

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

Good Friday † April 2, 2021

The Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus. Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations.

Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture and are included in this rite.

Each station includes sentences and responses, scripture verses, a prayer, and a hymn.

The Way of the Cross resonates with several aspects of African and African American Christian traditions: an association with struggle and suffering; the concepts of pilgrimage and marching for justice; and a hymnic tradition that proclaims the saving blood and cross of Christ.

☒ = Leader ☑ = Congregation; You are invited to read or sing all words in **bold type**.

OPENING PRAYERS

☒ 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.

☑ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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, forever 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. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

FIRST STATION †

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

☒ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

☑ **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

☒ As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"
So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

—Mark 15:1, 12-15

- L** God did not spare his own Son,
C but delivered him up for us all.

HYMN: WHO SENDS YOU, CHRIST, TO DEATH? [CHOIR/ORGAN]

Tune: *SOUTHWELL*

1. Who sends you, Christ, to death? Should Judas bear the blame?
 He takes his life, and his last breath is witness to his shame.
 But what of Caiaphas, accomplice to the act?
 Ought he and all the priests confess they share the guilt in fact?
2. The mob that wants your blood, their voices shrill and wild:
 Against which should from that great flood ought charges to be filed?
 And Pilate who gives in to what the mob demands:
 What is the verdict for the sin of washing clean his hands?
3. We dare not judge their wrong till we, O Lord, confess
 That we before the rich and strong too often acquiesce,
 Too often fear the crowd, too often stand aside,
 Or join them as they cry aloud: "Let Christ be crucified!"
4. And yet you meet our guilt with overwhelming grace.
 The bond of love your life had built our sin cannot displace.
 Who sends you, Christ, to death? We ask you now instead:
 Beyond your final, parting breath, what wonder lies ahead?

Text: Thomas Troeger, b. 1945. ©2014 Oxford University Press. OneLicense A-701929
 Tune: W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

- L** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame
 of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace;
 through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C have mercy and hear us.

SECOND STATION ☩

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

- L** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L** Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull,
 which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through
 what he suffered. 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. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches,
 and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing. —Acts 8:32 (Isaiah 53:7), John 19:17
- L** The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
C for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

HYMN: KNEELING IN THE GARDEN GRASS [ENSEMBLE]

Intro: Kneeling in the garden grass, Jesus groans against his death,
 Let this cup of sorrow pass, while he prays in that same breath: "Not my will but your be done."

1. While the court and priests conspire how to slant the evidence,
 Jesus calmly bears their ire as his prayer grows more intense: "Not my will but your be done."
2. When the massive cross of wood bends and bruises Jesus' frame,
 Hear him seek eternal good as he prays in heaven's name: "Not my will but your be done." ►

3. Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross he's forced to bear,
Yet its load of sin and hate do not crush his hope and prayer: "Not my will but your be done."

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945. © 1994 Oxford University Press. OneLicense A-701929
Tune: *VIA CRUCIS*, Williams P. Rowan, b. 1951. © 1995 GIA Publications.

- L** Let us pray.
Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross
for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him;
who lives and reigns forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C **have mercy and hear us.**

THIRD STATION

THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

- L** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
- L** As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country,
and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become
my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon
you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." —*Mark 15:21, 8:34; Matthew 11:30*
- L** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
C **cannot be my disciple.**

HYMN: ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER **[CHOIR/PIANO]**

- 1** All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

Refrain: I surrender all, (I surrender all), I surrender all, (I surrender all),
all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

- 2** All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at his feet I bow;
worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now. *Refrain*
- 3** All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power, let thy blessings fall on me. *Refrain*

Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1855-1939
Tune: *SURRENDER*, Winfield S. Weeden, 1847-1908 Text and Tune are in Public Domain.

- L** Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following
in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him
who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen**
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C **have mercy and hear us.**

FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

- L** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

- L** A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were 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.” —*Luke 23:28*
- L** Those who sowed with tears
- C** **will reap with songs of joy.**

HYMN: KNEELING IN THE GARDEN GRASS [CHOIR/ORGAN]

- 5 We with Simon of Cyrene help; the Savior bears the cross.
Step by step we slowly glean what true faith and prayer will cost: “Not my will but yours be done.”
- 8 Christ directs the women’s tears toward the coming judgment day
When God weighs our faithless years with our willingness to pray: “Not my will but yours be done.”
- 10 Naked to the sun and clouds and the jeers and gawking state
Of the soldiers and the crowds, Christ continues with his prayer: “Not my will but yours be done.”
- L** Let us pray.
Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children’s children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- C** **have mercy and hear us.**

FIFTH STATION ✠

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

- L** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- C** **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
- L** When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”
They gave me gall to eat, —*Matthew 27:33-34 (Psalm 22:18); Mark 15:24*
- C** **and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.**

SOLO: HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US [SANDRA]

- 1 How deep the Father’s love for us, now vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many unto glory.
- 2 Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.
3. I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, now wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

L Let us pray. O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C have mercy and hear us.

SIXTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

L When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

—*Luke 23:33*

L They pierce my hands and my feet;

C **they stare and gloat over me.**

HYMN: WERE YOU THERE? [CHOIR/ORGAN]

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

African-American Spiritual Text and Tune are in Public Domain

L 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.

C Amen.

L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C have mercy and hear us.

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

L When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother.” And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

—*John 19:26-27, 30*

- L** Christ for us became obedient unto death,
C even death on a cross.

THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD ... AND HE NEVER SAID A MUMBALIN' WORD [SOLO/CHOIR/PIANO]

- 1 SOLO: They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
ALL: they crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.
- 2 They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
they nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.
- 3 They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
they pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.
- 5 He hung his head and died, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
he hung his head and died, and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.

Mumbalin' = complaining

Text and Tune: African-American Spiritual

- L** Let us pray.
 O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption,
 and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death.
 Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection;
 who lives and reigns now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C have mercy and hear us.

EIGHTH STATION ☩

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

- L** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
C By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- L** 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.
 So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb,
 which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb. —*Mark 15:42-43, 46*
- L** You will not abandon me to the grave,
C nor let your holy one see corruption.

HYMN: REST, O CHRIST, FROM ALL YOUR LABOR [CHOIR/ORGAN]

Tune: *JEFFERSON*

- 1 Rest, O Christ, from all your labor; sleep within your borrowed tomb.
 Foes have crucified and bound you fast within death's narrow room.
 Pilate's guards stand watching, waiting where they rolled the sealing stone.
 All unseen another watches: God will not forsake his own.
- 2 Peace at last from all your anguish, wounds in hands and feet and side.
 Enemies no longer mock you, scourged, abandoned, crucified.
 Faithful women gather spices, weep for you whom sin has slain.
 Though they mourn, the God who guards you will not let your death be vain.

**3 Help us keep this solemn Sabbath as we wait for Easter dawn.
Earth's dark night of sin is passing; death's long reign will soon be gone.
Christ, in whom the new creation rises brighter than the sun:
May we, as we watch for morning, trust the vict'ry you have won.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, 1923-2007. © 1993 GIA Publications OneLicense A-701929 Tune: Jefferson, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 Public Domain

- L** Let us pray.
O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day.
Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest
in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.
- C** **Amen**
- L** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C **have mercy and hear us.**

CONCLUSION

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

ANTHEM: O COME AND MOURN [CHOIR/PIANO/SOLO/FLUTE]

O come and mourn with me awhile; all ye now come to the Savior's side;
Come see the one who frees us all; the Lord of Life is crucified.
Have we no tears to shed for him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Upon the cross he bears the pain; the Lord of Life is crucified.
Seven times he speaks, seven words of love; his silence, too, cries out to all.
His words of love our hearts receive. The Lord of Life is crucified.
O Love of God, now shown to all, in this dread hour true strength is found;
It is with love we triumph still. The Lord of Life is crucified.
O come and mourn with me a while. The Lord of Life is crucified.

Text: Frederick William Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: Hal H. Hopson © 1977, 2001 Hope Publishing Company OneLicense A-701929

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

“The Way of the Cross” is from *This Far by Faith*,
a worship book for all, especially the African-American community.
This copy is downloaded from sundaysandseasons.com

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