



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
with ORGAN REFLECTIONS

ABOUT TODAY'S LITURGY

The Stations of the Cross (sometimes known as The Way of the Cross, the Via Crucis, or the Via Dolorosa) is an ancient devotion that began in Jerusalem shortly after the Ascension. There are many stories of how this devotion began. Indeed, to this day there is a distinct Marian devotion attached to the walking of the Stations since one of the earliest stories about their use is that The Blessed Virgin Mary—who was entrusted to St. John the Beloved Disciple by Jesus on the cross—traveled with him to his final home in Ephesus where she asked that he mark out the stations since she had spent many times stopping at these pivotal locations in Jerusalem to remember Jesus' Passion.

That being said, the most widely accepted history of this devotion is that those who lived in or visited the Holy City would often travel to various locations throughout the city that were part of Jesus' last days before his Crucifixion. Indeed, such pilgrimage led to many of these locations (along with countless others from the story of Jesus) becoming small chapels. In some cases, they even became major basilicas. It was not until the founding of The Church of the Holy Sepulchre by Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, that the practice spread. But after her visit, she brought precious relics from the Passion back to Rome and commissioned The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. To this day, you can view these relics as well as walk the Stations of the Cross in the approach to the Reliquary.

Today, Christians around the globe share this devotion in one of two major forms: the first, which we share today, is the traditional walk of the 14 Stations of the Cross. However, in the early 21st Century, St. Pope John Paul II crafted a secondary collection of Stations that are based on specifically scriptural points in the Passion story.

The images associated with the Stations on the wall of Luther Memorial this year were created by The Rev. Mary Button. Together, they are entitled The Stations of the Cross: Jesus at the Border. After today's worship—or during the Organ Reflections—you are invited to visit these collages. If you would like prayer cards of all or some of these Stations, please contact Pastor Jay (after Easter Monday).

Our liturgy this afternoon begins at 12.

**While it is not intentionally scheduled to last until 3pm,
we do invite you to come and go as you need this afternoon.**

**If possible, please keep movement only during
the Organ Reflections.**

PRELUDE

As we gather, please be mindful of those around you at prayer. Keep all conversation quietly outside the Sanctuary.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

You are welcome and encouraged, during the Organ Reflections, to explore the Stations as they are depicted on the walls of the Sanctuary.

Please rise in body or spirit at the invitation of the Liturgist.

INVOCATION

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

ALL: Amen.

CENTERING PRAYER

Wounded Christ, as we approach your most merciful Passion, we turn our gaze to your sorrowful walk to Golgotha. Center our life on your earth-making love. Focus our minds on your pain-bearing suffering. Turn our hearts to contemplate your life-giving death. As we come to the very heart of our life as people sealed by your cross, keep us in your way and support as we encounter a weary and wounded world. Bring us, at last, to the comfort of your resurrection and life in the shade of your tree of life.

Amen.

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, remember us in your sovereignty
and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

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 forever. Amen.**



Station I:

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

You may be seated. The Station is announced.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15:1-5, 15

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who are unjustly condemned, for those suffering under the epidemic of Mass Incarceration, for those who serve the cause of justice.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station II

JESUS TAKES UP THE CROSS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

You may be seated. The station is announced.

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked 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 by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

John 19:6, 15-17

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who bear another's burdens, those who care for others, those in the helping professions.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station III

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

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.

John 19:1-3

You may be seated.

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who live with invisible illnesses, those whose suffering is not seen by others.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.



Station III

JESUS MEETS HIS SORROWFUL
MOTHER

Rise in body or spirit.

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

**By your holy cross you have
redeemed the world.**

*The station is announced. You may be
seated at the invitation of the liturgist.*

Then Simeon blessed his father and mother and said to his mother Mary, "This child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Jacob, and to be a sign provoking contention; also, your own soul a sword will pierce so that the true hearts of many will be revealed."

Luke 2:34-35

and again Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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 19:25-27

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who do hard things, those who face impossible decisions, those who face the difficulties of the day.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station V

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

**By your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

The station is announced.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Mark 15:21

You may be seated.

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who are victims of racism, xenophobia, Christian Nationalism, and other discriminations.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.



Station VI

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

You may be seated. The station is announced.

For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Isaiah 53:2-3

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who serve as support staff, those whose work is unseen, for custodial staff, kitchen staff, back-of house workers.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station VII

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

You may be seated at the invitation of the liturgist.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died,

or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who yearn after God, those who feel distanced from God, those whose faith is challenged, and those whose faith is known only to God.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

STATION VIII

JESUS MEETS THE WEeping
WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Rise in body or spirit.

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

You may be seated.

The station is announced.



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. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the

breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Luke 23:27-31

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who are mothers and those who yearn to be, those who have challenges of conception, those who nurture, and those who are estranged from mother or child.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station VIII

JESUS FALL A THIRD TIME

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. My heart throbs; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off. Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate on treachery all day long. For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

Psalms 38

You may be seated.

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who suffer from visible illnesses, those whose strength grows weak, those in need of healing and wholeness.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station X

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

You may be seated. The station is announced.

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." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

John 19:23-24

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who do not have shelter from the weather, the underhoused and underemployed, those who rely on others for their support.

ORGAN REFLECTION



Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station XI

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE
CROSS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

**By your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

The station is announced.

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 23:33-34

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who work in laborious jobs, those who work construction, carpentry, masonry, those who work outdoors on our behalf.

You may be seated.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.



STATION XII

IESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Rise in body or spirit.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

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 out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:44-46

SILENCE IS KEPT.

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who will die today.

You may be seated.

SILENCE IS KEPT

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station XIII

JESUS IS REMOVED FROM THE CROSS
AND LAID ON HIS MOTHER

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They 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 he 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 19:38-42

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who mourn, and for those who care for the mourning, funeral directors, clergy, counselors.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Station Xiiii

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The station is announced.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

Let us pray, siblings. Let us pray for those who wait, those who watch and wonder, those who find awe.

ORGAN REFLECTION

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us.



Rise in body or spirit.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Gracious Jesus, at this blessed hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

Amen.

SENDING LITANY

Wounded Jesus, for the sake of your merciful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Wounded Jesus, as you have died for us,
help us to live for you.

Wounded Jesus, having shared again in your holy Passion,
hear us and help us to walk in your way. Amen.

POSTLUDE

+ + +

YOU MAY STAY AND PRAY AS YOU LIKE.

PLEASE RESPECT OTHERS AT PRAYER
BY REMAINING SILENT IN THE SANCTUARY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAM AT LUTHER,
YOU MAY LEAVE A DONATION IN THE BASKET NEAR ANY ENTRANCE.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

LITURGIST

The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

ORGANISTS

Cantor Bryan M. Timm, F.A.I.O.

Mr. Walt Gaber

(THE REMAINDER OF)
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER @ LUTHER

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18: Service of Our Lord's Passion
with Bidding Prayer and Adoration of the Cross
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

EASTER VIGIL

April 19: The First Eucharist of Resurrection
with Recitation of Salvation History
7:00pm in the Courtyard (to start)
use either door adjacent to the parking lot to enter

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,
EASTER DAY

April 20: Festival Eucharist
with Thanksgiving for Baptism
8:15am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary