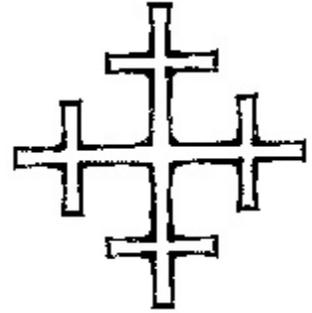


GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS ON THE CROSS



Opening Comment

This is Good Friday — or in the Old English, “God’s Friday.” That helps to remind us that only God can make sense of the sad and tragic death of Jesus at the hands of his enemies. As we read everywhere in the Scriptures, it is God who takes the things of our doing, which were evil, and turns them into good. So we are mindful that Jesus’ dying upon the Cross has proved God’s love to be more powerful than human evil.

Hymn, My God, I Love You

sung to Dundee, CM

- 1 My God, I love you; not because
I hope for heaven thereby,
Nor yet because who love you not
Are lost eternally.
- 2 For, O my Jesus, you did me
Upon the cross embrace;
For me you suffered nails and spear
And agony, disgrace.
- 3 Then why, O blessed Jesus Christ,
Should I not love you well?
Not for the sake of winning heaven,
Or of escaping hell;
- 4 Not with the hope to gain a thing,
Not seeking a reward,
But as yourself first lovèd me,
O ever-loving Lord.
- 5 So I would love you, dearest Lord,
And in your praise I sing
Solely because you are my God
And most beloved King.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Presider offers an introduction:

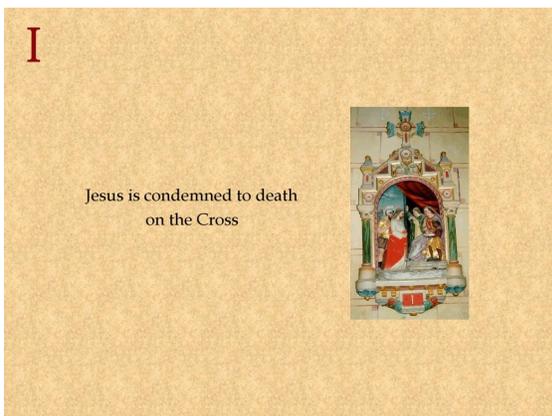
Come! Let us walk the way of the Cross. Let us listen to the ancient story of life meeting death, of love struggling to overcome hate, of violence losing its power to peace. Let us cry out to God with Christ suffering, and give God glory with the risen Savior!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, take me along that holy way you once took to your death. Take my mind, my memory, above all my reluctant heart, that I may clearly see what once you did in love for me and for all the world.

Amen.

All gather reverently near the first Station.



✙ **Station 1** ✙

***Jesus is condemned to death
on the Cross***

*A reading from
St. Luke 23:20-25*

²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” ²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

A brief Comment

We have heard the Passion story that Jesus suffered a complete injustice in his arrest, trial and condemnation. We are mindful that human justice may often become injustice because of the impurity of human motives. As followers of Jesus, we would have longed to prevent this terrible injustice, so it is incumbent

upon us to work for justice in our world today.

Orthodox Akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ, Eikos 2 (adapted)

L: Jesus, you are the Light of the world,

C: **Yet you were hated by worldly and evil people!**

Jesus, You gave yourself freely to all,
But they sold you for a sum of silver!

Jesus, in Whom there is nothing false,
You were falsely kissed by a traitor!

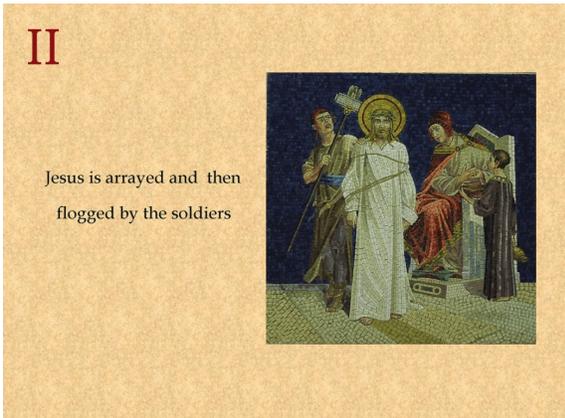
Jesus, you dwell in unapproachable Light,
Yet you were taken away by the powers of darkness!

Jesus, Immortal Son of God,
You were condemned to death by a son of perdition!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your love for us has brought you to this solemn hour. Although our sins have burdened you with the weight of the Cross, do not count us among those who accuse you or who deride you, for we know your heart is pure and you have done no wrong. Defend us with your compassion when we are accused. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 2 ✙

Jesus is arrayed in purple, and then flogged as a criminal by the soldiers

*A reading from
Mark 15:16-20*

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And

they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

A brief Comment

Every human being has inherit dignity, given to us by our Creator. The treatment of Jesus after he is condemned reveals that too often we allow people in authority to think they can take away this dignity, as the soldiers treated Jesus as if his life was meaningless and his existence something to be erased. We weep for Jesus as he silently accepted this indignity, and for all who receive little or no respect in life.

from Psalm 113

The Lord is exalted over the nations,
his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
but also bends down to see on earth as in heaven?
He lifts up the poor from the dust and the needy from the ash heap.
He makes them sit with princes and rulers of his people.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you stand with those who are oppressed and downtrodden. As we stand with you, teach us to stand with those who are wrongly accused, those who are imprisoned, and those who suffer the injustice of society and the brutality and abuse of those who are charged with authority. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.

III

Jesus walks the sorrowful way



✦ Station 3 ✦

Jesus walks the sorrowful way

A reading from
St. Luke 23:26-32

²⁶As they led him 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. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

A brief Comment

The Via Dolorosa, or Way of Sorrows in Jerusalem is recreated in this house of worship and in thousands of churches, so that we can prayerfully walk with Jesus in his last hours. But if we are truly pilgrims who are faithful to Jesus, the Way of the Cross reminds us that sometimes in life we must walk a path of sorrows in our own lives, when it is Jesus who accompanies us, and that we may also walk with others in the way of sorrow, anxiety or fear.

From Psalm 139

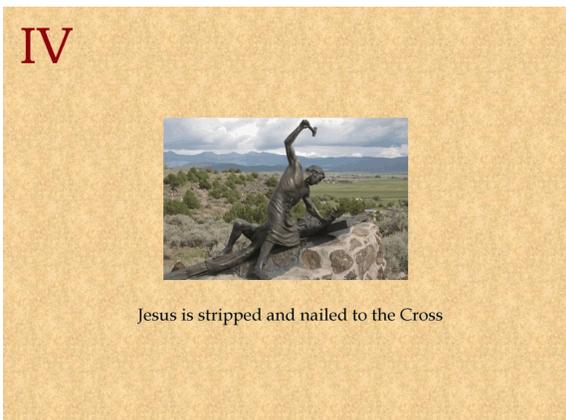
Your wisdom leaves me astounded,
it is too high for me to reach.
Where else could I go from your Spirit?
Where could I flee from your presence?

You are there if I ascend the heavens;
you are there if I descend to the depths.
If I ride on the wings of the dawn
and settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand shall guide me
and your right hand shall hold me safely.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you walked the sorrowful way of those who are powerless in a world of violence and hatred. So let us walk with you, among those who are coerced, those who weep, and those who despair, especially women and children in our society who endure abuse and are without hope of escape or redemption. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 4 ✙

Jesus is stripped and nailed to the Cross:

*A Reading from
John 19:23-25a*

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

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

A brief Comment

We are reminded in this scene that everything Jesus had, even his clothing, even

his bodily privacy, was taken away from him in the efforts to de-humanize him even before his painful death. What we might have done to prevent this! Again, we hear the call to serve Christ by serving others, so that no one is literally stripped of their humanity, and to forgive those who may dehumanize us.

Congregational Song, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Refrain
 Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in this dark hour, you were humiliated by those acting with authority perverted by power, and all that you had in your life was taken from you. Teach us to remember those who have nothing in this world, or who are reduced to shame by the cruelty and indifference of others. We pray also for those who are given the authority to take another's life, and ask for mercy for any who cause death wrongfully. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.

V

A sign is attached to the Cross,
proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth,
King of the Jews



✙ Station 5 ✙

***A sign is attached to the Cross
proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth,
King of the Jews***

*A reading from
Matthew 27:37-38*

³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

A brief Comment

How often human intelligence gets it wrong! We think we know everything, and often we have completely misunderstood the circumstances. Here we must laugh that Pilate, who thought to belittle Jesus and to humiliate the Jews by crucifying their so-called King, misunderstood the power of God. For Jesus truly reigns as King of Kings from the Cross.

Congregational Hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

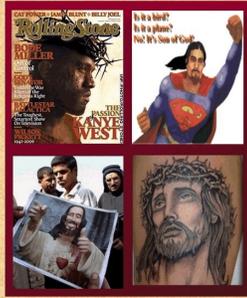
Prayer

Lord Jesus, your kingship was not recognized by those who put their trust in human rulers, nor by those who meant to humiliate God's people through your death. As we follow you in this sorrowful hour, let us never fail to show others that you are truly Lord and King. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.

VI

Jesus is mocked by soldiers
and bystanders



✦ Station 6 ✦

Jesus is mocked by soldiers and bystanders

*A reading from
St. Matthew 27:39-43*

³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”

A brief Comment

Human beings so often try to puff themselves up by putting others down. No one loves a loser, so it was easy for others to mock Jesus to make themselves feel more important, and to taunt him in order to increase his shame or pain. Yet we see that he does not stoop to their level. People continue to mock or trivialize Jesus today, as if he cannot defend himself. We might ask ourselves what we can do in our daily lives to give him glory and to counter those who mock him today.

From Psalm 41

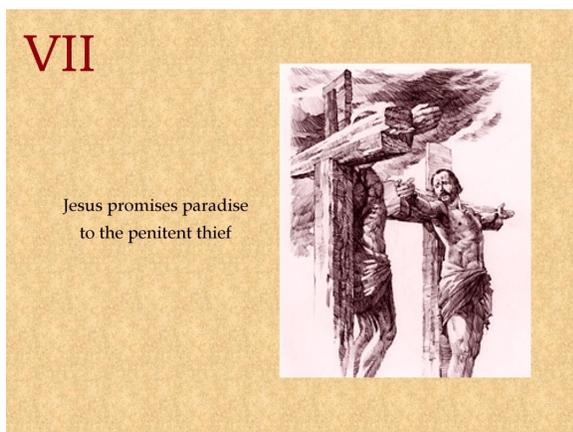
My enemies wonder in malice
when I will die, and my name perish.
And when they come to see me, they utter empty words,
while their hearts gather mischief;
when they go out, they tell it abroad.
All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.
But you have upheld me because of my integrity,

and set me in your presence forever.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you suffered through all your ministry, and to this last hour, the rejection, mockery and hatred of those who have no understanding. Grant us the spiritual insight to see God's deliverance and our reconciliation in your sacrifice. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 7 ✙

Jesus is reviled by one thief but promises paradise to another

*A reading from
St. Luke 23:39-43*

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

A brief Comment

As our Lord accepted his fate along with two others who were convicted criminals, again we are reminded that both the good and the bad meet the same end. No one's motives are pure. Both criminals understood that they were being punished for their crimes. But did the authorities understand that the cruelty and harshness of their punishment far outstrips the petty and foolish errors of these criminals? We cannot prevent this scene, but we are mindful that Jesus offers compassion, and

salvation to the one who humbles himself and asks for mercy.

From Psalm 17

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.
If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.
As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.
I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge.

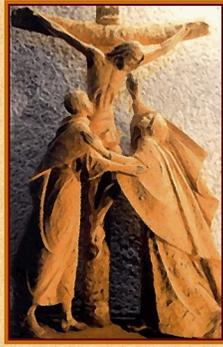
Prayer

Lord Jesus, you freely accepted the harsh punishment of those who deserve their condemnation. As you ministered to the one who recognized your goodness and innocence, give us reassurance that your Kingdom is coming to all who accept you. Especially we pray for those in prison, who seek to turn their lives from a curse to a blessing. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.

VIII

Jesus commends his mother
and his beloved
to each other



✦ Station 8 ✦

***Jesus commends his beloved
disciple and his Mother to each
other***

*A reading from
John 19:25b-27*

²⁵ Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

A brief Comment

In his dying hour, the love Jesus has always shown for others is expressed in his concern for his own mother. Unable even to touch her or hold her or to dry her tears, yet he gives quiet instructions that his beloved disciple, and his mother, will become family for one another, and honor him by showing love and care for each other.

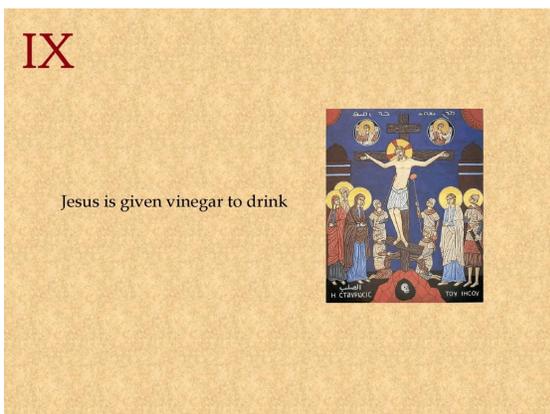
From Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD; I have no good apart from you."
The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in your agony you were taken from those whom you loved most especially—your blessed Mother, and your beloved one. As you commended them to one another’s care, so guide us to care for all who seek your true family in our midst. We pray for those who are motherless, all who have lost loved ones, and those who have no one to care for them in their days of infirmity. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 9 ✙

Jesus is given bitter vinegar to drink

*A reading from
John 19:28-29*

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

A brief Comment

As a further sign of inhumane treatment, the soldiers mock Jesus’ thirst by giving him something which only worsens his pain. We would have sprung to our feet to do anything to relief his thirst! So over and over in the Gospels, since we cannot reach Jesus on the cross, we have these pointers or signs reminding us how to treat one another with compassion and mercy.

From Psalm 42

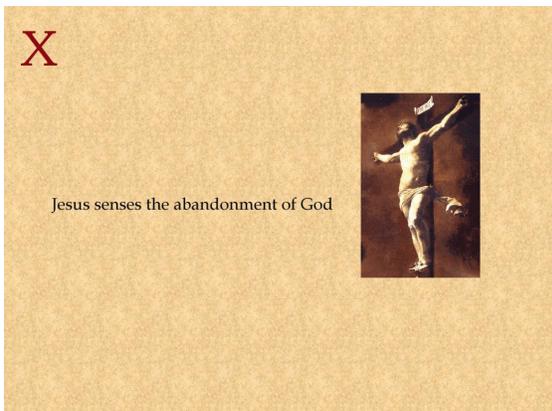
As a deer longs for running streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I go and see the face of God?
Day and night my tears have been my food,

as people ask me day after day, “Where is your God?”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in your thirst for our love, you have drunk the bitterness of suffering and human anguish. Forgive us for offering you so little, but as you have commanded us so teach us to offer help and grace to all who hunger and thirst. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 10 ✙

Jesus senses the abandonment of God

A reading from
Mark 15:34

³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

A brief Comment

We know that even with his divine nature, Jesus is still fully human. In his dying hour, he understands deeply the anxiety we feel when we think God has abandoned us. His cry to God here is not despair, however. He repeats words from the Psalms, the prayer book of the Bible, a text which does not end with despair but concludes with total trust in God's goodness.

From Psalm 22

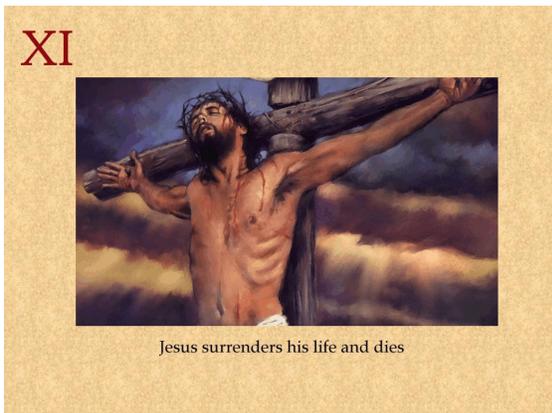
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Even in this moment of despair and deep anguish, you kept faith with God and with us in David's ancient prayer. So remind us to call upon God with truthfulness, no matter what our own despair or abandonment, for in your word is strength and grace. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ **Station 11** ✙

Jesus surrenders his life and dies

*A reading from
Luke 23:46*

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

A bell is rung five times, and there is a period of silence.

A brief Comment

The scriptures tell us Jesus is confident he has completed everything for our salvation. There is nothing more he can do that, in perfect obedience to God, he has not done. This is a moment of triumph, not defeat. It gives us courage in facing our own mortality, that the Creator who gave us life will one day also receive our spirits back into the everlasting arms.

From Psalm 41

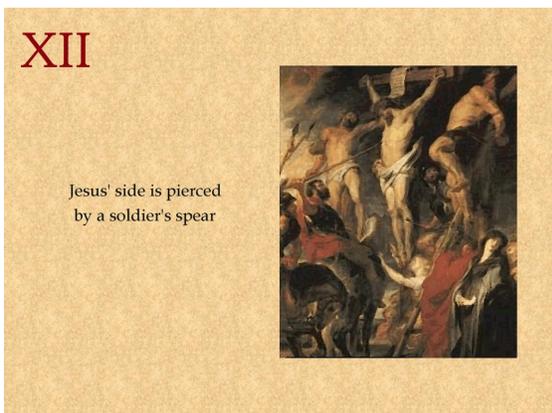
Blessed is the one who has regard for the poor;
the Lord delivers him in time of trouble.

The Lord protects him, preserves his life,
and gives him happiness in the land;
he does not yield to the will of his foes.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the awful fact of your resignation to death you opened the gate to life. Be compassionate with us, as we stand in awe of your sacrifice for us, and watch with us in the hour of our own death, that we keep faith with you until life's last breath. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 12 ✙

Jesus' side is pierced by a soldier's spear

*A reading from
John 19:31-37*

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

A brief Comment

Ordinarily, the victims of crucifixion lingered for days of agony. The soldiers want to confirm that Jesus is actually dead—and presumably are certain of it because he does not cry out or flinch from the wound. But again we are reminded that his life was literally poured out for us.

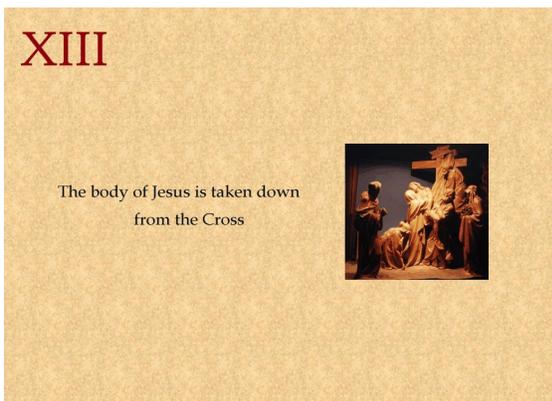
From Psalm 22

Dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
To him indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.
And I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will learn of the LORD
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, from your awful death flows grace and life, and from your gifts to us flow the water of renewal and the wine of salvation. In the darkness of this hour, grant us encouragement to help those who are broken in body and spirit, and to show love for one another. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.



✙ Station 13 ✙

The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross

*A reading from
Mark 15:42-46a*

⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the

council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth. . . .

A brief Comment

A disciple who had remained secretive throughout Jesus' ministry now steps forward to give the body a proper and dignified burial. We weep for all who live with fear for their faith— fear of criticism or persecution. And we pray for the day when anyone who is tentative about following Jesus will find the courage to do so without fear.

From Psalm 25

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he will free my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have compassion, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Free my heart from bitterness; relieve me of this distress.
See my pain and sufferings, and forgive all my sins.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your divine spirit and your broken body secured for us God's gifts of grace forever. Help us to show you highest worship by offering dignity and respect to others, and to recognize in others true discipleship and righteousness which honors you. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross we must bear. **Amen.**

All reverently proceed to the next station.

XIV

The body of Jesus is laid in the tomb



✦ Station 14 ✦

The body of Jesus is buried in the tomb

*A reading from
Luke 23:53-56*

⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

A brief Comment

Here we read of Joseph of Arimathea's role in the burial; in John's Gospel we also learn of Nicodemus coming forward. If only more of us would come forward, in any way we can, to show greater reverence to the Savior, would not the world itself be a different place? We do not have Jesus physically present today. But we are called to be his presence to the world around us.

From Psalm 16

My heart exults, my soul rejoices;
my body too will rest assured.
For you will not abandon my soul to the grave,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see decay in the land of the dead.
You will show me the path of life,
in your presence the fullness of joy,
at your right hand happiness forever.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your precious Body was laid to rest in a borrowed grave. As we fearfully watch and wait, remind us that your burial was like a seed buried in the ground which will spring to new life in the spirit. Help us to plant seeds of hope and newness of life for ourselves and all we meet upon the way. By your holy cross, O Jesus, help us to take up the cross

we must bear. **Amen.**

After the fourteenth station, all gather again in a circle around the altar. When the procession arrives at the barren Altar, all objects are left at the Altar.

There is a brief period of silence.

A brief Comment

Throughout this entire drama, we feel helpless—helpless to prevent the injustice, helpless to stop the inhumane treatment of Jesus, helpless to alleviate his suffering. But the Way of the Cross directs us on other paths, to new ways to show reverence and courage which honors the gift of Christ, by imitating his mercy, his love, and his spiritual power over evil, and to stop the inhumane treatment of others.

In humility and simplicity we pray with the language given to us by our Lord:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Loving Jesus, for the sake of your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed clean of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank you for your cross and for the depths of your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and to follow you until you bring us into your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Congregational Hymn, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend.
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Dismissal

May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.
 Amen.

All may remain for prayer or quietly depart.

