

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



This liturgy was developed for use by Saint Mark's pilgrims in Jerusalem in the spring of 2023 and is offered during Holy Week with a special intention for our siblings in the Holy Land who are enduring continued war and violence.

The content draws substantially upon liturgical resources of the Episcopal Church, the Church of England, and the Pro Cathedral of the Assumption in Ontario, Canada.

The installation of The Stations of the Cross by sculptor Virginia Maksymowicz is a collaboration with the Visual Arts Ministry, thanks to a generous gift from The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, former Bishop of Olympia, and Mrs. Marti Rickel, to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bishop Rickel's father, Morris E. Rickel Jr.

OPENING DEVOTIONS AT THE FONT

*The Assembly speaks aloud the text in **bold**.*

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

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Loving God, you are always present in our lives, even in times of desert dryness. Grant that as we walk these stations we may draw near to your son in his suffering and death so that we may more fully participate in the joy of his resurrection. At the font we await the rushing baptismal waters of Easter. May our souls thirst for you, O God. Fill us to overflowing. This we pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ASPERGES

The Assembly is sprinkled with water from the font.

PROCESSION

While moving between stations through the sacred space, all say or sing:

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

PILATE went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.” Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

—*John 19:4–16*

Let us pray.

All pray together:

**Jesus, our brother,
We stand in silence as you are condemned by Pilate.**

Standing in silence is not new to us.

We have stood silent

**—as you went hungry at our tables,
—as you were orphaned in our wars,
—as you walked powerless in our world.**

**We always stand in silence for we, like Pilate,
are bowed, broken and afraid.**

**Break the chains of this silence
which lies so heavily on our lives.**

Give us the courage to speak in your behalf.

Amen.

All move to the second station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS RECEIVES HIS CROSS

TAKE my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—*Matthew 11:29–30*

SURELY he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

—*Isaiah 53:4–5*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
We watch you bear the cross
and do not understand.**

**Our hearts are hardened.
Everyone tells us that suffering is evil
and must be avoided at every cost.
We flee sickness, sorrow and pain.**

**Carrying your own cross
says something different about suffering.
Help us to follow you
even when we do not understand.
Amen.**

All move to the third station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

ALL we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

—Isaiah 53:6-8

OLORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help.

—Psalm 88:1-4

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
You have fallen with your cross.
We wonder if you have not fallen again today.
Everywhere we see signs of weakness:
in our church, in our nation, in our world.
We see dissension, controversy, turmoil.
We are scandalized.
We do not understand.
Our faith begins to falter.
Help us to find you hidden in your weakness.
Help us to find you beneath the cross.
Amen.**

All move to the fourth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

WHEN they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” —*Luke 2:45-49*

UPON my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. “I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.” I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. “Have you seen him whom my soul loves?” Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother’s house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me. —*Song of Solomon 3:1-4*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
We are moved by a mother’s love.**

**May we hold vigil with her
whose heart was pierced by a sword of grief.**

She saw beneath your grime and agony.

She saw your hidden beauty.

We trust she does the same for us.

Amen.

All move to the fifth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE FIFTH STATION: SIMON OF CYRENE TAKES THE CROSS

THEY compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.
—*Mark 15:21*

I WANT to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.
—*Philippians 3:10–13*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
We see you suffering all around us,
in the poor, in the powerless,
in the misunderstood.**

**We are so hesitant to come to your help.
We find so many excuses.
We remain aloof.**

**Grant us the wisdom and the courage
to help the least of your brothers and sisters
and so to help you.
Amen.**

All move to the sixth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE SIXTH STATION: A WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

—*Isaiah 53:2–3*

His face blood-stained, dust-streaked, and tired, Jesus staggered, step by step, along. Veronica, hesitantly tender, alive to opportunity, from the shadows stepped and with her woman's veil touched the face and bathed the sorrow to the flow of her tears. Veronica, Veronica, so tender, so alive.

—*early Christian tradition*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
You honored the woman for her courage.
You held her gaze, as you do ours.**

May we have such courage to meet yours.

**“By this will all know
that you are my disciples:
that you love one another.”**

**Help us forget our fears and reach out
to serve our brothers and sisters.**

Amen.

All move to the seventh station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

ALTHOUGH he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
—*Philippians 2:6–7*

IN THE days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.
—*Hebrews 5:7–10*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
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.**

All move to the eighth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE EIGHTH STATION: THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM WEEP FOR JESUS

A GREAT number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ 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*

BUT truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.
—*Psalm 66:19-20*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
In the midst of your sufferings
you had compassion for others and their pain.**

**We are often so self-centered.
We do not see the suffering of others.
We want pity, kindness, and understanding.
We are willing to give so little in return.**

**Help us forget ourselves.
Awaken us to the pain in the lives of others.
Amen.**

All move to the ninth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. —*Romans 7:15*

YOU have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.
Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.
“And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?
My hope is in you.
Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool.
I am silent; I do not open my mouth,
for it is you who have done it.
Remove your stroke from me;
I am worn down by the blows of your hand.
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;
do not hold your peace at my tears.
For I am your passing guest,
an alien, like all my forebears.
Turn your gaze away from me, that I may smile again,
before I depart and am no more.

—*Psalm 39:5–10, 12–13 (NRSV)*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
Your third fall is the beginning of your death agony.**

Our world is filled with dying people:

—in war,
—in refugee camps
—in famine,
—in hospitals,
—on highways.

Many this day will die alone.

**May our prayers become comfort for the dying,
especially those who must die alone.**

Amen.

All move to the tenth station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

WHEN the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."
—*John 19:23–24*

WHILE they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. —*Luke 2:6–7*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
There is something terrible in thinking of you stripped
before the crowd.**

**Even the dignity of clothing is taken.
They spat upon you and mocked you.
You have given up everything.**

**May we have the grace to give,
to give of what we have,
to help our brothers and sisters suffering all around us.
Amen.**

All move to the eleventh station.

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

WHEN they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

—*Luke 23:33–43*

MY SPIRIT is broken, my days are extinct, the grave is ready for me. Surely there are mockers around me, and my eye dwells on their provocation. “He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom people spit. My eye has grown dim from grief, and all my members are like a shadow.

—*Job 17:1–2, 6–7*

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 move to the twelfth station.

**HOLY GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE, HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

FROM noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" —*Matthew 27:45-54*

BUT we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

—*2 Corinthians 4:7-12*

A lengthy time of silent prayer is held here, contemplating the weight of this place.

After a time, the leader invites movement to the next station, with these words

**HOLY GOD,
HOLY AND MIGHTY,
HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,
HAVE MERCY UPON US.**

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

MANY women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

—*Matthew 27:55–58*

GOD's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

—*1 John 4:9–11*

Let us pray.

Jesus, our brother,

You are laid in the arms of your mother.

The agony is over, but the resurrection is not yet.

The Paschal Mystery requires patience.

So it is with us.

We reach moments when only patience can carry us on.

We know that something better will come.

Help us hold the space for your grace in our lives.

Amen.

All move to the fourteenth station.

HOLY GOD,

HOLY AND MIGHTY,

HOLY IMMORTAL ONE,

HAVE MERCY UPON US.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

WHEN evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

—*Mark 15:42-47*

SO IF anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

—*2 Corinthians 5:17-20*

Let us pray.

**Jesus, our brother,
The end of life is so definite.
We fear it deep within.
We do not want to die.**

**Grant that we who have been buried with you in the waters of baptism
may find our perfect rest in your eternal and glorious kingdom;
where you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE END OF THE STORY...

BUT Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

—*John 20:11–18*

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

—*1 Corinthians 15:12–22*

REFLECTION

*We continue to pray for all people affected by violence, especially the Israel-Hamas war, knowing that the physical, emotional and financial impacts are far reaching. So, we pray—we pray for peace, and we hold all impacted by the violence in our weary hearts especially in this Holy season of Lent. You are invited to read each of these reflections and consider: what situations are calling you to stand for justice, love, generosity, and **peace**?*

“The past is prophetic in that it asserts loudly that wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows. One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. How much longer must we play at deadly war games before we heed the plaintive pleas of the unnumbered dead and maimed of past wars.”

[*Martin Luther King, Jr.*]

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not the way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”

[*Dwight D. Eisenhower*]

“I always knew that deep down in every human heart, there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure me and keep me going. Man’s goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

[*Nelson Mandela*]



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