

Celebrant's Book for Stations of the Cross

In the Year of Salvation 2014



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

The First Station: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: They came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch." He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." When he returned he found them asleep.

Mark 14:32-36

All: *Look upon me, have pity on me,
for I am alone and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart;
bring me out of my distress.*

Psalms 25:16-17

Celebrant:

In the garden of olives,
among the ancient trees with their gnarled bark and twisted branches
the apostles have fallen asleep...
blissfully unaware of what is about to happen.

Jesus on the other hand is restless and almost desperate.
How could he not have feared the agony of death;
a fear which threatened to darken his soul,
a fear so powerful that it almost crushed his will,
a fear which nearly ended his mission.

Yet, stronger than his fear was his faith,
his hope and his love for God.

"Not my will, but your will be done."

Consoled and strengthened by the assurance of
God's loving presence,
he courageously embraced his future
and chose to complete his mission.

All: *Jesus in the garden praying,
 Fears before your father laying
 Yet, obedient to his will*

The Second Station: Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Mark: 14: 43-46

All: *Put an end to my affliction and suffering;
take away all my sins.
See how many are my enemies,
See how they hate me.
Preserve my life and rescue me;
do not let me be disgraced, for I trust in you.*

Psalm 25:18-20

Celebrant:

They shared one another's life for some three years.
They talked together, ate together, traveled together.
That night, he came to Jesus and kissed him one last time...
 no kiss of love,
 rather, a kiss of rejection and betrayal.

To feel rejected or to feel betrayed is a painful experience.
To be rejected or betrayed by a friend hurts even more.

Who among us has never felt rejected or betrayed?
Or who among us has never rejected or betrayed someone?

Betrayal is an ugly thing.
Rejection tears at the very fabric of our self-esteem.

Fully aware of what is happening,
Jesus remains calm and dignified.

He lets himself be kissed by his betrayer.
He tells his disciples not to resist.
And he allows the soldiers to arrest him
and lead him out of the garden.

All: *Sold for gain by your disciples,
 Handed over to the people,
 King held captive by his own.*

The Third Station:

Jesus is condemned to death by the Sanhedrin

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?" Then Jesus answered, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'" At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses?"

Mark 14:60-63

All: *Happy those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,
Nor go the way of sinners,
nor sit in company with scoffers.
The LORD watches over the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.*

Psalm 1:1, 6

Celebrant:

Only days ago Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph,
now he is treated like a criminal.

He appears helpless, frail, vulnerably human,
not unlike the many defenseless people he set out to help. .

He spent his life preaching and teaching,
blessing and healing,
choosing the side of the oppressed,
now he is waiting to be judged
for doing just that.

His fate, like that of many others,
was decided based on fear, envy and jealousy
which create a culture of exclusion
very different from the Gospel of inclusion preached by Jesus.

Like Jesus, we are called to preach love, provide healing and work
toward justice and peace for all.

All: *Judge of all, you stand convicted,
Of the sin that we've committed.
All for love you bear our guilt.*

The Fourth Station: Jesus is denied by Peter

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's maids came along. She looked intently at Peter and said, "You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it and he went out into the outer court. Then the cock crowed. The maid said to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." Once again he denied it. A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more, "Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean." He began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man." And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept.

Mark 14:66-72

All: *How long, LORD? Will you utterly forget me?*

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Psalm 13 2-3

Celebrant:

Jesus and Peter had a strong,
while at times tumultuous relationship.
Peter seems to have been prone to grandstanding.
Yet, he also doubted at times, was afraid,
and in the end ran away when Jesus was arrested.

Now Peter returns quietly and probably somewhat sheepishly.
He is warming himself at the campfire
near the place where Jesus is held captive.

As the cock crows, one can almost see Jesus turning his head
to look at Peter.

Peter, being caught in this act of betrayal cries bitterly...

Like Peter, we are well-meaning and loving, yet, we are weak.

"I am never going to betray you." And yet we do!

We love and try to live according to the Gospel, but we fail...

Thankfully, Jesus never condemned Peter, neither does he condemn us.

Rather, Jesus invites us to acknowledge our failings, accept our
weaknesses and know our limits.

He also invites us to accept the failings of others, to show mercy to those
who hurt us, and to never disregard anyone.

All: *Even Peter now denies you,
 Claiming even not to know you,
 Just as you had prophesied.*

The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: Now on the occasion of the feast Pilate used to release one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

All: *Out of the depths I call to you, LORD; Lord, hear my cry!
May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If you, LORD, mark our sins, Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered.*

Celebrant:

After having been judged by the Sanhedrin

Jesus is brought before Pilate.

At first reluctant, Pilate in the end condemns Jesus to death.

The same people who cried *Hosanna* mere days ago,
now yell *Crucify*.

Prejudice, insinuations, instigation, mob-mentality,
-none of which are foreign to our world today-
combined with Pilate's cowardice seal Jesus' fate.

Even when facing death Jesus never wavered in His love of God
in His commitment to the good of God's people,
and in His condemnation of injustices, religious and civic alike.

The cross is Jesus' decisive stance against hatred and his ever-lasting
banner of love.

The cross of Jesus is a permanent reminder to us, his disciples that like
Him, we are to love unconditionally and speak out against all injustice.

His cross is our stance against hatred,
and our banner for love even unto death.

All: *To the ruling pow'rs delivered,*
 By the crowd your verdict rendered.
 Shunned by those you came to save.

The Sixth Station: Jesus is flogged and crowned with thorns

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: The soldiers led him away inside the palace and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

Mark 14:16-20

All: *Rescue me from my enemies,
my God; lift me out of reach of my foes.
Deliver me from evildoers;
from the bloodthirsty save me.*

Psalms 59:2-3

Celebrant:

The soldiers stripped off his clothes.

They threatened and mocked him.

They tied his body to a pillar and whipped him.

They placed a purple cape over his bleeding shoulders and
pressed a crown of thorns into his skull

How can we even begin to imagine the humiliation, the fear,
the pain Jesus must have experienced?

Like Jesus, people are imprisoned today and they are abused,
Some of them are Christians who are suffering for their faith
Some of them will die for Christ.

Others are not Christian and they too suffer
and they too might die ... for their faith ...

Jesus endured this profound humiliation to expose all abuse,
and to show that God is on the side of all victims.

All: *Pain on head and back you carry,
May we just but briefly tarry,
Pond'ring now what love will do.*

The Seventh Station: Jesus carries his cross

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

John 19:16b-17

All: *O God, you are my God-- for you I long!
For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts,
Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water.
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me*

Psalm 63:2, 9

Celebrant:

Moving slowly,
bent under the weight of the wood,
arduous step after arduous step,
Jesus carries his cross.

The cross of Jesus is heavy,
It is weighed down by the sins of all people.
He staggers under this burden.
He falls and gets up, falls and gets up, falls and gets up,
Never giving up on even one of us.

The cross not only bears our sins,
it also bears all the burdens that bog us down.

Gazing upon Jesus carrying the cross,
may we be inspired to mend our sinful ways,
and to help lift the burdens that weigh down so many people.

Shouldering the cross Jesus teaches us to reject all sin and injustice,
and to struggle for solidarity and hope,
arduous step after arduous step.

All: *Now the cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
Symbol of our victory.*

The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry Jesus' cross.

Mark 15:21

All: *O God, hear my anguished voice;
from the foes I dread protect my life.
Hide me from the malicious crowd, the mob of evildoers.
They sharpen their tongues like swords,
ready their bows for arrows of poison words.*

Psalm 64:2-4

Celebrant:

What is happening?

What is this strange parade?

There are Roman soldiers, high priests,
common people, young and old.

There are cheers and laughter, wailing and cries.

At the center of the parade a man struggles to carry his cross.

Simon of Cyrene is a passer-by, an on-looker,
whose curiosity is peeked by all that is happening?

A stranger, he is pressed into helping Jesus,
buttressing the weight of the cross.

Like Jesus, many people have crosses to bear.

At times, we do too.

Jesus not only calls us to bear our own cross,
but like Simon was asked to help Jesus carry his cross,
Jesus calls us to carry one another's cross.

All: *Simon bears with hesitation,
Glorious sign of our salvation,
That which we should bear with joy.*

The Ninth Station:

Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.'

Luke 23:27-29

All: *Answer me, LORD, in your generous love;
in your great mercy turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant;
in my distress hasten to answer me.
But I pray to you, LORD, for the time of your favor.
God, in your great kindness
answer me with your constant help.*

Psalm 69:17-18 , 14

Celebrant:

Women have accompanied Jesus from the very beginning.
They have been faith-filled, courageous, helpful even at his time of
greatest need.

Watching him struggle under the weight of the cross from a distance,
they muster up the courage to approach him
and embrace him with love and compassion.

Through the tears of their sadness and despair,
their warmth offers him solace,
brightens his soul,
and soothes his pain.

Many of our sisters and brothers are in pain, here and abroad;
when they suffer, we suffer;
their pain is our pain.

Jesus asks us to act like the women of Jerusalem.
He ask us to do more than just feel sorry for them.
He asks us to be courageous.
He asks us to console those in need.
and he asks us to confront the injustices they endure.

All: *Like the women at your passion,
Loving hearts within us fashion,
That we might share other's pain.*

The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull). They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

Mark 15:22-24

All: *Look upon me, have pity on me,
for I am alone and afflicted.
Hear my words, O LORD; listen to my sighing.
Hear my cry for help, my king, my God!
To you I pray, O LORD.*

Psalms 5:2-3

Celebrant:

They laid his body on a cross
and stretched his arms and legs over the wood
they pounded nails into his hands and feet
and raised the cross.

Naked, humiliated, tortured, disfigured,
the Son of God hangs on a cross:
a sign of foolishness to many,
the way to salvation for us.

Hanging on the cross,
Jesus, an innocent victim,
embodied all victims,
thus unmistakably stating that God is on the side of those who are
marginalized, ignored, avoided, deserted .

Like Jesus we are called to stand by all those in need,
drawing them near, treating them with respect,
comforting them, accompanying them,
raising them up and offering them hope and new life.

All: *Arms spread wide our pain embracing,
Stain of blood our sin erasing,
Though nailed fast, your hands still heal.*

The Eleventh Station:

Jesus promises to share his reign with the good thief

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

All: *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
May your kind spirit guide me on ground that is level.
For your name's sake, LORD, give me life;
in your justice lead me out of distress.*

Psalm 143:10-11

Celebrant:

On a hill—three crosses,
a larger one in the center,
two smaller ones to the side,
one of the smaller crosses is bathed in light and anticipation,
the other is engulfed in darkness and dread.

The God of love reaches out to those who repent
and showers them with love.

How wonderful to know that we who are sinners
are worthy of God's love,
are deserving of God's forgiveness.

Aware of our sinfulness,
let us ask God to forgive us our sins,
so that one day we may share with him in Paradise

All: *Even in the midst of suffer'ing
Jesus words of comfort offer'ing
"This day you shall dwell with me."*

The Twelfth Station:

The mother of Jesus and his disciple stand by his cross

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

John 19:25-27

All: *Hasten to answer me, LORD; for my spirit fails me.*

Do not hide your face from me,

lest I become like those descending to the pit.

At dawn let me hear of your kindness, for in you I trust.

Show me the path I should walk, for to you I entrust my life.

Psalms 143:7-8

Celebrant:

The shadows of loneliness and confusion are crowding the scene.

Only a few people remain with Jesus,
among them:

Mary, the mother of Jesus,
and John, his beloved disciple.

Jesus instructs them to find solace with one another,
to take care of one another.

In the midst of sadness and confusion
there is a glimmer of light: behold your mother, behold your son.

These words, Jesus not only addressed to Mary and John,
but to all his followers.

Since that moment, Mary became not only the mother of Jesus but also
the mother of John and the mother of all of us.

Having the same heavenly mother
makes us brothers and sisters to one another.

And like John cared for Mary we are to care for one another.

All: *Jesus gives to us our mother,
In his blood, now sisters, brothers,
God makes us his family.*

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15:33-37

All: *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?
My God, I call by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I have no relief.*

Psalms 22: 1-2

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Mark 15:42-46

All: *My soul rests in God alone,
from whom comes my salvation.
God alone is my rock and salvation, my secure height;
I shall never fall.*

Psalm 62:2-3

Celebrant:

Everything is still now...

After lowering Jesus from the cross,
His lifeless body is placed in his mother's arms.

Holding his body, Mary is bound to him in a heart-wrenching embrace.
She is the icon of the broken hearted.
She is the icon of boundless love.
She is the icon of self-sacrifice

This scene is played out, over and over again
all over the world.

Too many people, like Mary,
have cradled the lifeless and tortured body of an innocent,
loved one in their arms?

Then the body of Jesus was placed in the tomb
and a heavy stone was rolled in front of the entrance.

And everything is still now...

All: *Hidden from the sight of heaven,
Earth's dark womb receives our victim
Now our hope seems all but gone.*

The Fifteenth Station: Jesus is raised from the dead

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

Lector: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

Mark 16:1-6

All: *I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will declare all your wondrous deeds.
I will delight and rejoice in you;
I will sing hymns to your name, Most High.*

Psalm 9:2-3

Celebrant:

After all this darkness we are invited to bask in the light.

After death comes victorious life.

After the cross comes the glorious crown.

**We, too, are called to rise above our burdens,
our failures, our sinfulness,
and, ultimately, above death.**

**Are you not aware that you who have been baptized
into his death,
will also share in his life.**

Let us embrace life and live as children of the light ...

***All: Life and love are now victorious
Paschal Lamb, who was slain for us,
Come and reign as Lord of all!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thank you for joining us this evening.
- Friday's of Lent: Mass at 5:30 followed by soup supper at 6:00 concluding with Stations at 7:00.
- Sunday's of Lent: Evening Prayer at 3:00pm