see us, they will see right through us to God and to God's love.

We are challenged to move beyond who we have been, to live in the fullness of the image of God, to live in that radical discipleship of our Lord in that more perfect image of God.

Let us pray:

in thanksgiving for all who see with God's eyes, and who recognize love and beauty where we may see only ugliness and squalor;
for every act and occasion of compassion and caring;
and for all who feel for God in those who are suffering;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for all whose suffering, pain, deprivation, and degradation make them ugly and unattractive to themselves and to others;
for all who have the courage to love and show compassion;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, that our eyes may be opened to see beauty where God sees beauty;
that we may be given a heart open to compassion and hands ready to comfort and console;
that others may see in us a true icon of God;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Ubi caritas et amor: Maurice Duruflé*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1BTWCpEFRQ>

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Where charity and love are, God is there.

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls a second time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

Reflection/Meditation

At the top of the Via Dolorosa, Jesus falls for the second time. In Jesus's day a city gate stood at the spot where the Via Dolorosa feeds into the original main road of Jerusalem, the Cardo. It was not unknown for the Roman authorities to let the condemned get to this gate before granting them a pardon or commutation of their sentence, so the execution detail holds the procession here for a while. But Pilate has granted the one and only pardon this day to Barabbas. Jesus knows this. There is no pardon for the Supreme Pardoner: no one in authority cares about his fate.

Jesus knows that the way he is walking is irrevocable now. It is the way to his death.

Let us pray:

in humility and gratitude for God's mercy and forgiveness;
that mercy may always temper justice;
for heads of state, parole boards, and those who have responsibility for showing official mercy;
for all who seek pardon and mercy;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who suffer mental weakness and fatigue;
for the mentally ill, the anxious, the lonely, and the distressed;
for those suffering from dementia;
and for all who care for them, their families, friends, and members of the caring professions;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves;
that we may be forgiving and merciful;
for those we have hurt or offended;
and that whenever we see someone in pain, we may recognize Christ in them and Christ in us;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Media Vita: Kerensa Briggs*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pTKfYVJ-uU>

Media vita in morte sumus
Quem quaerimus adiutorem
Nisi te, Domine
Qui pro peccatis nostris
Iuste irasceris?
Sancte Deus
Sancte fortis
Sancte et misericors Salvator:
Amarae morti ne tradas nos.

In the midst of life we are in death
We who are seeking help
But you, O Lord,
He who speaks for our sins,
Are you not justly angry?
Holy God
Holy and strong
Holy and compassionate Saviour:
Do not deliver us to the harshness of death.

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus talks to the weeping women

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

There followed him a great multitude of the people, and of 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. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23:27-31)

Reflection/Meditation

Realising that no last-minute pardon is forthcoming, some women begin to mourn and wail aloud. Their compassion for Jesus is heightened by their recognition that he is the innocent victim of the political machinations of their own leaders and of the representatives of the Roman occupying power. Jerusalem has always known pain, and it has always known the tears of women – Armenian women, Jewish women, Palestinian women, Druze women – as they have waited and have watched their husbands, their sons and daughters, their brothers and sisters, go off to the slaughter of war or to the punishment of prisons and detention centres. Today in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over Golgotha, or Calvary, there is a

chapel called Christ's Prison. To this day, women and men come to light candles for their sons, spouses, brothers, and lovers who are being held in prison. They weep as they pray that a pardon may come to their loved ones. And Jesus tells us not to weep for him, but to weep for ourselves in our injustices and in our cruelty.

Let us pray:

for all women everywhere;

especially for those who have to watch husbands, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, friends, or lovers go to war;

for those who mourn loved ones killed or wounded in violence not of their own making;

for the women of Jerusalem today: Jews, Christians, Muslims, Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis, Armenians and others;

and for those women we know in our lives and who are standing beside us;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

in penitence and sorrow for each time right is obscured by might;

for every time the powerful are given undue respect while the weak and powerless, the poor and the dispossessed, are ignored and repressed;

we pray for liberation for women and for liberation of men;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit will give us the mind of Christ to love and respect those who are oppressed;

and to know Christ's dignity when we are made to suffer indignity;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Drop, drop slow tears: Orlando Gibbons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUE2w62qy-l>

Drop, drop, slow tears,	Cease not, wet eyes,
And bathe those beauteous feet	His mercy to entreat;
Which brought from Heaven	To cry for vengeance
The news and Prince of Peace:	Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye
See sin, but through my tears.

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls a third time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Reflection/Meditation

The execution procession has come out of the city gate into an area called Golgotha or Calvary. This is the unused quarry that Herod the Great made into a public place so people could see the execution and learn the dreadful lesson that the crucifixions are intended to teach.

But often passers-by are indifferent. On that busy Passover eve, how many people do you think really cared that another three men were going to be crucified? Everyone is hurrying home: there is a lot to do before tomorrow.

How often do we try to avoid those around us on a city street or even in church on Sunday? We are very busy. We have a lot to do in our important lives and we cannot take the time to stop and get involved in someone else's life, someone who may need us just to listen to them for a moment.

At this station Jesus falls for the third time; we fall whenever we pass by a person who needs us.

Let us pray:

for those who experience moral weakness and failure;
for those who know what it is to lose their faith;
for those who have lost hope in this world or the next;
for those who are at the very limits of their mental, physical, spiritual or moral strength;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who counsel the despairing or suicidal;
for chaplains and those who minister in prisons;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, when we know moral failure, when everything and everyone seems to be against us and hope flees,
that we may remember Jesus waiting for crucifixion and know his patience, presence and resolve;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *My song is love unknown*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0>

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
And for His death
they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay,
Yet cheerful He
to suffering goes,
That He His foes
from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
in Whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (John 19:23-24)

Reflection/Meditation

Here Jesus was stripped of his clothes. For him, this is perhaps the most terrible moment in the whole appalling day. As a Jew, he has been taught never to be seen naked. To be exposed to the curiosity of anyone and everyone passing by is one of the worst things that can happen.

His humiliation, his degradation is virtually complete. Only the absolute helplessness of being stretched on the cross remains.

He is undergoing suffering that rightly should have been ours. We stop to think of the many times we have stripped other people of their dignity, of their human worth, just so we might feel a little bit better ourselves. We think how often sexual violence is committed for people's own gratification, how they take away the dignity of another so that they might feel strong.

We remember Jesus being stripped of his garments, and we offer up the times when we, too, have stripped other people. We ask God's forgiveness.

Let us pray:

for those who are exposed to ridicule, who are shamed, humiliated, degraded;

for victims of domestic violence;

for victims of rape and sexual abuse;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who expose, shame, humiliate, and degrade others, by word or action or thought;

for those who degrade or exploit others racially, sexually, intellectually or economically;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, when we are ashamed or abused,

that we may find healing and so live that we have nothing to hide;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *O sacred head, sore wounded*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4uUJibpvw>

O sacred head sore wounded
Defiled and put to scorn
O kingly head surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn.
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflow'r?
O countenance whose splendour
The hosts of heav'n adore!

In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry.
With thee for my salvation
Upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
To stand thy cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-beloved,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." (Matthew 27:39-40)

Reflection/Meditation

After the humiliation of nakedness, Jesus is subjected to the physical agony of having great spikes hammered through his wrists to stake his arms upon the crossbeam on which he lies. The beam is then raised until it fits into its socket in the upright beam. Jesus hangs suspended from the spikes hammered through his wrists. A third great spike is driven through his ankles.

Jesus himself says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 2:34). Those who hear him do not know that it is because of our sins that he is pierced and that we die with him on his cross. They do not know that nails are not what hold him to the cross but rather his life-giving love for us.

Let us pray:

in awe and gratitude, we stand before the mystery of the cross;
here we know that God loved the world so much that God gave his Son to this kind of suffering
and this kind of death,

that Jesus accepted this suffering and death out of love for us, so that we may share his risen life.

We acclaim Jesus as the Christ, fountain of our salvation and healing.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who would destroy that which is good, that which is sacred, beautiful, and true;
for every attempt to suppress the truth and good news of Christ crucified and for all who are persecutors of Christ's church and God's children in the world;
for those who are persecuted or oppressed for any reason;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, whenever we are called to account for our faith,
that we may understand and incorporate into our lives the Way of the Cross, allowing sin, suffering, and death to be broken on the rock of love, and refusing to retaliate against evil with evil;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *When I survey the wondrous cross*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUqz_x5A

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying Crimson, like a Robe,
Spreads o'er his Body on the Tree;
Then I am dead to all the Globe,
And all the Globe is dead to me

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:37-39)

Reflection/Meditation

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built over an ancient stone quarry that, in Jesus's day, lay just outside the city walls. Ever since the 8th century B.C. limestone had been quarried from this pit. But there is a flawed strain of limestone in this quarry. The church balcony where one stands for the Twelfth Station of the Cross contains a circular opening in the floor through which one can reach down and touch the actual spoiled rock, the stone not worth quarrying. We recall the Psalmist's words, "The stone the builder rejected has become the head of the corner" (Psalm 118:22). The divine reversal is under way. This crucified man whom the crowds jeered will indeed become the "head of the corner." The cornerstone of the church is placed on this rejected stone.

Let us pray:
for the dying;
for ourselves, in our last days, in our last hour;
in gratitude that because of the loneliness of Jesus on the cross no one need ever die alone or
without hope;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who care for the dying: their families, friends, nurses, doctors, counsellors, and the communion of saints;

for all hospices for the dying;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for all persons who have died, whoever they may be,
that they may share Christ's risen and eternal life;

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Glory be to Jesus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cx3apaGKN0s>

Glory be to Jesus,
who, in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood
from his sacred veins.

Blest through endless ages
be the precious stream
which from endless torments
did the world redeem.

Grace and life eternal
in that blood I find;
blest be his compassion,
infinitely kind.

Lift we, then, our voices,
swell the mighty flood,
louder still and louder
praise the precious blood!

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus' body is taken down from the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:38-42)

Reflection/Meditation

As the bodies are about to be taken down and thrown into a mass grave, two local dignitaries arrive with an order from the governor allowing them to remove Jesus's body and to bury it privately. The two, Joseph and Nicodemus, remove the iron spikes and lower Jesus's bloody, grimy, sweat-caked body into the arms of his mother and the tiny band of watchers.

Do any of them remember what he had said only the night before, "This, my body, given for you...This, my blood, poured out for you"? Countless millions will hear those words someday and remember. But the future is hidden from the mourners at this moment.

But now it is too late in the day to complete the preparation of Jesus's body for burial before the Sabbath begins. Therefore, the body is taken to the nearby tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea, who had helped achieve the release of the body. Now it awaits preparation for proper burial after the Sabbath.

Now we are left with the words of the centurion, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Let us pray:

for the departed, especially those we have known and loved, remembering them in our hearts;
for those who have influenced us for good;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for those who mourn; for those who care for the bereaved;
for the healing of pain and grief;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Let us pray:

for ourselves, whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup of salvation,
in thanksgiving that Jesus Christ gave his body to be broken for us and his blood to be shed for
us,
that we may be enabled and strengthened by his Spirit to give ourselves to be broken and
poured out for others, for the sanctification of the whole of God's creation;
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Silence

O Saviour of the world who by your cross and passion has redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Music for meditation: *Ave Verum corpus - Mozart*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvyqeCvvF5w>

Ave Verum Corpus natum de Maria Virgine
Vere passum, immolatum
In cruce pro homine
Cuius latus perforatum
Fluxit aqua et sanguine
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine

Truly born of the Virgin Mary
Truly offered,
On the cross for humanity
From his pierced side;
Flowed water and blood
To be to us a foretaste of death

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus's body is placed in the tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

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, and
departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.
(Matthew 27:59-61)

Reflection/Meditation

For Jesus, all of the suffering, all of the pain, is over. All the words that could be spoken have been spoken. Now we are left with silence.

Inside the great Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, there is a small building called the Empty Tomb. What other church, what other cathedral, what other basilica in the world hosts an Empty Tomb? This Empty Tomb makes sense out of our lives. This Empty Tomb gives meaning and purpose to our lives. This Empty Tomb makes us all citizens of Jerusalem, not only this earthly Jerusalem but also the heavenly Jerusalem where we look forward to feasting on the heavenly bread.

Let us pray:

O Christ, your bitter agony was watched from afar by women who also kept their vigil opposite your tomb when you were buried: enable us to follow the example of their persistent love; that being steadfast in the face of horror, we may also know the place of resurrection; this we pray in your name. Amen.

THE CONCLUSION

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
Amen.

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility, obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.
Amen.

Music for meditation: *Set me as a seal upon your heart* *Eleanor Daly*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gJvHbsypBM>

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love
neither can the floods drown it.
If you keep my commandments
You shall abide in my love.
Love one another as I have loved you.
Then shall your joy be complete.
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.