



STATIONS *of the* Cross

LIGHT OF CHRIST~KENOSHA

About the Service

The Stations of the Cross are a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' sacrifice of himself for us. It makes our reflection on the passion more than just an intellectual exercise and allows us to embrace his gift of love with our hearts as well as with all our minds. The Stations involve our senses, our experience and our emotions. To the extent that each of us comes to experience the love of Jesus with all our entire being, to that extent the gratitude each of us feels will be deep. Deep gratitude leads to real generosity and a desire to love as we have been loved.

From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus recounted the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When the emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in 313 AD, pilgrims flocked to the Holy Land from all parts of the world to visit the homeland of Jesus. In particular they wanted to see Jerusalem and visit the places that were part of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Egeria, a woman from Gaul who traveled to the Holy Land in the 4th century, recalls in her diary how she joined Christians from all parts of the Roman world walking westward on Holy Thursday from the garden of Gethsemane to the church of the Holy Sepulcher, where they celebrated Jesus' death and resurrection.

Over the years, the route of pilgrim processions—beginning at the ruins of the Fortress Antonia and ending at the church of the Holy Sepulcher—was accepted as the way that Jesus went to his death. It was known as the “Via Dolorosa,” the “Sorrowful Way.” The pilgrims marked the last moments in Jesus' life on Good Friday by prayerfully stopping at all the sites associated with Jesus' suffering and death. When they returned home, these pilgrims shared with others the powerful experience of walking the way of the cross in Jerusalem, inspiring even more Christians with a desire to visit the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

The Stations of the Cross, as we know them today, came about in the twelfth century, when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites now under Muslim rule. St. Francis and his followers encouraged Christians all over Europe to walk the Via Dolorosa with Jesus by creating in their own villages “replicas” of the Via Dolorosa. No longer did Christians have to go to Jerusalem to walk the way of

the cross with Jesus. These early Stations of the Cross had anywhere from five to thirty small shrines along an outdoor path commemorating the places of prayer that had developed along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became the set of 14 stations we now know.

The traditional words sung at each station, “Stabat mater dolorosa,” date from the thirteenth century. They were set to the plainsong chant that we sing in the fourteenth century.

Moving Through the Stations

The Stations of The Cross is a very simple service to follow, provided you keep your attention on the officiant:

- The service begins in silent meditation.
- The crucifer (cross-bearer) and light-bearers will enter and pick up the cross and candles.
- The officiant will enter and may make a few introductory remarks.
- The officiant, crucifer and light-bearers will move to the first station with those participating in the service following.
- The officiant will speak first, with the people responding as indicated in this service bulletin.
- After the officiant prays, the cantor (singer) will begin singing the music printed at the bottom of the page; all are invited to participate.
- The officiant, crucifer and light-bearers will walk to the next station, the participants follow, and the process repeats.
- There are occasional notes in the left-hand margin of the page. These are liturgical actions that are appropriate at that time. The officiant will lead these actions.

*Please begin
standing at the foot
of the altar.*

Officiant: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Christ, for our sakes, became obedient unto death.

People: Even the death of the cross.

Officiant: By His own blood He entered once into the Holy Place.

People: Having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Officiant: O Saviour of the world, who by Thy cross and Passion hast redeemed us,

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

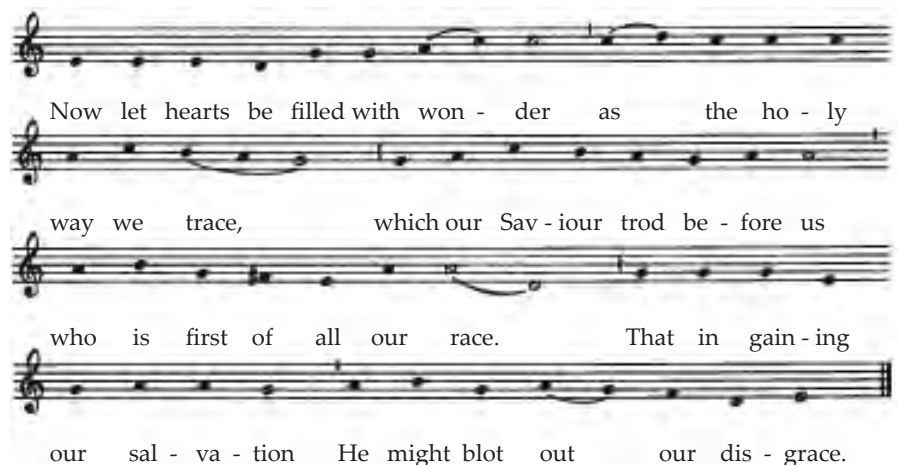
Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who for the redemption of the world didst walk the way of the Cross and bore in Thy sinless self the sins of the many; Grant that we, following in Thy footsteps, may obtain increase of Thy love, and walk all the days of our life in Thy paths; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

*En route to each
station we will sing
verses from the
Pange Lingua.*





I. Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord of justice standing before the judgment seat.
Pilate washes his hands; the rulers of Judea take His blood upon their heads
and on their children.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

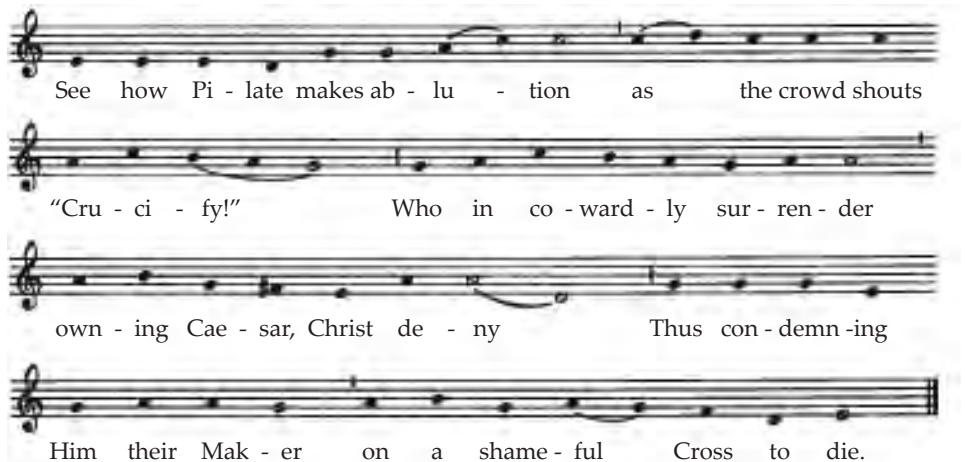
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: He spared not His own Son,

People: But delivered Him up for all of us.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, condemned to death for our sins: Grant us true repentance,
that, being washed in that stream which flows from Calvary through the
Sacraments of thy Holy Church to the end of time, we may evermore serve Thee
with pure hearts and minds; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.





II. Jesus Receives the Cross

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the World.

Officiant: Behold the Lord in whom all things subsist, who led His people out of Egypt and into the land of milk and honey, now led off to death, carrying the instrument of His condemnation.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

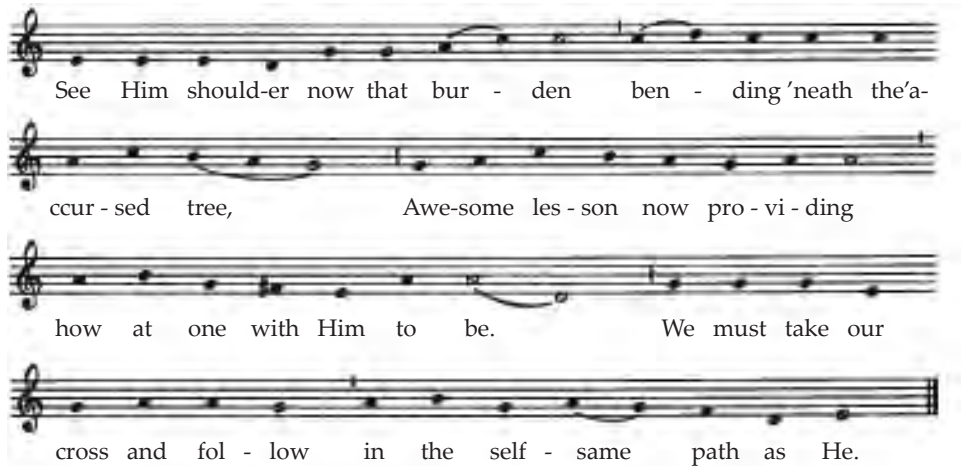
People: Have Mercy upon us.

Officiant: The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

People: For the wickedness of my people He hath stricken Him.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who hast taught us to pray, Thy will be done, and who hast said, Except ye take your Cross and follow Me, ye have no part in Me: Grant us by Thy grace cheerfully so to bear the slights and discouragements, the frustrations and temptations of the daily round with patience and humility, that we may be made one with Thee who bore Thy Cross for us, and who now livest and reignest with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.





III. Jesus Falls the First Time

Officiant: We Adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

People: Because by Thy cross Thou Hast Redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord by whom all things were made. He falls in the dust.
His agony and bloody sweat, the rigours of His final trial, the mocking
and the scourging now take their toll.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

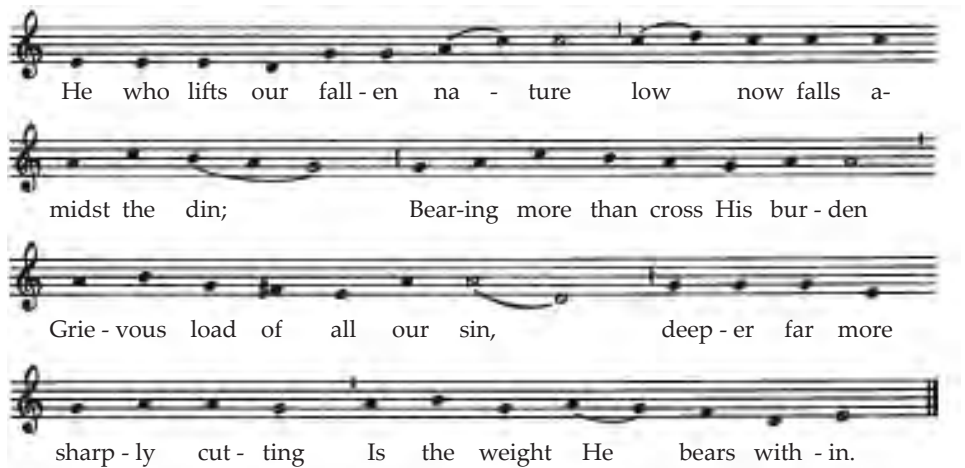
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: Surely He hath borne our griefs,

People: And carried our sorrows.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, accept our humble thanks for that Thou didst bear the full weight and pay the price of sin, that we might have its full weight lifted from our soul, who would be weighed down indeed and lost forever but for Thee and thine abiding grace; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





IV. Jesus Meets His Holy Mother

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord together with her Son.
The ancient Simeon's word to her is now fulfilled:
A sword shall pierce thine own soul also.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

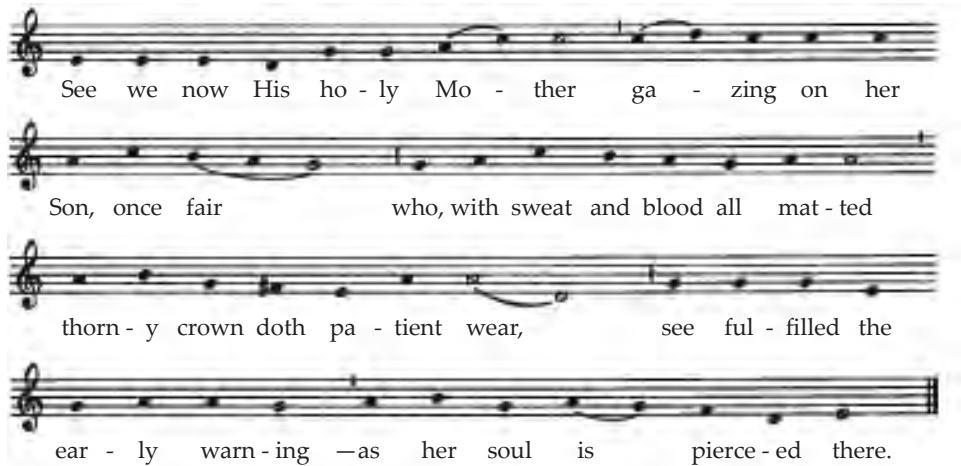
People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Yea, a sword shall pierce thine own soul also,

People: That the thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, at whose Presentation in the Temple the aged Simeon prophesied the piercing of the compassionate heart of the blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we may be aided by her deep devotion and lifted by her prayers before Thee: who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





V. The Cross Is Laid on Saint Simon of Cyrene

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord who holds the whole world in the hollow of His hand, now upheld by Simon, who was standing in the crowd, and whom soldiers pressed into service; who from his sharing in the Passion of our Lord became a Saint of the whole church.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

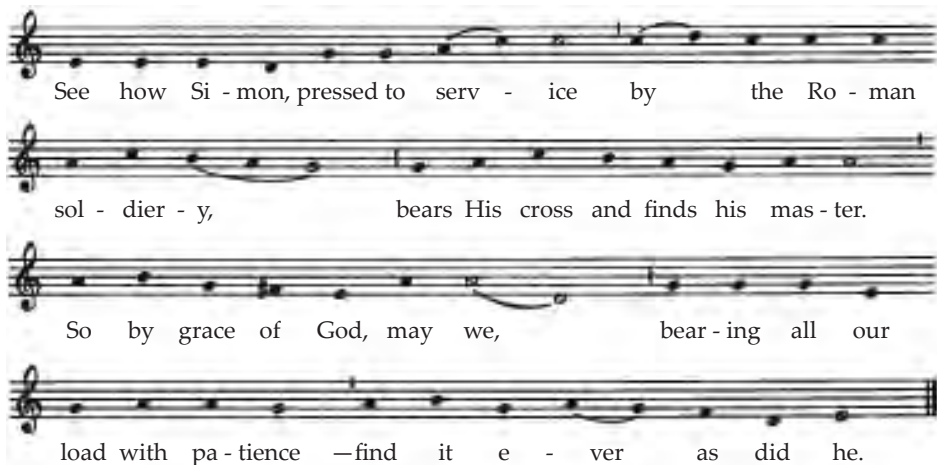
People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me,

People: Cannot be My disciple.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who hast taught us to take up our cross and follow Thee; Grant us to grow through every burden of the daily round, that we may share our cross with Thee, who shared Thy Cross with blessed Simon; and who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





VI. Saint Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord of beauty. Saint Veronica, who loves Him much, runs to cleanse His face; to whom the Church has given as a name her deed itself: *veron ika*, very image of the Lord, which legend says He left upon her cleansing cloth.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

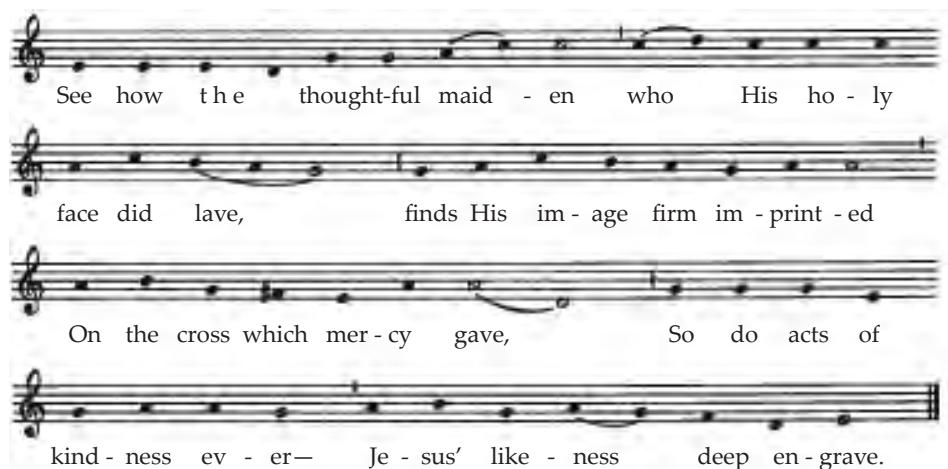
People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Hide not Thy face far from me.

People: Put not Thy servant away in anger.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who hast taught us that inasmuch as we have been merciful to one of the least of Thy brethren, we have been so unto Thee; Grant us grace to be sensitive to the need of friend and foe alike; that like as the blessed Veronica found Thine image on the cloth which mercy gave, so may we bear imprinted upon our hearts the image of Thy love, who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





VII. Jesus Falls the Second Time

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord of heaven fallen to the earth again, its burdens on His shoulders.
The Cross becomes the outward sign of all our sins, and sin's intolerable weight.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

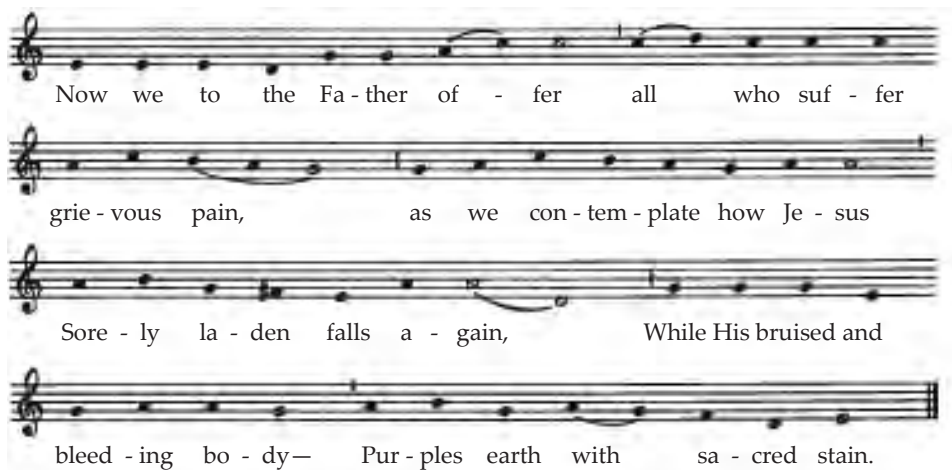
People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: But I am a worm and no man,

People: The reproach of men, and despised of the people.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who didst walk the lonely road of life to death itself that man might need never to be alone again; Help all who stumble in blindness of heart, searchings of mind, and loneliness of soul, that they may come to know Thee who art the light of the world, and who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





VIII. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord whom prophets long foretold; There follows Him a great company of disciples, of women which also bewail and lament Him to whom He prophesies: Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children: If they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

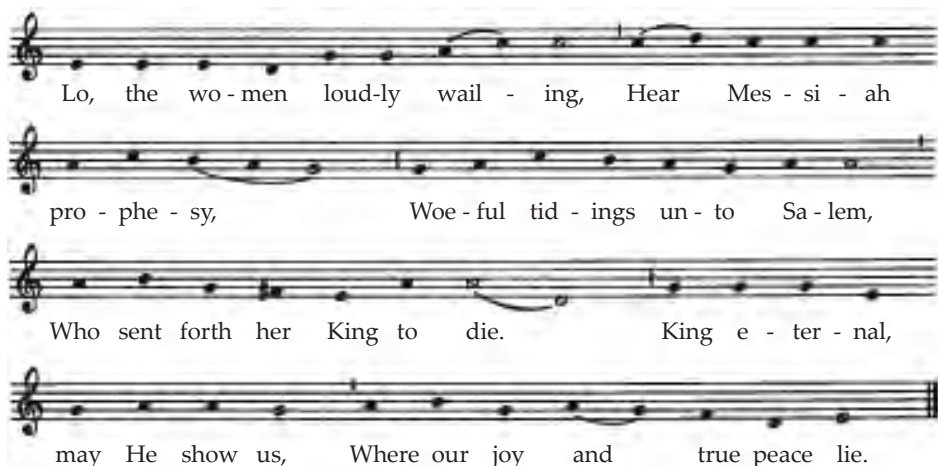
People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: They that sow in tears,

People: Shall reap in joy.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who hast taught us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break not through nor steal: Grant, that as we walk through the midst of this crumbling world, our hearts may be stayed on Thee who art the goal of all our striving and the answer to our restlessness; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





IX. Jesus Falls a Third Time

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord, who, when He has been lifted up, will draw all men unto Him, now falls a third and painful time.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

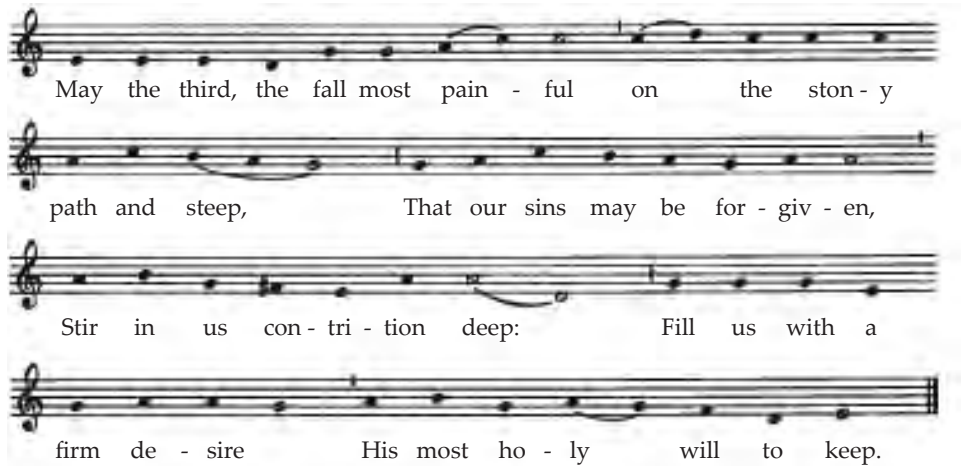
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: He is brought as a sheep to the slaughter,

People: And was mute as a lamb before the shearer.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, by the merits of this Thy holy Cross strengthen me, that I may never fall into grievous, willful sin; and should I, through carelessness or ignorance offend Thee; Grant that I may quickly turn to Thee with contrite heart, honest confession, and full purpose of amendment, to conquer all that ought not be in me; through Thy grace, who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





X. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord who clothed the world in beauty, who now submits, for love of man, to all man's hatred. He is stripped of His clothing and prepared for the Cross.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

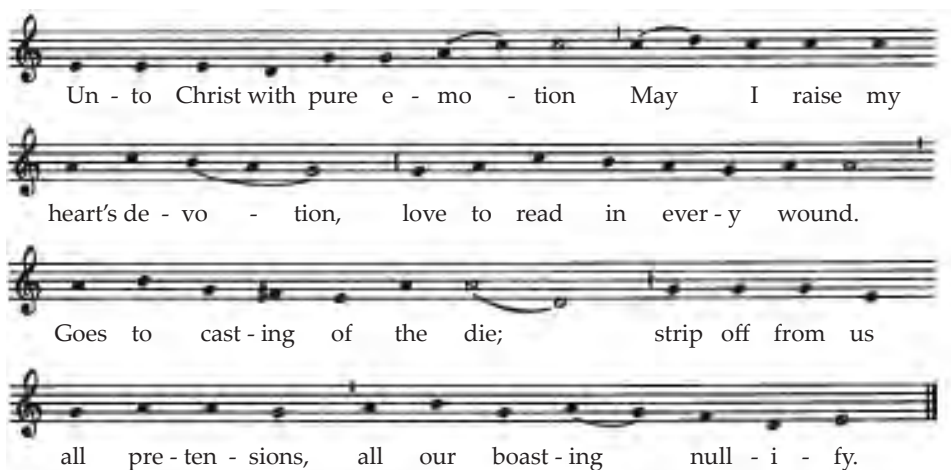
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: They gave Me also gall for My meat:

People: And in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, now prepared for the gallows tree; Help us to strip off all false pride and to be clothed with sincerity of heart: Let love rule in our hearts and fill them so that no room remains for anger; let us rejoice in the success of others, and pray for them in their shortcomings, that we have no room for the cloak of envy; for lust, give us singleness of purpose; that all our desires may be lived in the pure crucible of this Thy holy sacrifice; Grant us for greed a love of holy poverty; for sloth a holy industry; for gluttony a wholesome discipline; that resisting all temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, we may live in faith, through hope, with love by Thee, who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.





XI. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord of love! The soldiers nail Him to the Cross; He praying to the Father for them, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

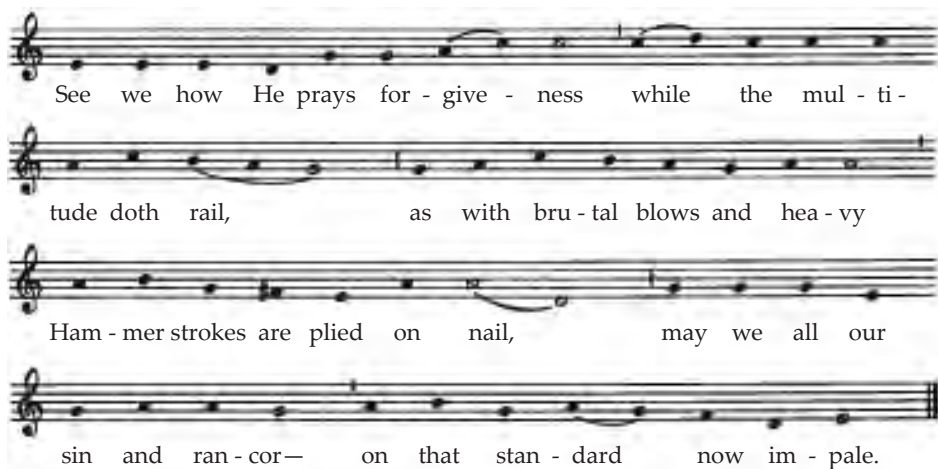
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: They pierced My hands and My feet,

People: I may tell all My bones: they stand and stare upon Me.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, stretching out Thine arms to the nails and praying for the nailers: May the light of Thy holy Gospel and the hearing of Thy sacramental grace reach out yet more and more 'til all mankind shall nail its sins to the Cross for love of Thee; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.





XII. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Lord of life and glory saying, "It is finished—Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit." The saving Victim is become the mighty Victor. Sin, Satan, and death are defeated. There is darkness over all the earth; the rocks are rent; the graves are open; the Veil of the Temple is torn in twain.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: Christ became obedient unto death.

People: Even death on the cross.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, whose sacred side was pierced that blood and water flowing out therefrom might reveal Thy death was by a broken heart: Accept the lowly offering of my heart's love; and grant that dying unto self I may live only unto Thee, who died for me and now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.





XIII. The Body of Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, receiving into her hands the body of her Son, our Lord, His life work finished, His soul released, His victory won amidst defeat.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

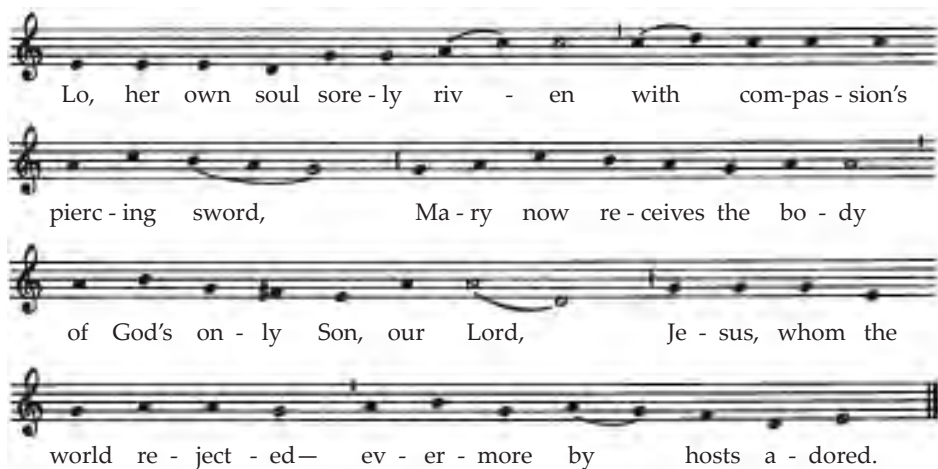
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: Her tears are on her cheeks.

People: She hath none to comfort her.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, by the merits of Thy precious death and burial; Grant that all who mourn for the loss of loved ones may know the help of her prayers whose arms received Thy sacred Body; May the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection be unto them a strong staff with which to walk the paths ahead, guided by Thy light, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.





XIV. The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Officiant: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee:

People: Because by Thy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Officiant: Behold the Body of our Lord laid in Joseph's tomb: the penalty of Adam paid; the seed which, except it be sown, abides alone; now awaiting Resurrection and a harvest of the souls of men for ages yet untold.

Officiant: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

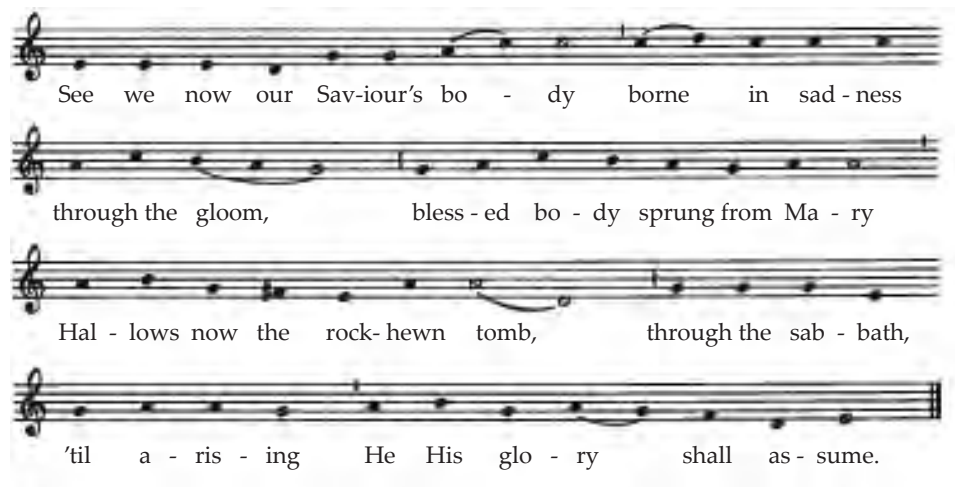
People: Have mercy upon us.

Officiant: Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell,

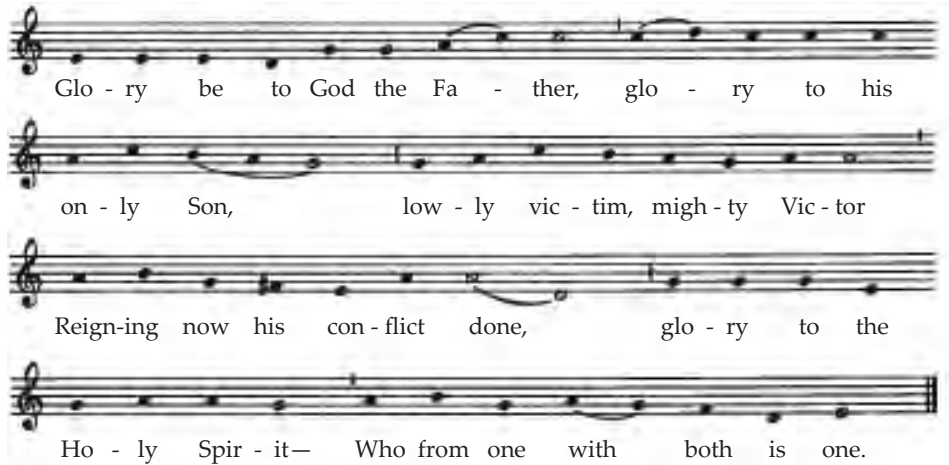
People: Nor wilt thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O Blessed Lord Jesus, who, whilst Thy sacred Body was at rest on the Sabbath didst in nether realms establish Thy reign and preach to the souls departed: Grant that naught on either side of the grave may ever separate us from Thy love, who, having harrowed hell and brought captivity captive, now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.



*Before the Altar
step, the Doxology
is sung:*



Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: 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.

Officiant: O Blessed Lord Jesus, Thou living Stone, rejected of the builders and become the Chief Stone of the corner; Grant that building upon Thy sure foundations, we may share in Thy everlasting habitations; who now livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

Please keep silence as the service is dismissed.

*You are welcome to stay and meditate further on the stations, or attend confessions
as they are available.*

Note: In observing the Stations of the Cross, the verses of the Pange Lingua may be replaced with other appropriate hymns. The verses of the Stabat Mater are given here.

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|------|--|-------|--|
| I. | By the Cross sad vigil keeping,
Stood the Mother, doleful weeping,
Where her Son extended hung. | VIII. | Saw her Son from judgment taken.
Her beloved in death forsaken,
Till His Spirit forth He sent. |
| II. | For her soul of joy bereaved,
Smit with anguish, deeply grieved,
Lo, the piercing sword hath wrung. | IX. | Fount of love and holy sorrow,
Mother may my spirit borrow
Somewhat of thy woe profound. |
| III. | Oh, how sad and sore distressed,
Now was she that mother blessed
Of the sole-begotten One! | X. | Unto Christ with pure emotion
May I raise my heart's devotion,
Love to read in every wound. |
| IV. | Woe-begone with
heart's prostration,
Mother, meek, the bitter passion
Saw she of her glorious Son. | XI. | Those five wounds of Jesus smitten
Mother! in my heart be written,
Deep as in thine own they be. |
| V. | Who on Christ's fond
mother looking,
Such extreme affliction brooking,
Born of woman, would not weep? | XII. | Thou, my Saviour's Cross
who bearest,
Thou, my Son's rebuke
who sharest,
Let me share them both with thee. |
| VI. | Who on Christ's fond
Mother thinking,
With her Son in sorrow sinking,
Would not share her sorrows deep? | XIII. | Mine with thee be that sad station,
There to watch the great salvation
Wrought upon the atoning tree. |
| VII. | For His people's sins rejected,
She her Jesus unprotected
Saw with thorns,
with scourges rent. | XIV. | To my parting soul be given
Entrance at the gate of Heaven,
And in Paradise a place. |

