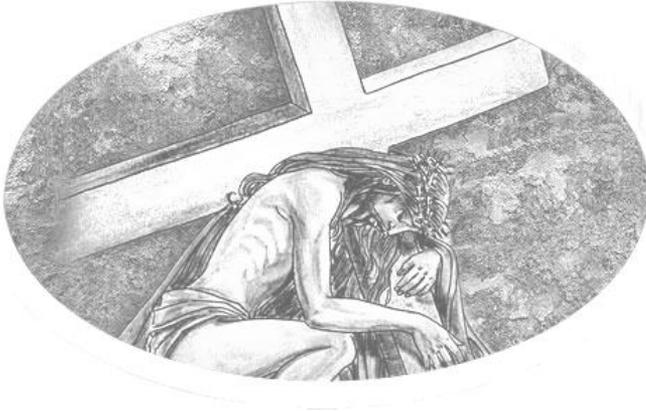


Way of the Cross



Holy Trinity Chapel

**Scriptural Meditations
on the Suffering and Death
of Jesus Christ**

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Concerning the Service

From the earliest times of Christianity, faithful believers travelled to the Holy Land to visit those places that were sanctified by the events of our Lord's earthly life. The most hallowed pilgrimage was the one that followed the path of Christ on that first Good Friday. It was made with great devotion as pilgrims would stop (or make *stations*) for prayer and meditation at those locations where the biblical events took place.

For those who were unable to visit the Holy Land, the custom arose throughout Europe of setting up replicas of the different events along a local community's own "Way of Sorrows." In this way the faithful could make spiritual pilgrimages. After centuries of development, these numerous little shrines were restricted and standardized to 14 key events—most in keeping with the biblical account of Good Friday, and several other events received from ancient Church tradition.

Today, reflections and prayers are typically made before a series of plain wooden crosses spaced along the walls of a church. Sometimes these crosses are paired with pictures of the events they commemorate. The version we use at Holy Trinity Chapel is based on 14 meditations drawn directly from the Bible.

The officiant at the service customarily leads the opening sentence at each station and reads the Concluding Collect. The other readings and responses are often assigned to other persons.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

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

Amen.

Bless the Lord Who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**In Whom is our life, our salvation, and
our resurrection.**

Let us pray:

Assist us with Your help, O merciful Lord, that we may enter with solemn hearts upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby You have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(An appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

First Meditation

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and elders, "What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify Him!" And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!" And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!"

Matthew 27:1-2, 11, 22-23, 25

God did not spare His own Son:

But delivered Him up for us all.

Romans 8:32

Let us pray:

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.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Second Meditation

JESUS IS MOCKED

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face. They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. Now it was the day of the preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your

King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”

John 19:1-3, 14-15; Mark 15:19

The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all:

For the transgression of My people was He stricken.

Isaiah 53:6,8

Let us pray:

Lord God, Whose blessed Son our Savior gave His body to be whipped and His face to be spat upon: **Give us grace to humbly and patiently accept the sufferings of the present time, confident that His glory shall one day be revealed in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Third Meditation
**THE CROSS IS LAID ON
SIMON OF CYRENE**

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they

led Him out to crucify Him. They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.

Mark 15:20-21

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”

Matthew 16:24

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:16-19

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me...

Cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27

Let us pray:

O God, You have called us to be Your children, and have promised that those who suffer with Christ will be heirs with Him of Your glory: **Arm us with such trust in Him that we may ask no rest from His demands and have no fear in His service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Fourth Meditation
**THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM
MOURN FOR JESUS**

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You:
**Because by Your holy cross You have
redeemed the world.**

And following Him was a large crowd of people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, they days are 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 these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Luke 23:27-31

Those who sowed with tears...
Will reap with songs of joy.

Psalms 126:5

Let us pray:

Teach Your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; **that, by Your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Fifth Meditation

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

And bearing His own cross, they came to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. On it was written, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews." Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews';

but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

John 19:17-22

A band of evildoers has encompassed Me;

They pierced My hands and My feet.

Psalms 22:16

Let us pray:

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.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Sixth Meditation

DIVIDING JESUS’ GARMENTS

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they

are doing.” Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four portions, a portion for every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”; this was to fulfill the Scripture: “They divided my outer garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

Luke 23:33-34; John 19:23-24

They look, they stare at Me;

They divide My garments among them.

Psalm 22:17b-18a

Let us pray:

Grant, O Lord, that as Your Son Jesus Christ prayed for His enemies on the cross, **we may also have grace to forgive those who wrongfully or scornfully use us, so that we ourselves may be able to receive Your forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Seventh Meditation

Mocking the Dying Jesus

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One. Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him. The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine mixed with myrrh, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”

Mark 15:23-24,29-32; Luke 23:35-37

They gave Me gall to eat:

And when I was thirsty they gave Me vinegar to drink.

Psalms 69:21

Let us pray:

O God, with You is the Well of Life, and in Your light we see light: **Quench our thirst with living water, and flood our darkened minds with heavenly light so that, in this world of corruption, our souls may be comforted by Your grace and provision alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Eighth Meditation
THE REPENTANT THIEF

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You:
**Because by Your holy cross You have
redeemed the world.**

One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

To him who overcomes,
**I will grant to eat of the Tree of Life
which is in the Paradise of God.**

Revelation 2:7

Let us pray:

O God, by the Passion of Your blessed Son You made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: **Grant us so to glory in the Cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for that heavenly kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Ninth Meditation

JESUS COMFORTS HIS MOTHER

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You:
Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

John 19:25b-27

A sword will pierce your own soul also:

And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Luke 2:35; cf., Jeremiah 6:25-26

Let us pray:

O God, Who willed that in the Passion of Your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of His Mother:

Mercifully grant that Your Church, having shared with her in His Passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of His resurrection; Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Tenth Meditation

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the Temple was torn in two. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the

Son of God!” And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Mark 16:39; Luke 23:44-49

Christ for us became obedient unto death:

Even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

Let us pray:

O God, Who for our redemption gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: **Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with Him in the joy of His resurrection: Who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Eleventh Meditation

THE SPEAR IN JESUS' SIDE

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high holy day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

John 19:31-37

For these three testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and they are in agreement.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:7,11

Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; **and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Twelfth Meditation
**JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA ASKS
FOR THE BODY OF JESUS**

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You:
**Because by Your holy cross You have
redeemed the world.**

When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, a rich man came, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus and was waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a good and righteous man (he had not consented to their plan and action). He gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

Matthew 27:57-58; Mark 15:42-45; Luke 23:50-52

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law,
having become a curse for us—

**For it is written, “Cursed is everyone
who hangs on a tree.”**

Galatians 3:13; cf., Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Let us pray:

O Lord, the life of the faithful, the glory of the saints, and the delight of those who trust in You: **Hear our supplications, and satisfy, we pray, the thirst of those who long for Your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy upon us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Thirteenth Meditation

JESUS IS BURIED

Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in a rock and where no one had ever lain; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph [and the wife of Clopas] were looking to see where He was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Matthew 27:59-60; Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:53-56

You will not abandon Me to the grave:

Nor let Your Holy One see corruption.

Psalms 16:10

Let us pray:

Almighty God, through the incarnate Word You have called us from death unto life: **Look with compassion upon those who are being prepared for Holy Baptism, being buried with Christ in His death and wrapped in His own robes of righteousness, and grant that they may be fashioned as living stones into a spiritual and eternal temple acceptable to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

Fourteenth Meditation

THE TOMB IS MADE SECURE

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

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive, that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last

deception will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.” And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Matthew 27:62-66

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD.

The victory belongs to the Lord.

Proverbs 21:30,31b

Let us pray:

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: **Grant that, as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the Third Day, and rise with Him to newness of life; Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Holy Lord,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

(A verse from an appropriate hymn may be sung, a brief musical interlude may be offered, or a moment of silence may be observed.)

CONCLUDING PRAYERS BEFORE THE ALTAR

Savior of the world, by Your cross and precious blood
You have redeemed us:

**Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech
You, O Lord.**

Let us pray:

We thank You, heavenly Father, that You have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of Your Son; and we pray that, as by His death He has recalled us to life, so by His resurrection He may raise us to eternal life; Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

(A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.)

To Christ our Lord Who loves us, and washed us in His own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

cf., Revelation 1:5; 5:10; 1 Peter 5:11; Revelation 1:6