

# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### About This Service

*This service was developed in Jerusalem as a devotion to be undertaken by those wishing to walk in the footsteps of Jesus on Good Friday. In time it developed into 14 stations. Eight of these stations are based directly on the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion, while stations 3,4,6,7,9 and 13 are inferred from the Gospels or taken from pious legends of the crucifixion. Each station begins with a portion of the Stabat Mater, the 12th century hymn of the crucifixion (At the cross her station keeping) attributed to the Fransiscan poet Jacopone da Todi. Where noted, prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer. The meditations and prayers were written by the Rev. Frank and Victoria Logue from King of Peace Episcopal Church, Georgia. Lines in bold type are said by all.*

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### Opening Devotion

Leader: (Book of Common Prayer, page 99)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
Amen.

### I Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.

Silent Meditation

Betrayed. Deserted. Alone. Jesus stands before an unjust judge.  
Dry palm branches crackle under the feet of the crowd.  
Soldiers rain down punches and crown him with thorns.  
Jesus is condemned to die.

All

Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, you knew no sin and yet were sentenced to death. Assist me by your mercy to see the beam in my own eye and to remove it before I look to the speck in the eyes of others. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **II Jesus Takes up His Cross**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Through her heart, His sorrow sharing  
All His bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword has passed.

Silent Meditation

Splinters. Heavy, rough wood. The scent of the hill country.  
A single beam laid across the back of a carpenter.  
The crowd jeers. The procession to the place of the skull begins.

All

Obedient Lord, you asked us each to take up our cross and follow you. Then you took up your own cross and led the way not just to calvary, but to the empty tomb and beyond. Give us the courage to follow where you lead. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **III Jesus Falls the First Time**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
O, how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blessed  
Of the sole-begotten One!

Silent Meditation

Stumble. Waver. Collapse.  
Jesus' sweat mingles with dust as he falls to the earth.  
The weight of the sins of the world on his shoulders.  
Barely able to stand. He can not carry the cross without falling.

All

Lion of Judah, you know our weaknesses, our temptations and our failings. Support us by the power of the Holy Spirit that we do not stumble so as to fall away from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **IV Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Christ above in torment hangs,  
She beneath beholds the pangs,  
Of her dying, glorious Son.

Silent Meditation

Mother and child. Madonna.  
Joseph has died. There is no angelic choir.  
No shepherds. No wise men.  
Gone are the gold, frankincense and myrrh.  
Mary sees her battered son through a veil of tears.

All

Son of God, son of Mary, the crowd heaps scorn and turns the blade that pierces your mother's own soul.  
Grant us the grace to see those in needless suffering and to reach out to them showing the love you wanted  
to show to your mother Mary as you stumbled toward Calvary. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our  
crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **V The Cross Is Laid on Simon of Cyrene**

Leader

Jesus Christ, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Is there one who would not weep  
Whelmed in miseries so deep  
Christ's dear Mother to Behold?

Silent Meditation

Stranger. Neighbor. Friend.  
Simon takes up your cross. In so doing takes up his own.  
Another innocent man joins the procession to Calvary.

All

Suffering Servant, beaten beyond human semblance, through the Good Samaritan you taught us that  
everyone in need is our neighbor. Help us to follow in your way of love that we do not need be compelled  
to take up the cross of another when they cannot bear their burdens alone. This we pray in the name of  
Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **VI A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that Mother's pain untold?

Silent Meditation

Cloth. Sweat. Blood. Icon.  
Legend tells of a woman wiping Jesus' face and  
gaining an image of Christ painted in his blood on her cloth.  
In relieving the suffering of others we, too, find the face of Jesus.

All

Immanuel, God with us, you came as the image of God made flesh and we scorned you. May we seek not to do great things in your name, but to honor you with small acts of mercy done with great love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **VII Jesus Falls a Second Time**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.

Silent Meditation

Oppressed. Afflicted. Silently suffering.  
Simon carries the cross, yet Jesus can not continue.  
He bears our infirmities and carries our sorrows.  
Crushed under their weight, Jesus falls once more.

All

Compassionate Christ, all we like sheep have gone astray, turning each of us to our own way. Grant that when we fall into sin, we may return from going our own way to following in yours. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **VIII Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
For the sins of His own nation  
Saw Him hang in desolation  
Till His Spirit forth He sent.

Silent Meditation

Tears. Wailing. Daughters. Mothers. Grief.  
Women beat their breasts and mourn openly,  
for the Son of Man, but his concern is for them and their children  
in the days of woe yet to come.

All

Son of Man,  
You told the women of Jerusalem to weep not for you but for themselves and their children.  
Give us the gift of tears for our own sins, that we may mourn the ways in which we fall short of the glory of  
God that we may truly repent and return to you.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **IX Jesus Falls a Third Time**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
O thou Mother! Fount of love,  
Touch my spirit from above.  
Make my heart with thine accord.

Silent Meditation

Brutalized. Dazed. Beyond strength.  
Now nearly on Calvary's broad summit, Jesus collapses.  
Poles long set into the ground are silhouetted against gray clouds.  
Impatiently, Jesus is pulled up and shoved angrily toward his death.

All

Loving Lord, you fell that we might rise and taught us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and  
dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Help us to die to ourselves so that we might live to  
you and bear much fruit for your Kingdom. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King  
of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **X Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ, my Lord.

Silent Meditation

King of Glory. King of Peace.  
Stripped bare. The crown of thorns is all that remains.  
One possession remains—his life.  
Holding nothing back, Jesus offers that last gift.

All

Bread of Life, you came that we might have life and have it abundantly and you emptied yourself, taking the form of a slave that we might be free, and died that we might live. Give us the grace to be stripped bare of all that separates us from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **XI Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Holy Mother, pierce me through!  
In my heart, each wound renew  
Of my Savior crucified.

Silent Meditation

Cold steel. Warm flesh. Nails rip through tendon and muscle.  
Blood soaks into splintered wood.  
Jesus responds. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

All

Merciful Redeemer, you declared your forgiveness from the cross, showing love to those who killed you and to the thief dying alongside you. Help us to know and count the cost of our forgiveness, bought at so great a price. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **XII Jesus Dies on the cross**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Let me share with thee His pain,  
Who for all our sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.

Silent Meditation

Despised. Rejected.  
Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani?  
My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?  
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.  
From top to bottom the veil in the Temple is torn in two.

All

Lamb that was slain, as you cried out to your Father from the cross we learned how deep was your suffering, how complete was your sense of abandonment. Be present with us when others betray us or forsake us that we may find ourselves in your eyes and not theirs. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **XIII The Body of Jesus Is Placed in the Arms of his Mother**

Leader

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!  
Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning Him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.

Silent Meditation

Mourning mother. Broken child.  
A sword of grief pierces her soul.  
Women surround her, but none can comfort her.  
Her name is bitterness.

All

Crucified Savior, you are resurrection and life and in your death and resurrection we who mourn find the peace and comfort your own mother lacked as your body came down from the cross. Help us to bring the hope of the resurrection to all who mourn. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

## **XIV Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb**

Leader

Jesus Christ, crucified, have mercy on us!  
By the cross with thee to stay,  
There with thee to weep and pray,  
Is all we ask of thee to give.

Silent Meditation

Cold stone. A shroud. Darkness.  
Sabbath rest at last.  
The disciples gather in fear.  
A grain of wheat waits for spring.

All

Alpha and Omega, you are beginning and end. In death you conquered death so that even at the grave we praise your name. Help us to find you as the way, the truth and the life and to lead others out of darkness and into your light. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.  
Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Holy God, Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.

### **Concluding Prayer**

(Book of Common Prayer, page 101)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen