



Jesus before Pilate,
Seymour E. Bottex, Haiti.

***GOOD FRIDAY
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
April 10, 2009***

*On this day the ministers enter in silence.
All then kneel for silent prayer*

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Stations of the Cross

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.' Matthew 16.24

Celebrant introduces the service

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.

Let us pray.

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

***Holy God, holy and mighty,
Holy immortal one,
Have mercy on us.***

The Stations- insert

The Offering

The Solemn Collects

All standing, the Deacon says to the people

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

The People add their own petitions, silently or aloud

Let us pray that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Celebrant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all member of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly server you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Deacon Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Celebrant Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

Celebrant O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn *O sacred head*

Hymnal 168

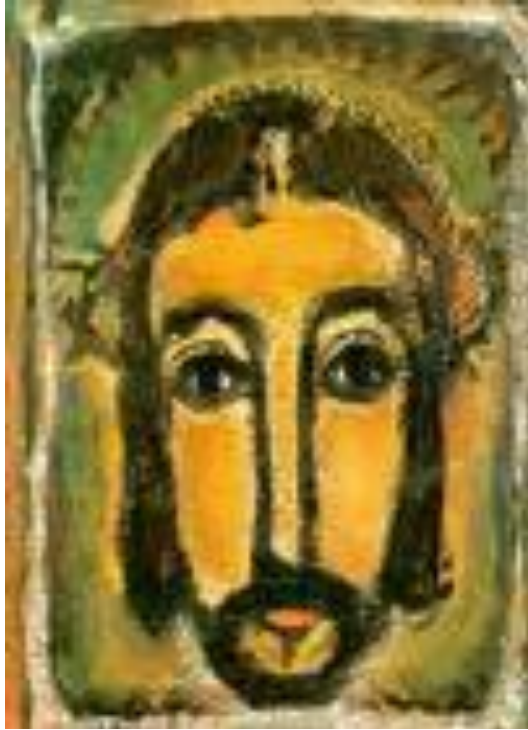
The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

The service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All depart in silence.

Please maintain quiet reverence following the service.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

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.

Consider: This is for me.

That I might be free.

That I might have eternal life.

As the journey begins ask to be with Jesus.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Versicle God did not spare his own Son:

Response ***But delivered him up for us all.***

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not 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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Second Station:
Jesus Carries His Cross.**

Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. It represents the weight of all our crosses. What he must have felt as he first took it upon his shoulders! With each step he enters more deeply into our human experience. He walks in the path of human misery and suffering, and experiences its crushing weight.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. 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.

Versicle The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

Response For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Third Station:
Jesus Falls the First Time.**

The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth! He lays on the ground and knows the experience of weakness beneath unfair burdens. He feels the powerlessness of wondering if he will ever be able to continue. He is pulled up and made to continue.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Versicle Surely he has borne our griefs:

Response ***And carried our sorrows.***

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Fourth Station:
Jesus Meets His Mother.**

Jesus' path takes him to a powerful source of his strength to continue. All his life, his mother had taught him the meaning of the words, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord." Now they look into each other's eyes. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! Now, her grace-filled smile blesses his mission and stirs his heart to its depth. Love and trust in God bind them together.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Versicle A sword will pierce your own soul also:

Response **And fill your heart with bitter pain.**

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.
Amen.

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Fifth Station:
Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross.**

Jesus even experiences our struggle to receive help. He is made to experience the poverty of not being able to carry his burden alone. He enters into the experience of all who must depend upon others to survive. He is deprived of the satisfaction of carrying this burden on his own.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Response ***Cannot be my disciple.***

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Sixth Station:
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus.**

Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experiences of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. He encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the vulgar spit and mocking blood from his face. On her veil, she discovers the image of his face - his gift to her. And, for us to contemplate forever.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Versicle Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

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

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Seventh Station:
Jesus Falls the Second Time.**

Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground. In deep exhaustion he stares at the earth beneath him. "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." He has seen death before. Now he can feel the profound weakness of disability and disease and aging itself, there on his knees, under the weight of his cross.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

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

Response ***Scorned by all and despised by the people.***

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Eighth Station:
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.**

The women of Jerusalem, and their children, come out to comfort and thank him. 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. He suffers, knowing he can't remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Versicle Those who sowed with tears:

Response **Will reap with songs of joy.**

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. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Ninth Station:
Jesus Falls the Third Time.**

This last fall is devastating. Jesus can barely proceed to the end. Pause to contemplate him there on the ground. He is indeed completely poured out for me.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. "Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!"

Versicle He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

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

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Tenth Station:
Jesus is Stripped.**

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

Versicle They gave me gall to eat:

Response **And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.**

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Lord God, who's 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. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Eleventh Station:
Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.**

Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to fix him on the cross. He is bleeding much more seriously now. As the cross is lifted up, 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.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

Versicle They pierce my hands and my feet:

Response ***They stare and gloat over me.***

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Twelfth Station:
Jesus Dies On The Cross.**

Between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath: "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, 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!" And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

Versicle Christ for us became obedient unto death:

Response *Even death on a cross.*

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 forever. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Thirteenth Station:
Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross.**

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. "Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

Versicle Her tears run down her cheeks:

Response ***And she has none to comfort her.***

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. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

**The Fourteenth Station:
Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb.**

They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. In this final act of surrender, who would have imagined this tomb would soon be empty or that Jesus would show himself alive to his disciples, or that they would recognize him in the breaking of bread? Oh, that our hearts might burn within us, as we realize how he had to suffer and die so as to enter into his glory, for us.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

Versicle You will not abandon me to the grave:

Response *Nor let your holy One see corruption.*

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. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

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

Stations of the Cross

These stations are taken from the Book of Occasional Services.

From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus was. These sites become important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The stations, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites. In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating "replicas" of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became the set of 14 stations we now know and were placed in so many Churches in the world.

The reflections in purple for some of the stations are adapted from <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations-prn.html>