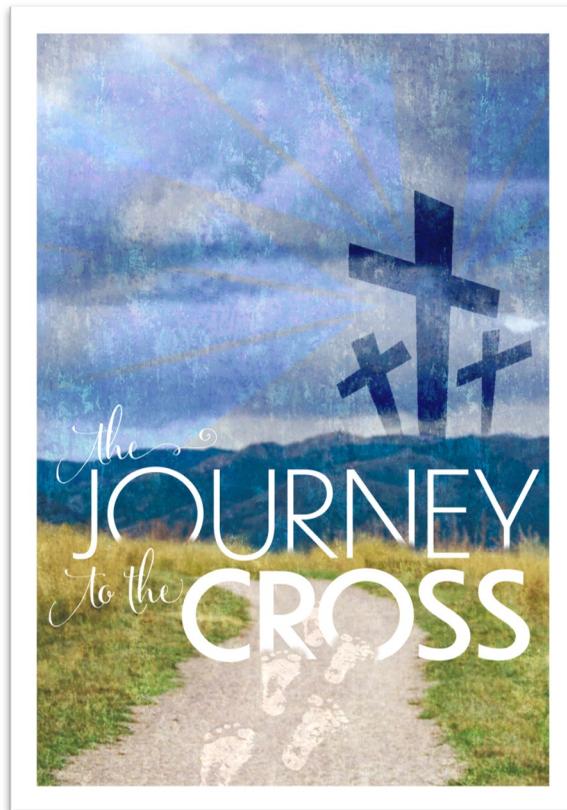




# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

## FOURTEEN STATIONS



*Priest:* We begin in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Lord, have mercy.*

Let us briefly enter with Jesus on the journey he makes through Jerusalem, from the Fortress of Pilate near the Temple, to outside the walls, to the hill of Calvary and a tomb nearby.

Let us pray. Loving God, as these events unfold before us, help us to be witnesses of your love. In our Baptism, your Holy Spirit first stirred in our hearts. Now stir up our hearts to recognize the profound love with which you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who walks this Way of the Cross in our place.

Help us to bear with him the insult of false conviction, the weight of his Cross, the ridicule of the crowds, the pain of his suffering, his loneliness and abandonment, the agony of death. Help us also to recognize the love and commitment of his mother Mary, the compassion of the women, the comfort of Veronica, the assistance of Simon, the faith of the criminal hanging nearby, the loyalty of his beloved John, beneath the cross, and his joy of fulfilling your will that all might be truly saved.

We unite our hearts today with the offering of Jesus, your Son, so that living the faith of the Journey of the Cross, we might also live with the hope of life eternal in his Resurrection.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Were you there as they sentenced him to death?  
Were you there as they sentenced him to death?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there as they sentenced him to death?*

*Let us pray as our Savior Christ has 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

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

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

## The First Station: **Jesus is condemned to die**

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

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

1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

2 “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

9 “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.

14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. —*Mark 15:1-15*

*Priest:* God did not spare his own Son:

**People: But delivered him up for us all.**

## Meditation

Imagine we are praying in the Garden with Jesus. The disciples are sleeping. Then the soldiers come and take Jesus away to the courtroom and we listen as Jesus is condemned to death. Even though Jesus knows he doesn't deserve it, he remains silent and prays for the people who want him to die.

Jesus stands in the most human of places. He has already experienced profound solidarity with so many on this earth, by being beaten and tortured. Now he is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death. His commitment to entering our lives completely begins its final steps. He has said "yes" to God and placed his life in God's hands. We follow him in this final surrender, and contemplate with reverence each place along the way, as he is broken and given for us.

As we view the scene, we may become moved by both outrage and gratitude. We look at Jesus. His face. The crown of thorns. The blood. His clothes stuck to the wounds on his back. Pilate washes his hands of the whole affair. Jesus' hands are tied behind his back.

This is for us. That we might be free. That we might have eternal life.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Second Station: Jesus takes up his Cross

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

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

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull,  
which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: —*John 19:17*

Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

*Priest:* The Lord had laid on him the iniquity of us all:

**People: For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

### Meditation

After severely whipping and beating Jesus, soldiers dress him in a royal purple robe, and place a crown of sharp thorns on his head. Then they humiliate him, shouting, “Hail, King of the Jews!” He is given an impossibly heavy wooden cross to carry to Calvary, the place where he will be crucified. It represents the weight of all of our crosses. With each step he walks in the path of human misery and suffering, and experiences its crushing weight. If we tried to lift it, it would be too heavy.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

### Third Station: **Jesus falls the first time**

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

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

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used  
to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name, —*Philippians 2:6-9*

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

*Priest:* Surely he has borne our griefs:

**People: And carried our sorrows.**

*(continued...)*

## **Meditation**

Jesus is already weak from being cruelly whipped. He falls under the weight of the Cross. The weight is unbearable. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth! We look at his whole body and see the exhaustion. But his determination to do his Father's will is stronger than his physical suffering. He is pulled up and made to continue. He struggles back to his feet and goes forward.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

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

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

What can I say for you?

With what can I compare you,  
Daughter Jerusalem?

To what can I liken you,  
that I may comfort you,  
Virgin Daughter Zion?

Your wound is as deep as the sea.

Who can heal you?

—*Lamentations 2:13*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —*Matthew 5:4*

The Lord will be your light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

—*Isaiah 60:20b*

*Priest:* A sword will pierce your own soul also:

**People: And fill your heart with bitter pain.**

### Meditation

Jesus' path takes him to a powerful source of his strength to continue. Jesus sees Mary, his mother, in the crowd at the side of the road. Now they look into each other's eyes. Their meeting is short, only a pause. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! Mary suffers because she sees her Son in so much pain and humiliation. Love and trust in God bind them together.

*Let us pray. (Silence.)* O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his Resurrection: who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross

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

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

<sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

–*Luke 23:26*

“If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

–*Luke 9:23*

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

–*Matthew 11:29-30*

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

**People: Cannot be my disciple.**

### Meditation

The soldiers do not want Jesus to die before he gets to Calvary, but he is very weak from the scourging he has received from them. They grab an onlooker from the crowd, Simon of Cyrene, to help Jesus carry the heavy Cross. We see Jesus getting more and more weary. We know that Jesus taught us that we must take up our own cross and follow in his footsteps. We may wonder: if the soldiers were looking around for someone to help Jesus, what if they chose us? Would we be strong enough to help Jesus in this way? But the soldiers chose Simon, a man passing by, to carry the load for him and for us.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Sixth Station: A woman wipes the face of Jesus

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

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

<sup>2b</sup>He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed. —*Isaiah 53:2b-5*

*Priest:* Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

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

### Meditation

Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experience of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. He continues to bleed from the crown of thorns and the wounds he has received. He is covered with sweat, and blood is getting into his eyes. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. There is someone brave enough to step in front of the cruel soldiers and comforts Jesus. This compassionate, loving disciple wipes the vulgar spit and mocking blood from his face.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; —*Isaiah 53:4-7a*

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

**People: Scorned by all and despised by the people.**

### Meditation

Jesus' legs are wearing out with each new step. Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground again. The weight of the Cross forces him to the ground. We may imagine how the angry crowd suddenly becomes silent. In deep exhaustion Jesus stares at the earth beneath him. He gets up again, a second time, and keeps going.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

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

<sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. –*Luke 23:27-28*

*Priest:* Those who sowed with tears:

**People: Will reap with songs of joy.**

### Meditation

Jesus sees a group of women weeping and crying out how badly he was treated. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. We might wonder about the words that pass between them.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Ninth Station: Jesus falls a third time

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

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

<sup>1</sup>I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath. <sup>2</sup>He has led me and made me walk in darkness and not in light.

<sup>5</sup>He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and woe. <sup>6</sup>He has set me in dark places like the dead of long ago.

<sup>8</sup>Even when I cry and shout, He shuts out my prayer.

<sup>16</sup>He has also broken my teeth with gravel, and covered me with ashes.

<sup>19</sup>Remember my affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall.

—*Lamentations 3:1-2, 5-6, 8, 16, 19*

*Priest:* He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

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

### Meditation

Jesus, having gone about as far as he can, falls again under the Cross. This last fall is devastating. He can barely proceed to the end. But again, he slowly gets up and continues the way of the Cross.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

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

33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).

34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.  
—*Matthew 27:33-34*

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

24 “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.”[a]

So this is what the soldiers did.

—*John 19:23-24*

*Priest:* They gave me gall to drink:

**People: And when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.**

### Meditation

Jesus finally comes to the place where he will be crucified. Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. The soldiers tear away his clothing from his wounded body and Jesus, humiliated, stands now before the crowd with no possessions at all.

The wounds on his back are torn open again. He experiences the ultimate vulnerability of the defenseless. Even though he has nothing to make him look like a king, no one can rob him of his dignity as God’s own Son and ruler of all soils.

We may think of the importance of our own possessions and of our accomplishments. We may have to have our way too often. We think now of the things we can share with people in need and the things in life that are really important.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

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

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

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. —*Luke 23:33*

<sup>37</sup> It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’<sup>[b]</sup>; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.” —*Luke 22:37*

*Priest:* They pierce my hands and my feet:

**People: They stare and gloat over me.**

### Meditation

The soldiers lay Jesus down on the Cross and drive heavy nails through his hands and his feet so that he can no longer move. This is suffering we cannot even imagine. He is bleeding much more seriously now. They move the Cross to a hole in the ground and set it upright, and Jesus hangs on the Cross that he has carried, crucified between two thieves. The weight of his life hangs on those nails. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his ability to cling to life slips away. Even now, Jesus forgives the soldiers and the people who were making fun of him and shouting at him.

*Let us pray. (Silence.)* 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.

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross

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

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

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,<sup>[b]</sup> here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. –*John 19:26-30*

*Priest:* Christ for us became obedient unto death:

**People: Even death on a cross.**

### Meditation

Jesus gives his mother, Mary, to his beloved disciple, John, who is also there, standing at the foot of the Cross. Finally, after several hours of agony, between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, and with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath, and darkness comes over the earth. The great curtain made of iron in the Holy of Holies in the temple is torn in two, top to bottom. We are no longer separated from the temple of Jesus’ body which God will rebuild in three days. The angry crowds have gone, and there remains Mary and John, mourning the cruel death of Jesus, our brother and friend.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Thirteenth Station: Jesus' body is taken down from the Cross

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

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

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.

Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me... —*Lamentations 1:12a*

My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, —*Lamentations 2:11a*

<sup>20</sup> “Don’t call me Naomi,<sup>[b]</sup>” she told them. “Call me Mara,<sup>[c]</sup> because the

Almighty<sup>[d]</sup> has made my life very bitter. —*Ruth 1:20*

*Priest:* Her tears run down her cheeks:

**People: And she has none to comfort her.**

### Meditation

The crowds have all gone home. Joseph of Arimathea, a follower and friend of Jesus, goes to Pilate and asks for Jesus' body. With tenderness he goes to Calvary and carefully takes the lifeless, damaged body of Jesus down from the Cross to prepare it for burial. Mary beholds the lifeless body of her Son. This was her baby not so long ago in Bethlehem. This was her boy who helped her husband Joseph and learned the trade of a carpenter. This was the young man who taught a new way of life. He has truly died.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

## Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

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

<sup>57</sup> As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. <sup>59</sup> Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, <sup>60</sup> and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

—*Matthew 27:57-60*

*Priest:* You will not abandon me to the grave:

**People: Nor let your holy One see corruption.**

### Meditation

Jesus' body is placed in a tomb which has been carved out of rock. A large stone is rolled across the entrance. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. Everyone hurries home, for the sun is setting and Sabbath has begun. This final journey of his life shows us the meaning of his gift of himself for us.

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

**People: Amen. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

# Concluding Prayers before the Altar

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

**People: Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

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

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

*Adapted from The Book of Occasional Services 2018, forefrontnyc.com, and We Make the Journey of the Cross with Jesus-An Ecumenical Stations of the Cross.*