

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Entrance

Hymn 95 (*New English Hymnal*)

When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Acclamation

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then 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 16:24-25*)

Christ has humbled himself and become obedient to death:
Even to death on a cross.

All kneel

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy, **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord's Prayer is said or sung.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name; your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And 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 for ever. Amen.

Mercifully assist us:

O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us follow the way of the cross:
In the name of our Lord. Amen

(The Sanctuary party moves to the first station, while the following is sung to the tune "Stabat Mater" [NEH 97])

**Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread your holy Way.
May we feel no bitter hatred,
When we too are persecuted,
Left alone to walk with you.**

THE FIRST STATION
Jesus Is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." After flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. (*Matthew 27:1-2,22,24,26b*)

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

By a perversion of justice:

**All: He was taken away. Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the
transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and
there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the
LORD to crush him with pain.** (*Isaiah 53:8-10a*)

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son was rejected and condemned to die by your own people. Grant that we may never reject his word

of truth and salvation, but follow him all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Now the cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The great cross of victory.**

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Carries His Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. *(John 19:1-2,16b-17)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

I gave my back to those who struck me:

All: And my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up

together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me. *(Isaiah 50:6-9a)*

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your Son laid aside all power in order to take up the cross and show us the depths of your love for us. Increase our willingness to bear our own cross, for love of him and for love of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Holy God, *(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)*
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.

THE THIRD STATION *Jesus Falls the First Time*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We stumble at noon as in the twilight, among the vigorous as though we were dead. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him. *(Isaiah 59:9,10b,15b-16)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Three times I appealed to the Lord about this:

All: That it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

(2 Corinthians.12:8-10)

Let us pray. Lord God, your Son chose to be weak before the powers of this world, and you worked your power through him. In our time of weakness, help us to turn to you, that your power may work in us also; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.**

THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. *(John 19:26-27)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Then Simeon blessed them:

All: And said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2:34-35)

Let us pray. Father of mercies, a sword of grief pierced deep into the heart of Mary as she witnessed her Son's passion. As we share in her sorrow by walking the way of sorrows, may we also share in the joy that is to come, the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the cross of Christ.**

THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As the soldiers led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. *(Luke 23:26)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

A disciple is not above the teacher:

All: Nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. Whoever loves

father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 10:24-25a, 37-38; 11:29-30)

Let us pray. Loving Father, you have called us into fellowship under the cross of your Son that we might bear your love to all in the world. Help us to be as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need, that all may be called out of the darkness into the light of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.**

THE SIXTH STATION

A Woman Offers Comfort to Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Before the betrayal, a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good

service for me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial." *(Matthew 26:7-9,10,12)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Then the righteous will answer him:

All: "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' *(Matthew 25:37-40)*

Let us pray. O God, your Son's passion shows us that loving others holds great risks that make us tremble and reluctant to act. Strengthen us in our faith and our resolve to take those risks and to see your Son in our needy brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Prostrate on the dust he crumbled,
Flogged in body, he resembled
All our people poor and scorned.**

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls a Second Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53:4-6)

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,:

All: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *(Matthew 5:3,5,8,11-12)*

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we walk the way of sorrows, it pains us to know that it is our fallen-ness in sin that crushes Christ under his cross. Yet by his suffering, we are raised up and made whole. Strengthen us in our baptismal vows and forgive us always for the sins that make us fall, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.**

THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." *(Luke 23:27-28)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All: The Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. *(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)*

Let us pray. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are but mortal flesh, and the span of our lives is very brief. Help us to see our frailty and affliction as a sharing in Christ's frailty and affliction, and through them, the path to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain.**

THE NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls a Third Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. I lie down among lions that greedily devour human prey; their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords. They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my path, but they have fallen into it themselves. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. *(Psalm 57:2,4,6-7a)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

My God, my God:

All: 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. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like baked clay, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

(Psalm 22:1-2,14-15)

Let us pray. Almighty God, there are times when life's burdens weigh down upon us, and our faith is so drained that we feel forsaken and abandoned by you. Yet you never forsake those who are your own. As you raised your Son from death to life, from despair to joy, so be present in our lives and raise us to hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all he had to give.**

THE TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped of His Clothes

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." *(John 19:23-24a)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

All of you must clothe yourselves with humility:

All: In your dealings with one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

(1 Peter 5:5b-7,10)

Let us pray. Lord God, your Son endured humiliations and indignities beyond compare, yet without complaint. Keep us humble in our work and daily lives with a willingness to put others before ourselves as Jesus put us before himself; through Christ our Lord.
Amen

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,**

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

**Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us;
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.**

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." *(Luke 23:32-34a)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

When we were dead in trespasses:

All: God made us alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

(Colossians 2:13-14)

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, despite his wounds, Jesus showed his love throughout his passion: for his mother, for the women of Jerusalem, for the good thief, even for those who nailed him to the cross. Bind us ever to that love, and help us to look beyond ourselves and our sufferings in order to share that love with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,**

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

**Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head – the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.**

THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. *(Luke 23:44-46)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

When you make his life an offering for sin

All: He shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. *(Isaiah 53:10b-12)*

Let us pray. Who would have believed it, O God? Who would have thought that the Saviour would die? Yet in the world's darkest hour, you snatched him out of the jaws of death, crushing sin and death

underfoot. Keep us ever close to his cross and death, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother,
In your arms was placed our Brother,
"Full of grace" now filled with grief.**

THE THIRTEENTH STATION *Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph 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. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth.

(Mark 15:42-43,45-46a)

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

I will pour out a spirit of compassion:

All: And supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

(Zechariah 12:10)

Let us pray. Gracious Lord and Consoler of all who mourn, comfort us in all our partings. Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love. Help us always to put our faith in you and entrust our loved ones into your infinite care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to the next station as the cantor sings:

**Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days you resurrected;
You did first what we shall do.**

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. He and Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. *(John 19:39-42)*

(Kneel/sit and pause for reflection)

Thus says the Lord GOD:

All: "I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of

Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD. (Ezekiel 37:12-13a,14)

Let us pray. God of hope, you have promised that if we are buried with Christ in the waters of Baptism, then we too will rise with him to new life. Make us ever mindful of our baptism and remove all stain of sin from us through repentance, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

(sung) (New English Hymnal 516b)

The procession moves to sanctuary as the cantor sings:

**Jesus, risen, be our lover
In Communion and each other,
Lead us home to heav'n with you.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Before the Altar

Far be it from me to glory:

Except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the gift of our salvation that he won for us through the way of the cross. Make our paths straight and keep our feet upon that way of the cross until you bring us safely into your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Let us follow the way of the cross:

All: Until our life's end. Amen

An anthem or other music is sung.

'O rest in the Lord' (Mendelssohn)

**A LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY
SOLEMN LITURGY OF
THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD**

The Priest begins as follows.

Blessed be our God.

For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

All kneel, and the Priest intones the Collects of the Day.

Almighty God,
look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be 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.**

Merciful God,
who gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross: save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent,

confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Readings

All sit for the Readings

The **First Reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah,** Chapter 52, beginning to read from the 13th verse.

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him so marred was his look beyond human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.

But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.

Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

After the reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 31

Sung by the cantor

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;

you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

For all my foes I am an object of reproach,

a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;

they who see me abroad flee from me.

I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;

I am like a dish that is broken.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

But my trust is in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God.

In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your kindness.

Take courage and be stouthearted,

all you who hope in the LORD.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

**The Second Reading is from Epistle of St Paul to the Hebrews,
Chapter 4, beginning to read from the 14th verse.**

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

After the reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

All stand to sing the Gradual Hymn

Hymn 90

(New English Hymnal; verses have been omitted)

O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
The hosts of heaven adore.

In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation
Upon the Cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
To stand thy Cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-belovèd,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

My days are few, O fail not,
With thine immortal power,
To hold me that I quail not
In death's most fearful hour:
That I may fight befriended,
And see in my last strife
To me thine arms extended
Upon the Cross of life.

*Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, A 14th century
Latin Hymn from Latin): Tr Robert
Bridges, 1844-1930*

Before the Gospel Acclamation intoned by Cantor

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the **Holy Gospel according to Saint John,**

Chapter 18, beginning to read from the 1st verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him, "Jesus the Nazorean." He said to them, "I AM." Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus the Nazorean." Jesus answered, "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said." When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?" They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." At this, Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews answered him, "We do not have the right to execute anyone,"

in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this one but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.

Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, "Behold, the man!" When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have

no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out, “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!” They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews’.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,” in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: *They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.* This is what the soldiers did.

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.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

All kneel and pause

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: *Not a bone of it will be broken.* And again another passage says: *They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of Christ:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit as a sermon or homily is given.

Silence is kept.

General Intercessions

Prayers are said for the Church, the world, the community, those in need and the faithful departed

Veneration of the Cross

A wooden cross may now be brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.

Then is said

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you,
because, by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

*The people are invited to come forward and spend a moment of prayer before the cross.
During this time, psalms, canticles, scripture sentences, hymns or anthems or other suitable material
(e.g. the Reproaches) may be said or sung.*

At the conclusion, the Priest says

O Saviour of the world,
By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

A hymn may be sung.

Hymn 99

(New English Hymnal)

It is finished! Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast breathed thy latest sigh,
Teaching us, the sons of Adam
How the Son of God can die.

Lifeless lies the piercèd Body,
Hidden in its rocky bed;
Thou has left the Cross of anguish
For the mansions of the dead.

In the hidden realms of darkness
Shines a light unseen before,
When the Lord of dead and living
Enters at the lowly door.

Lo, in spirit, rich in mercy
Comes he from the world above,
Preaching to the souls in prison
Tidings of his dying love.

Lo, the heavenly light around him,
As he draws his people near;
All amazed they come rejoicing
At the gracious words they hear.

Patriarch and priest and prophet
Gather round him as he stands,
In adoring faith and gladness,
Hearing of the piercèd hands.

There in lowliest joy and wonder
Stands the robber at his side,
Reaping now the blessèd promise
Spoken by the Crucified.

Jesus, Lord of our salvation,
Let thy mercy rest on me;
Grant me too, when life is finished,
Rest in Paradise with thee.

William MacLagan, 1826-1910

Then the Lord's Prayer is said, together with this final prayer.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name; your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And 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 for ever. Amen.

The liturgy 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.