

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross
for our times.

12:15 p.m.

With instrumental
music meditations

On the corner of 11th and Broadway



Good Friday at 12:15 pm

The congregation reads out loud the texts marked ALL

Presider: We gather on this Good Friday as a people united in prayer. Amid our busy lives, we pause to pray as we reflect on the suffering journey of Christ. As we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary, let us take a moment to remember how difficult that journey was. He carried his cross through the narrow-crowded streets of Jerusalem.

It was Passover time, so the city was full of people, many of whom mocked, jostled, and enjoyed watching as Jesus struggled with his heavy burden.

The way was often steep.

The journey that Jesus made on that day remains a symbol of Christianity in the world, as it struggles with its own crosses and failures and the challenges of modern life.

The streets of our towns and cities are filled with people who carry their personal crosses, who are bruised, battered, and broken.

Through these Stations of the Cross,

Jesus is inviting us to journey with him

and to reflect on his suffering as it continues in the lives of his people.

In solidarity with all who suffer,

let us pray that we will be open to whatever he wants us to see, hear and understand.

<i>Presider:</i> ✠ The 1st Station: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE ✠

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Jesus was captured at night, taken away by soldiers, stripped of his garments, interrogated, tortured, crowned with sharp thorns, and now handed over to be condemned to death by Pontius Pilate – death on a cross.

READER: Jesus is condemned unjustly by those who did not understand him and by those who were frightened of what he did and said.

Perhaps they sensed that this man could make a difference,
that he could turn their world upside down.

We continue to condemn people unjustly today.

People are condemned because of the color of their skin, their gender, their beliefs,
because they are born with a disability, because they don't conform to our way of thinking;

the list is endless. There are also the people who have been justly condemned, who have been found guilty, served their sentence and asked for forgiveness. Does our society really forgive and truly believe that people can change, or do we continue to condemn them over and over again? *Please kneel.*

ALL:

Jesus, what a terrible injustice to see you condemned to death.
Your own people, the Roman judges,
and the soldiers didn't recognize that you were the Son of God.
Give us the grace to see, respect, and love you in all innocent and guilty people.
Change our hearts that we may see with new eyes those we might otherwise condemn.

<p><i>Presider:</i> ♪ The 2nd Station: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS ♪</p>

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Jesus was led away carrying the cross by himself.

A cross is not just a piece of wood - it is everything that makes life difficult.

Jesus carried the crosses of his life without complaint, as a poor person,
and as an itinerant prophet.

In a calm and courageous way,

he put up with the threats of the Pharisees and the lack of understanding of his own disciples.

In the way that he carried all the burdens of his life

but, in particular, the way in which he carries this awful, final burden,

he transforms the cross from a symbol of condemnation into one of liberation.

READER: We all carry burdens,

some are very obvious, and others we take great care to hide.

There are the burdens of illness, pain, and disability, of old age, dependence,
and caring for someone who no longer knows who we are.

There are the burdens of constant fear, loneliness, and isolation.

The invitation of Jesus on the cross is to hand over these burdens to him.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Lord, may we see your presence, Lord, in all the burdens we carry today.

Help us to share our burdens more freely

not to be afraid to acknowledge our fears and our pain.

May we be more aware of the crosses that others bear and make time to alleviate their burden. May your face shine on each one of us through the crosses we bear.

Presider: ~The 3rd Station: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME~

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you
ALL: because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Jesus falls.

Here, Jesus shows us that being heroic does not mean staying on one's feet at all costs.
Being heroic means getting up again after falling and starting on the road chosen.
Human beings will never resign themselves to stay flat on the ground.
Like Jesus, they will get up again,
pick up their crosses, and search for a promised land of total liberation.

READER: Look at Jesus fall under his cross.

He might have fallen into the gutter or been slouched into a doorway on skid row.
He doesn't look much like God there,
but he didn't look like God when he fell into the dirt on the way to Calvary either.
The crowds look on with disdain at this man whom they see as a sinner,
who has been condemned to death by the authorities.
Like the crowd, we often have only condemnation and rejection for those we see as sinners.
We judge them without knowing about their trials, scourging, and crowning with thorns.
Do we even suspect the part we might have played in knocking them down?
What do we do to help them?

Please kneel

ALL:

Jesus, it's easy to see your image in saints. Help us to see you in the sinners, too.
You had a place in your heart for the divorced Samaritan woman,
Zacchaeus, the good thief, and for those who crucified you.
Give us this same compassionate heart.

MUSIC INTERLUDE #1

Presider: ~The 4th Station: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER~

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you
ALL: because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: When Jesus and his mother meet, they just look at each other – words cannot express how they feel. What he saw in his mother's eyes must have hurt him more than the raw pain of his wounds. This, for Jesus, is the most painful time of all. This is his bereavement.

READER: Jesus carries the heaviest burden of the loss of his family;
the sundering of the earthly, loving relationship between mother and child.
This was not of his making.

The violence inflicted upon him etched into the very heart of his mother,
as she watched the agony of her Son.

We see Mary's pain in the mothers and fathers who watch their children giving up their lives to
drugs, addictions, and suicide, in the women and men who suffer violence, and the ongoing
threat of violence in their home from spouse or child.

We see Mary's pain in the child coping with the breakdown of a parent's marriage,
in the couple trying desperately to rebuild their relationship and family anew.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Jesus, we remember the gaze that rested between you and your mother.

There was also a moment of deep and enduring love in that moment of pain.

Jesus, give us the courage to bring that love into the deepest recesses of our homes,
to our children and our spouses, to those places of fracture and disharmony in our circle
of relationships.

<p><i>Presider:</i>  The 5th Station: SIMON HELPS JESUS </p>
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PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Simon the Cyrene, a stranger in the city, did not know Jesus.

But that did not matter.

What matters here is that in this moment of need,

Simon was capable of lending his shoulders to one whose own had given out,

of offering his strength to one who had nothing left,

of taking on himself the cross, which Jesus could no longer carry.

READER: Look at Jesus, who lies hidden and unknown:

beneath every person in need.

Across our world, we see human suffering in the faces of strangers,

in the faces of those struggling for democracy in the Middle East and beyond,

in the faces of those dealing with the loss of life by violence and destruction of property.

The face of inaction by leaders when gun violence claims the lives of innocent children and
adults. People we know of but do not know must live with the aftermath of the ravages and
destructive forces of nature – coping with floods and drought, with the devastating effects of
climate change.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Lord, help us to grasp our opportunities to be a Simon in our world.
In those times when we can help, let us have the generosity to do so.
May we continue the spirit of Simon
through our support of the Cathedral's Morning Glory Ministries
who work to alleviate hunger and suffering in our community.
May we have the humility to accept all the Simons along our road
who reach out to help us in our moments of need.

Presider: ➤ **The 6th Station: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS** ➤

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Veronica was so moved by the sight of Jesus suffering that she courageously moved out from the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from his face with a towel. She was rewarded when the image of his face was transferred to the towel. It is a suffering face, disfigured with wounds. Yet this is the only image of himself that Jesus chose to leave with us.

READER: Today, the visible face of Christ, the Church,
stands before us, still wounded and disfigured;
disfigured by its sins of abuse of children and power,
and creased with the wounds of hurt and betrayal.
Bearing the scars of the sexual abuse reports,
the face of Christ calls us to look upon and heal the sin of our Church.
Please kneel.

ALL:

Jesus, give your wounded Church the courage of Veronica
so that we may wash the face of Christ clean from the disfigurements of our sin.
Help us to bring healing to the scars that hide the beauty of your face in our world.
Give us the faith to continue to build your Church as a visible sign of your love and compassion.

MUSIC INTERLUDE #2

Presider: ➤ **The 7th Station: JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME** ➤

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Stretched to breaking point by his awful scourging, bowed under the weight of the cross, worn out by the abandonment of all his friends, Jesus stumbles again.

READER: All around us, people are overburdened by the crosses they carry;
they struggle and sometimes fall.
Some have lost their jobs and feel that they have little hope of finding another; those who live with the prospect of unemployment,
and those who struggle to keep others in work.
Some suffer because of failures in our financial, health, and political systems. Jesus is with each one of us; however,
we fall, and it is there that he chooses to love and save us.

Please kneel.

ALL:
Jesus, from deep within yourself,
you found the courage and strength to get up once again and continue the journey.
Give us your strength to keep going even when hope is dim.

<i>Presider:</i> ✠ The 8th Station: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM ✠
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PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered.
Jesus recognized their distress;
he broke his silence for the first time, spoke to them, and said,
“Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me.
Weep for yourselves and for your children”.

READER: Look at Jesus and listen to his message for us today.
Weep for the people in countries suffering unprovoked war and who are suffering.
Weep for the children who are abused.
Weep for the women who are victimized.
Weep for those who are victims of racism and oppression.
Weep for those who cannot find a job or a path in life.
Weep for the old who are forgotten.
Weep for people who starve in the shadow of abundance.
Weep for people who are homeless, in exile, or seeking refuge.
Weep for them.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Lord, open our hearts to the suffering of all people in our world.
Give us the generosity of spirit to help us recognize their pain,
the courage to challenge the systems that place intolerable burdens on them,
and the compassion to support them.

Presider: ♪ **The 9th Station: JESUS FALLS FOR A THIRD TIME** ♪

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Jesus falls for the third time,
broken and exhausted physically and emotionally.
Lying on the ground, Jesus must decide –
does he get up once more, or does he stop and give up?
We see him rise again,
and with all his power, he continues on his journey.
Jesus shows us that we can go on, even if nobody else thinks that it is possible.

READER: Many in our world today feel that they are at that moment of final falling,
that their burden is too much to carry.
They cannot bear any more.
Crushed by the weight of their cross, they feel unable to get up or go on.
Some may look for relief from addiction.
Some may look to escape through suicide.
In Jesus, we find our hope and our encouragement.
The third fall of Jesus reminds us that even in our moment of complete helplessness,
or our experiences of depression,
in our own Calvary, we can stand up again.
Jesus is with us, and Jesus is our strength.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Lord, we pray that when our strength fails,
when our hope fades, and when our spirit grows weary,
we will put our complete trust in you.
In turn, may we bring your love, in a word or action of comfort to another
in their moment of hopelessness, depression, or despair.

Please be seated

MUSIC INTERLUDE #3

Presider: ∞ **The 10th Station: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING** ∞

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: As the clothes were ripped from Jesus,
he was stripped of his dignity in front of an irreverent mob.
Jesus sacrifices everything.
He holds nothing of himself back.
Here, on the threshold of death,
even more intensely than during his lifetime, he is a being for others.
He surrenders everything to ransom all.

READER: Look at Jesus and the absolute indignity inflicted upon him by society.
Jesus continues to be stripped of his dignity in those who have their good name taken from them and the intimate details of their lives exposed through the media.
Society takes on the role of judge and jury as we curiously devour the details.
Jesus is stripped again when men, women, and children are portrayed and marginalized as objects in a pornographic manner in magazines, on television, and on the internet.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Forgive us, Lord, for being an irreverent mob prying into people's lives.

Forgive us for being consumers of gossip and misinformation under the name of 'news.'

Let us never expose anyone.

May we respect the dignity of others and leave judgment to God.

Let us see the good in those around us, and so enable them to reach their full potential.

Presider: ∞ **The 11th Station: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS** ∞

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Huge iron nails are hammered through his wrists and his ankles.
Iron through human flesh, the flesh must yield; there is no defense.
Jesus, nailed to the cross, cannot move.
The hand that has wiped blindness from the eyes;
the hand that opened the seal of deafness,
the hand that touched a heart and cured a leper,
the hand that blessed children and those with a disability;
the carpenter's hand is joined to the wood again.

As the cross is put in place, he hangs there between us and God,
a blood-stained victim for love.

READER: Jesus continues to be crucified in the ten children who die every minute of hunger in our world.

He is crucified in all who are maimed, damaged, and displaced because of war.

He is crucified in all who are marginalized in our society
because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, or gender.

He is crucified in those who are abused physically, sexually, or emotionally.

He is crucified in those who are trafficked across the world.

He is crucified in the exploitation of the earth and its resources.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Jesus, we pray for those who cannot reach out to you now.

We pray for all victims of violence, those who suffer it, and those who inflict it.

We pray especially for children, the elderly, and those too vulnerable to defend themselves. May victims of cruelty and oppression know that you are always with them.

Presider: **The 12th Station: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: As the life of Jesus ebbs away,
his Cross of Jesus words are not of condemnation or pity for himself, but of forgiveness;
'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

Amid his anguish and suffering,

Jesus calls upon his Father to forgive those who are putting him to death.

This is the real challenge of the cross:

forgiveness even of those who hurt us most.

READER: There is much to seek forgiveness for in our world today:
hunger, poverty, violence, abuse, war, neglect, corruption, the list seems endless.
Each one of us praying these stations could continue the list on our own behalf
and, indeed, on behalf of those who have hurt us.

As Jesus dies on Calvary, he challenges us to love our enemies,
to let go of the hurt,

to ask for forgiveness,

and when we cannot find it in our hearts to forgive,

to ask God to do it for us.

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Let us stand with those who silently watched and prayed while Jesus breathed his last.
As we cannot measure love,
we cannot dilute this ultimate act of love and forgiveness with words.
Let our love span the silence. Lord! Let our love and forgiveness speak your praise.

Please be seated

MUSIC INTERLUDE #4

Presider: ✠ **The 13th Station: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS** ✠

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: Now Mary takes the broken body of her Son in her arms.

In her grief, she remembers the words of her Son over the bread,

‘This is my body, broken, for you,’ and over the wine,

‘This is my blood poured out for you.’

She remembers that little baby in Bethlehem worshipped by shepherds and kings.

She remembers the days when the crowds followed him, and she is full of sorrow.

READER: Mary’s grief is our grief, too.

As Mary cradles the lifeless body of her Son and offers him back to the Father,

she stands with all parents who have held their children close to them in death:

those lost through accidents or acts of violence,

those who have died by suicide,

those who died suddenly or after an illness.

Mary grieves with all who sorrow for loved ones:

parents, siblings, family members, and friends.

Please kneel.

ALL:

Help us, Lord, to accept the partings that must come.

Help us to offer our loved ones back to you as Mary offered her Son.

Faced with the silence of death, let us not despair but find hope.

Help us to trust you, the Lord of the living and the dead.

Presider: ✠ **The 14th Station: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB** ✠

PRESIDER: *We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you*

READER AND ALL: *because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.*

PRESIDER: That night, his body lay in the dark earth of the world, a seed dying in the winter of all spirits. All those who had loved him felt emptied and exhausted.
There seemed no longer any sense or purpose in anything.
But at least no more harm could come to him.
They closed the tomb and left.

READER: There are times when we are overcome by the darkness of the tomb,
by the countless deaths that we experience each day,
but the answer to all our grieving and despair lies in this place.
The world is now the tabernacle of God.
The grain of wheat sown in darkness and death has yielded a rich harvest.
Our presence here gives witness to that.
The death of Jesus was not in vain.

Please kneel.

ALL:
Jesus, each day you put before us life or death.
Help us always to choose life.
We pray for all those we have known who have died,
and for those who have no one to pray for them.
We ask for the gift of faith when we are faced with the darkness of the tomb,
and our own death approaches.
May we have eyes to see the promise of new life that the darkness can hold.

Please be seated

MUSIC INTERLUDE #5

✻Closing Prayer✻

PRESIDER:
We have followed you in pain and agony and into the future of resurrected joy.
We have pondered the events of our own lives.

READER: With deep faith,
we renew our purpose to direct our lives in the shadow of your cross,
so that the warmth of springtime and the waters of Easter salvation might be ours.

PRESIDER: We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord, friend, and Savior.

ALL: AMEN

MUSIC POSTLUDE