



St Michael's Anglican Church, Bryanston

Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg

The stations of the Cross for our Time

Today we take the *Way of Sorrow (Via Dolorosa)* with Jesus, symbolically following his last steps on earth before his crucifixion, finding a way to share in his suffering and sacrifice, and to give and receive his compassion. We offer these *Stations of the Cross for our Time* as a resource for use at home or in groups on Good Friday. By entering into this prayer exercise, we fulfil our Lord Jesus' words:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

The Material for the **Stations of the Cross for our Time** have been devised by the Faith Development Service Team and is used here with permission from <https://ossory.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Stations-of-the-Cross-for-Our-Time-PDF.pdf>

The images of the Stations of the Cross that accompany each written reflection are the work of Ken Cooke and were sourced from the Church of St. George the Martyr in Newbury.



AN INTRODUCTION:

We gather on this day as Christians united in prayer. In the midst of our busy lives we pause to pray as we reflect on the suffering journey of Christ. The journey that Jesus made on that day remains a symbol of Christianity in the world, as it struggles with its own crosses and failures, and the challenges of modern life. The streets of our towns are filled with people who carry their personal crosses, who are bruised, battered and broken. Through these Stations of the Cross, Jesus is inviting us to journey with him and to reflect on his suffering as it continues in the lives of his people. In solidarity with all who suffer, let us pray that we will be open to whatever he wants us to see, hear and understand.



Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/44DEiENaVbM>

1 Jesus is Condemned to Die

John 19: 13-16 (NIV)

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵ But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. ¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

We remember Jesus was captured at night, the Cross of Jesus taken away by soldiers, stripped of his garments, interrogated, tortured, crowned with sharp thorns and now handed over to be condemned to death by Pontius Pilate – death on a cross.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Jesus is condemned unjustly by those who did not understand him and by those who were frightened of what he did and said. Perhaps they sensed that this man could make a difference, that he could turn their world upside down. We continue to condemn people unjustly today. People are condemned because of the colour of their skin, their gender, their beliefs, because



they are born with a disability, because they come from impoverished communities, because they don't conform to our way of thinking ... the list is endless. There are also the people who have been justly condemned, who have been found guilty, served their sentence and asked for forgiveness. Does our society really forgive; really believe that people can change or do we continue to condemn them over and over again?

We Pray: *Jesus, what a terrible injustice to see you condemned to death. Your own people, the Roman judges and the soldiers didn't recognise that you were the Son of God. Give us the grace to see, respect and love you in all people, both innocent and guilty. Change our hearts that we may see with new eyes those we might otherwise condemn.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

2 Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Matthew 27: 27-31 (NIV)

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Jesus was led away carrying the cross by himself. A cross is not just a piece of wood, it is everything that makes life difficult. Jesus carried the crosses of his life without complaint, as a poor person and as an itinerant prophet. In the calm and courageous way, he put up with the threats of the Pharisees and the lack of understanding of his own disciples. In the way that he carried all the burdens of his life but, in particular, the way in which he carries this awful, final burden, he transforms the cross from a symbol of condemnation into one of liberation.



Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

There are burdens that we all carry, some are very obvious and others we take great care to hide. There are the burdens of illness, pain and disability, of old age, dependence, and caring for someone who no longer knows who we are or caring for an environment neglected by so many for so long. There are the burdens of constant fear, of loneliness and of isolation. The invitation of Jesus on

the cross is to hand over these burdens to him.

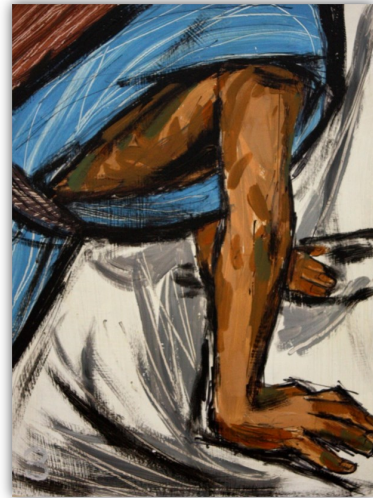
We Pray *May we see your presence Lord in all the burdens we carry today. Help us to share our burdens more freely, not to be afraid to acknowledge our fears and our pain. May we be more aware of the crosses that others bear and make time to alleviate their burden. May your face shine on each one of us through the crosses we bear.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

3 Jesus Falls for the First Time

Isaiah 42: 1-4 (NIV)

¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
² He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
³ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”



We Remember Jesus falls.

Here Jesus shows us that being heroic does not mean staying on one's feet at all costs. Being heroic means getting up again after falling and starting off on the road chosen. Human beings will never resign themselves to stay flat on the ground. Like Jesus, they will get up again, pick up their crosses and keep on searching for a promised land of total liberation.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Contemplate Jesus fallen under his cross. Today he might have had a tragic illness, work accident or become homeless. He might have been caught up in violence on what someone considered the wrong side -- wrong side of the protest, wrong side of the picket line, wrong side of a military or socio-political boundary, or even just the wrong side of town. He wouldn't look much like God, but he didn't look like God when he fell into the dirt on the way to Calvary either. Like the crowds look on with disdain at this man whom they see as a sinner, who has been condemned to death by the authorities. Like the crowd, we often

have only condemnation and rejection for those we see as sinners. We judge them without knowing about their trials, scourging and crowning with thorns. Do we even suspect the part we might have played in knocking them down? What do we do to help them?

We Pray: *Jesus, it's easy to see your image in saints. Help us to see you in the sinners too. You had a place in your heart for the divorced Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the good thief, and for those who crucified you. Give us this same compassionate heart for all people, on all sides.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Take up thy cross the Saviour said

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/EN06F14Qh6E>

4 Jesus Meets his Mother

Isaiah 49: 15-18 (NIV)



- ¹⁵ “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
- ¹⁶ See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.
- ¹⁷ Your children hasten back, and those who laid you waste depart from you.
- ¹⁸ Lift up your eyes and look around; all your children gather and come to you. As surely as I live,” declares the LORD, “you will wear them all as ornaments; you will put them on, like a bride.

We Remember Cross of Jesus:

When Jesus and his mother meet the they just look at each other – words cannot express how they feel. What he saw in his mother’s eyes must have hurt him more than the raw pain of his wounds. This for Jesus is the most painful time of all. This is his bereavement.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Jesus carries the heaviest burden of the loss of his family; the cleaving of the earthly, loving relationship between mother and child. This was not of his making. The violence inflicted upon him etched into the very heart of his mother, as she watched the agony of

her son. We see Mary's pain in the mothers and fathers who watch their children suffering, in the women and men who suffer violence in their home from spouse or child. We see Mary's pain in the child coping with the breakdown of a parent's marriage, in the couple trying desperately to rebuild their relationship and family anew.

We Pray: *Jesus, we remember the gaze that rested between you and your mother. In that moment of pain there was also a moment of deep and enduring love. Jesus, give us the courage to bring that love into the deepest recesses of our homes, to our children and to our spouses, to those places of fracture and disharmony in our circle of relationships.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

5 Simon Helps Jesus

Mark 15: 21 (NIV)

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Simon the Cyrene, a stranger in the city, did not know Jesus. But that did not matter. What matters here is that in this moment of need Simon was capable of lending his shoulders to one whose own had given out, of offering his strength to one who had nothing left, of taking on himself the cross, which Jesus could no longer carry.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Look at Jesus who lies hidden and unknown beneath every person in need. Across our world we see human suffering in the faces of strangers, in the faces of those struggling for freedom, in the faces of those dealing with the loss of life and destruction of property in the midst of war. People we know of, but do not know, must live with the aftermath of the ravages and destructive forces of nature – coping with floods and drought, with the devastating effects of natural disaster.

We Pray: *God, help us to grasp our opportunities to be a Simon in our world. In those times when we can help, let us have the generosity to do so. May we continue the spirit of Simon through our support of the healthcare workers fighting COVID-19, the Church, NGO's working for the betterment of our society and all who work to alleviate suffering in our world. Lord, may we have the humility to accept all the Simons along*



our road who reach out to help us in our moments of need.

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

6 Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Isaiah 49: 22-23 (NIV)



²² This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“See, I will beckon to the nations,
I will lift up my banner to the peoples;
they will bring your sons in their arms
and carry your daughters on their hips.

²³ Kings will be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.

They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground;
they will lick the dust at your feet.

Then you will know that I am the Lord;
those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Veronica was so moved by the sight of Jesus suffering that she courageously moved out from the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from his face with a towel. She was rewarded when the image of his face was transferred to the towel. It is a suffering face, disfigured with wounds. Yet this is the only image of himself that Jesus chose to leave with us.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Today the visible face of Christ, the Church, stands before us still wounded and disfigured; disfigured by its own sins. The face of Christ calls us to look upon and heal the sin of our Church.

We Pray: *Jesus, give your wounded Church the courage of Veronica so that we may wash the face of Christ clean from the disfigurements of our sin. Help us to bring healing to the wounds and scars that hide the beauty of your face to our world. Give us the faith to continue to build your Church as a visible sign of your love and compassion.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: I will never forget you my people

click on link to watch https://youtu.be/lyDK_auWEbQ

7 Jesus Falls for the Second Time

Isaiah 42: 13-16 (NIV)

¹³ The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal;
with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.

¹⁴ “For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Stretched to breaking point by his awful scourging, bowed under the weight of the cross, worn out by the abandonment of all his friends, Jesus stumbles again.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

All around us people are overburdened by the crosses they carry; they struggle and sometimes fall. There are those who have lost their jobs and feel that they have little hope of finding another, those who live with the prospect of unemployment, and those who struggle to keep others in work. There are those who suffer because of failures in relationships, finance and health. Jesus is with each one of us however we fall and there he chooses to love and save us.



We Pray: *Jesus, from deep within yourself, you found the courage and strength to get up once again and continue the journey. Give us your strength to keep going even when hope is dim.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Thula Sizwe (Hush nation, do not cry, our God will protect you)

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/zB4MqXx4qyY>

8 Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Luke 23: 27-31 (NIV)

²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” ³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered. Jesus recognised their distress, he broke his silence for the first time, spoke to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children’.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Look at Jesus and listen to his message for us today.

Weep for the children who are abused.

Weep for the women who are victimised.

Weep for men and women who suffer from the tyranny of today’s body image that controls their lives and prevents them from feeling lovable.

Weep for the young who cannot find a job or a way in life.

Weep for the old who are forgotten.

Weep for people who starve in the shadow of abundance.

Weep for people who are homeless, in exile or seeking refuge.

Weep for them.

We Pray: *Lord, open our hearts to the suffering of all people in our world. Give us the generosity of spirit to help us recognise their pain, the courage to challenge the systems that place intolerable burdens on them and the compassion to support them.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

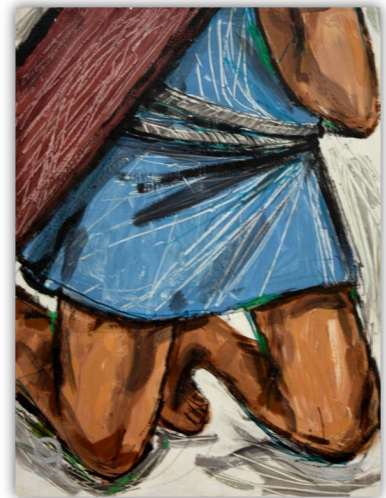
9: Jesus Falls for a Third Time

Isaiah 49: 4-6 (NIV)

⁴ But I said, "I have laboured in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand,
and my reward is with my God."

⁵ And now the Lord says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord
and my God has been my strength—

⁶ he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."



We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Jesus falls for a third time, broken and exhausted physically and emotionally. Lying on the ground, Jesus must decide – does he get up once more or does he just stop and give up? We see him rise again, and with all his power he continues on his journey. Jesus shows us that we can go on, even if nobody else thinks that it is possible.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Many in our world today feel that they are at that moment of final falling, that their burden is too much to carry. They cannot bear any more. Crushed by the weight of their cross they feel unable to get up, unable to go on. Some may look for relief in false hopes. In Jesus we find our true, living hope and our encouragement. The third fall of Jesus reminds us that even in our moment of complete helplessness, or our experiences of depression, in our own Calvary, we can stand up again. Jesus is with us and Jesus is our strength.

We Pray: *God, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary that we will put our unbounded trust in you. In turn may we bring your love, in a word or action of comfort to another, in their moment of meaningless, depression or despair.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

10 Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing

Isaiah 50: 4-9 (NIV)

- ⁴ The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
- ⁵ The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
- ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.
- ⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
- ⁹ It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.
Who will condemn me?
They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.



We Remember the Cross of Jesus

As the clothes were ripped from Jesus, he was stripped of his dignity in front of an irreverent mob. Jesus sacrifices everything. He holds nothing of himself back. Here, on the threshold of death, even more intensely than during his lifetime, he is a being-for-others. He surrenders everything in order to ransom all.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Look at Jesus and the absolute indignity inflicted upon him by society. Jesus continues to be stripped of his dignity in those who are cast out from their homes and turned away or abused by those they flee to.

We Pray: *Forgive us God, for looking the other way when the system of which we are a part strips others of their dignity. Forgive us for discounting You in those we encounter. Let us instead provide comfort and succour. May our hearts break with the disenfranchised and our arms reach out to embrace them.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Father hear the prayer we offer

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/tEeknCH4ncU>

11 Jesus is Nailed to The Cross

Mark 15: 22-30 (NIV)

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. ²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!”

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Huge iron nails are hammered through his wrists and through his ankles. Iron through human flesh, the flesh must yield, there is no defence. Jesus, nailed to the cross, cannot move. The hand that has wiped blindness from the eyes; the hand that opened the seal of deafness, the hand that touched a heart and cured a leper, the hand that blessed children and those with a disability; the carpenter’s hand is joined to the wood again. As the cross is put in place, he hangs there between us and God, a blood stained victim for love.



Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Jesus continues to be crucified in the ten children who die every minute of hunger in our world. He is crucified in all who are maimed, damaged and displaced because of war. He is crucified in all who are marginalised in our society because of their race, sexuality or gender. He is crucified in those who are abused physically, sexually or emotionally. He is crucified in those who are trafficked across the world. He is crucified in the exploitation of the earth and its resources.

We Pray: *Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who cannot reach out to you at this moment. We pray for all victims of violence; those who suffer it and those who inflict it. We pray especially for children, for the elderly and those too vulnerable to defend themselves. May victims of cruelty and oppression know that you are always with them.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Were you there when they nailed him to a tree

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/qTz3I6zxW3I>

12 Jesus Dies on The Cross

Matthew 27: 45-53 (NIV)

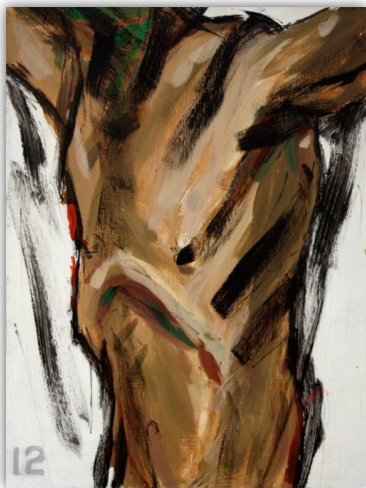
⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.



We Remember the Cross of Jesus

As the life of Jesus ebbs away his words are not of condemnation or of pity for himself, but of forgiveness; 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do'. In the midst of his anguish and suffering Jesus calls upon his Father to forgive those who are putting him to death. This is the real challenge of the cross, forgiveness even of those who hurt us most.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world*

We Name the Crosses of Today

There is much to seek forgiveness for in our world today, people dying from illness when they could have been saved by care, supplies, or preparation, hunger, poverty, violence, abuse, war, neglect, corruption the list seems endless. Each one of us praying these stations could continue the list on our own behalf and indeed on behalf of those who have hurt us. As Jesus dies on Calvary, he challenges us to love our enemies, to let go of hurt, to ask for forgiveness

to offer forgiveness

and when we cannot find it in our hearts to forgive,

to ask God to do it for us.

O God, forgive them for they know not what they do.

We Pray: Let us stand with those who watched and prayed in silence while Jesus breathed his last. As we cannot measure love, so we cannot dilute this ultimate act of

love and forgiveness with words. Let our love span the silence. God! Let our love and forgiveness, both given and received, speak your praise.

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

13 Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

John 19: 31-34 (NIV)

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.



We Remember the Cross of Jesus

Now Mary takes the broken body of her Son in her arms. In her grief, she remembers the words of her son, over the bread, 'this is my body, broken, for you,' and over the wine, 'this is my blood poured out for you.' She remembers that little baby in Bethlehem worshipped by shepherds and kings. She remembers the days when the crowds followed him and she is full of sorrow.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

We Name the Crosses of Today

Mary's grief is our grief too. As Mary cradles the lifeless body of her son and offers him back to God, she stands with all parents who have held their children close to them in death: those lost through accidents or acts of violence, those who have died by suicide, those who died suddenly or after prolonged illness. Mary grieves with all who sorrow for loved ones: parents, siblings, family members, friends.

We Pray *Help us, God, to accept the partings that must come. Help us to offer our loved ones back to you as Mary offered her son. Faced with the silence of death, let us not despair but find hope. May the finality of death not oppress us. Help us to trust in you, the Lord of the living and the dead.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Who will come and share my sorrow

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/SuXw2avb2fc>

14 Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

John 19: 38-42 (NIV)

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

We Remember the Cross of Jesus

That night his body lay in the dark earth of the world, a seed dying, in the winter of all spirits. All those who had loved him felt emptied and exhausted. There seemed no longer any sense or purpose in anything. But at least no more harm could come to him. They closed the tomb and left.

Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*



We Name the Crosses of Today

There are times when we are overcome by the darkness of the tomb, by the countless deaths that we experience each day, but the answer to all our grieving and despair lies in this place. The world is now the tabernacle of God. The grain of wheat sown in darkness and in death has indeed yielded a rich harvest. Our presence here gives witness to that. Jesus' death was not in vain.

We Pray: *Jesus, each day you put before us life or death. Help us always to choose life. We pray for all those we have known who have died, and for those who have no one to pray for them. We ask for the gift of faith when we are faced with the darkness of the tomb and our own death approaches. May we have eyes to see the promise of new life that the darkness can hold.*

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen*

We sing: Who will come and share my sorrow

click on link to watch <https://youtu.be/UMkXcyMUt3A>



*The suffering You could not bear, the works of love
You could not do in Your short time on earth, let me
bear, and do through You.*

*In your mercy Lord, turn our grief to joy, turn our
despair to hope and turn our fear to love.*

Amen

