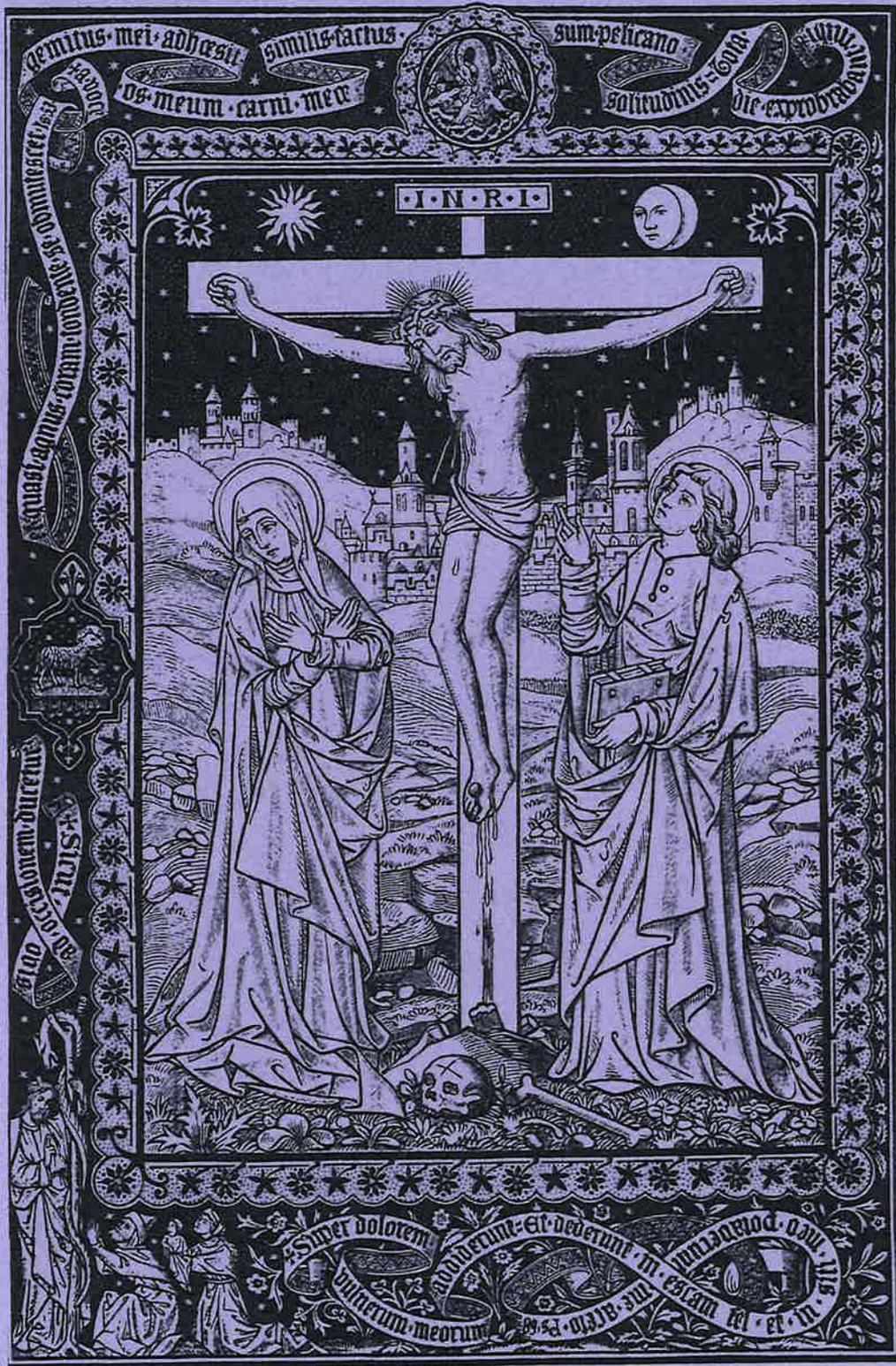


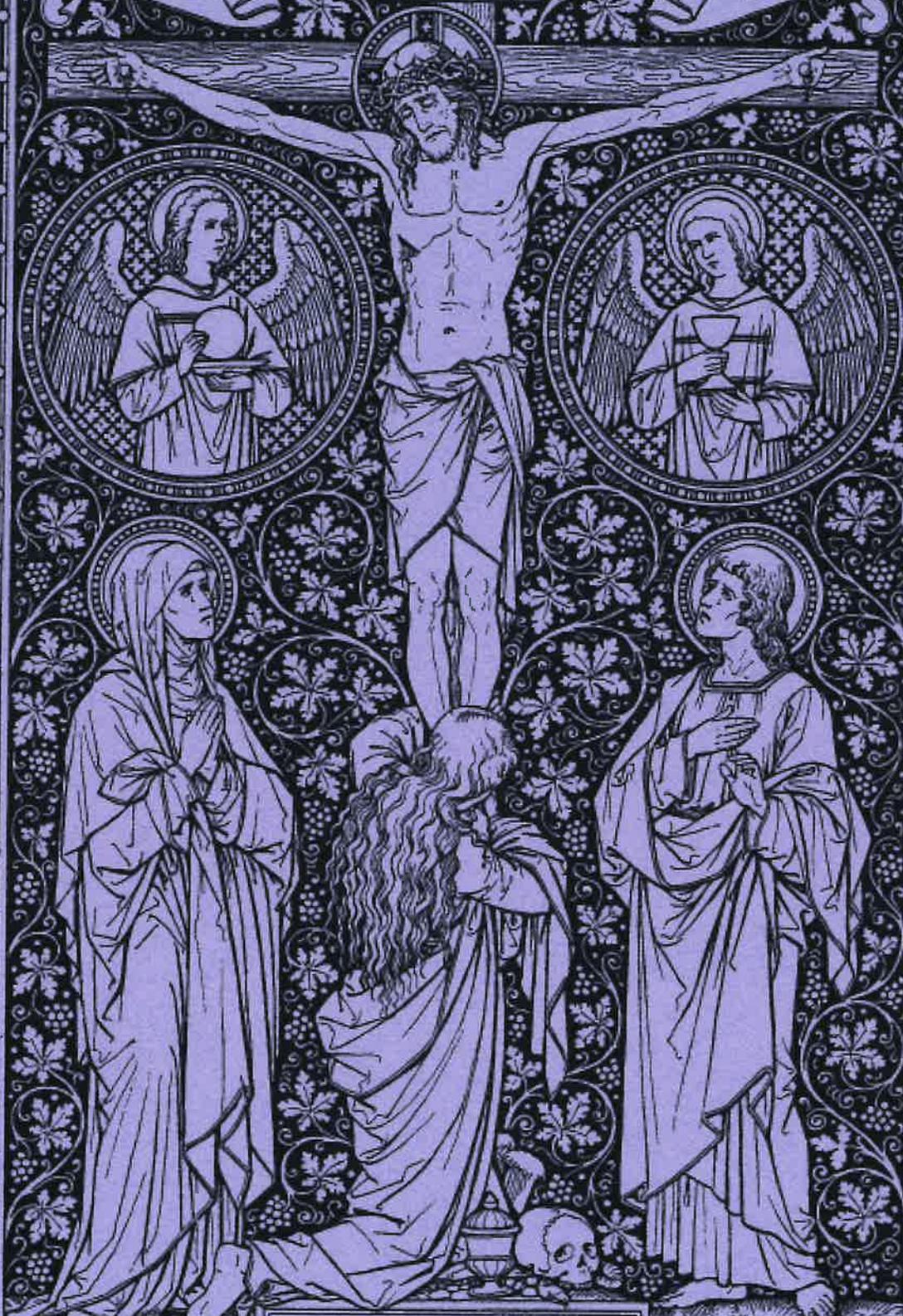
Stations of the Cross



St. Mary Magdalen Parish
2001 Berryman Street, Berkeley, California 94709

Et inclinato capite tradidit spiritum. Joann. 19. 30.

J.N.ºR.J.



Ipse vulneratus est
propter iniquitates nostras, attritus est propter scelera nostra. Ia. 53, 5.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

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

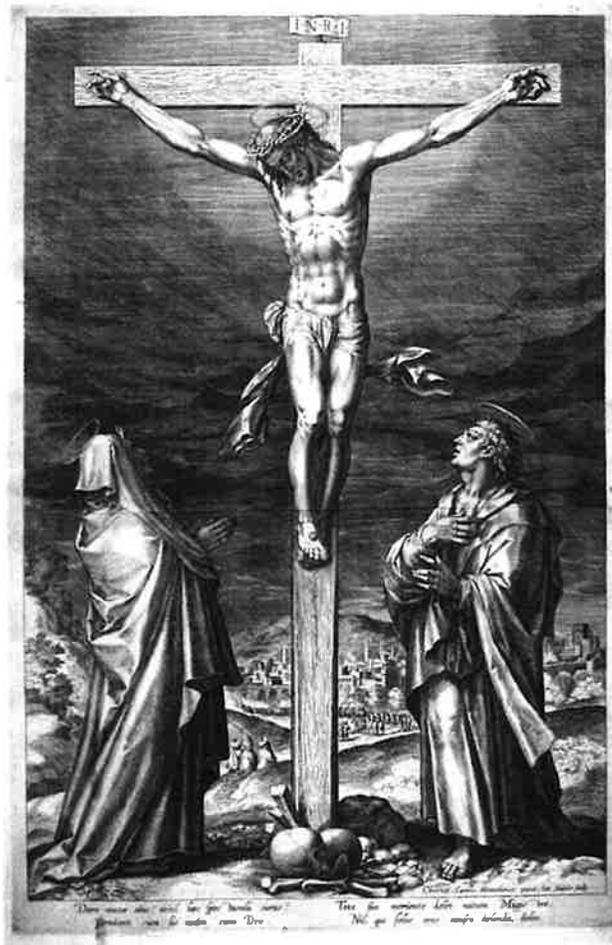
All:

God be in my head,
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking.

God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking.

God be at mine end,
And at my departing.

Pause for silent meditation.



*[All sing the **Stabat Mater** throughout the Stations.]*

All sing: Stabat Mater

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

THE FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

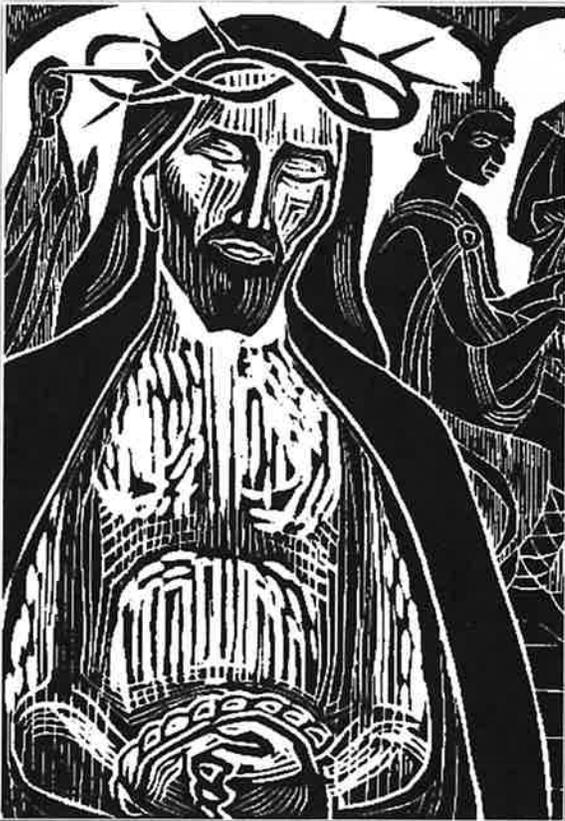
All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Pontius Pilate said to the crowd, *“What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”* All of them said, *“Let him be crucified!”* Then he asked, *“Why? What evil has he done?”* But they shouted all the more, *“Let him be crucified!”*

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, he took some water and washed his hands, saying, *“I am innocent of this man’s blood. See to it yourselves.”*

Then he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

(Matthew 27:22-24;26)



All:

God of Compassion

You let your rain fall on the just and the unjust.

Expand and deepen our hearts

so that we may love as You love,

even those among us

who have caused the greatest pain, by taking life.

Jesus, our brother,

**you suffered execution at the hands of the state
but you did not let hatred overcome you.**

Help us to reach out to victims of violence

so that our enduring love may help them heal.

Holy Spirit of God,

You strengthen us in the struggle for justice,

Help us to work tirelessly

for the abolition of state-sanctioned death

and to renew our society in its very heart

so that violence will be no more.

Amen.

- Sister Helen Prejean

Leader: All rise.

**Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.**

In the United States, at least 202 people who were wrongly convicted and sentenced to death since 1973 have since been exonerated. To learn more, see the *Death Penalty Information Center*, deathpenaltyinfo.org.

THE SECOND STATION

JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

(Matthew 27:27-31)

Pause for silent meditation.

All:

Jesus, our Tortured Brother, so many in this world are forced to walk your path today, suffering pain and humiliation, feeling betrayed and abandoned – because those with power, the Romans of today, continue to condemn others to modern crosses.

Jesus, guiding Spirit, teach us to be in solidarity with those who hang from these crosses.

Call out to those who torture, "Know the evil you have done and repent." Call out to the rest of us, "What meaning does love have, if you allow torture to continue unopposed?"

~ Prayer by Sister Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

Leader: All Rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

O, how sad and sore distress'd
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten one!



To learn more about the life of Sr. Ortiz, who was tortured while on mission in Guatemala, see tinyurl.com/SrDiannaOrtiz.

THE THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader:

Under the weight of the cross, Jesus falls for the first time. The weight of the cross and the pain of abandonment weigh him down. All those in whom he had confided have left him; he now walks alone.

Like Jesus, many people around the world walk alone with their economic hardship. As Christians, we are aware that “love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals, but also social, economic, and political ones. That is why the Church set before the world the ideal of a *civilization of love*. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us, as living creatures, are dependent on one another.”

~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 231; 42

Pause for silent meditation.

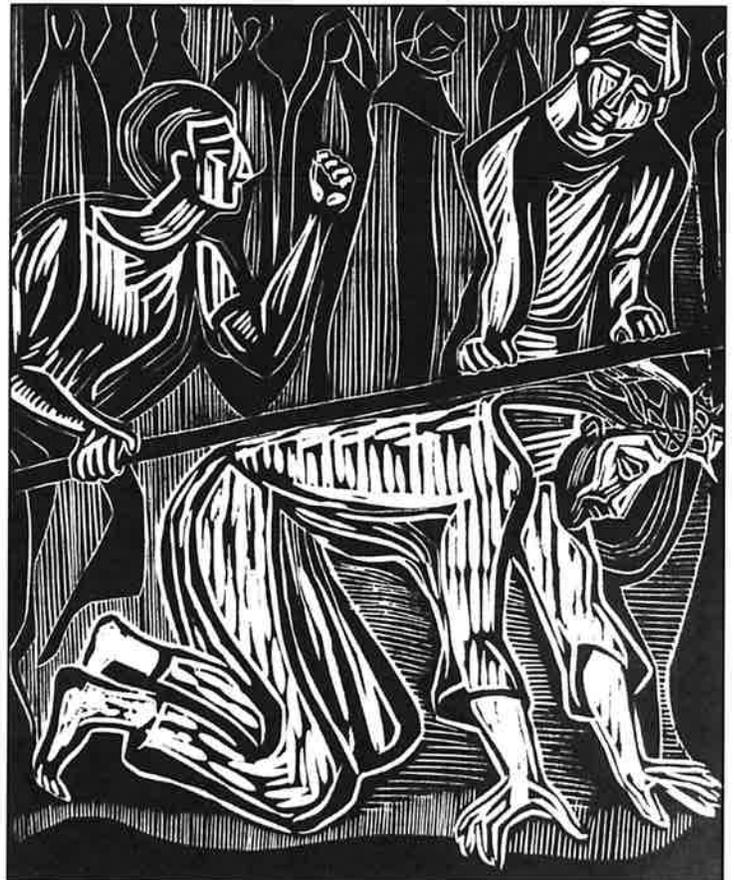
All: Lord Jesus, when you fell on the journey to Calvary, you picked yourself up out of love for us. Inspire me to help those in need to pick themselves up again.

Christ Jesus, help us when we fall, when we fail, and when we succumb to temptation.

Leader: All Rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.



THE FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: [Jesus'] father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them 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."*

His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

(Luke 2:34-35, 51b)



Pause for silent meditation.

All: No one understands a person better than that person's mother.

The presence of a mother who weeps for the disappeared is a presence that denounces; it is a presence that cries out to heaven for the appearance of her disappeared child....

This is the voice of justice, this is the voice of love, this is the cry that the church gathers up from so many abandoned homes to say,

"This should not be!"

~ Homily of St. Oscar Romero,
March 16, 1980

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

THE FIFTH STATION

SIMON THE CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: As they 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. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

(Luke 23:23-27)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, in your moment of need, you received help from a stranger.
Plant in me the desire and ability to be strength for someone in need today.
(Catholic Relief Services)



Show me the suffering of the most miserable
So I will know my people's plight.

Free me to pray for others
For you are present in every person.

Help me to take responsibility for my own life
So that I can be free at last.

Grant me courage to serve others.
For in service there is true life.

- from the Prayer of the Farm Workers'
Struggle, by César Chavez

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that mother's pain untold?

THE SIXTH STATION

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Each time we look upon the poor, on the farmworkers who harvest the coffee, the sugarcane, or the cotton... remember, there is the face of Christ....

The face of Christ is among the sacks and baskets of the farmworker; the face of Christ is among those who are tortured and mistreated in the prisons; the face of Christ is dying of hunger in the children who have nothing to eat; the face of Christ is in the poor who ask the Church for their voice to be heard.

~ Homily of St. Oscar Romero, November 26, 1978

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, help us to remember that nothing we do for the sake of love is done in vain. May we, like Veronica, have the strength to reach out to those we so often ignore – to those whom society has forgotten – and show them our love.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.



THE SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader:

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ
has no body now but yours.

- St. Teresa of Avila, *O. Carm* (1515-1582)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we remember your second fall, we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are sick or injured because of poverty, malnutrition, or lack of clean water.

Our common home now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use of the goods with which God has endowed her.... The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air, and in all forms of life.

~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 4

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His Spirit forth He sent.



THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

Jesus turned [to the women] and said to them, *“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’*

Then they will say to the mountains, *“Fall on us!”* and to the hills, *“Cover us!”*”
(Luke 23:27-31)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, you met the women of Jerusalem who wept for you in your suffering. Today, we bring before you the women and mothers of Jerusalem and the surrounding regions, whose hearts ache with sorrow and fear.

We pray for your comfort to rest upon them in their loneliness and abandonment. Stay the hands that strike women, and shield them from violence, fear, and oppression.

Turn their tears of lament into joy and their despair into hope. Give them strength to nurture their children in safety and dignity. Bless Jerusalem, the "city of peace," and lead all its inhabitants to a path of profound, lasting peace.



Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

O thou Mother ! Fount of love !
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.

THE NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Come unto me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you, and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
~ *Thomas Merton, OSCO*



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, with great effort you were able to get back on your feet to continue your mission. Help those for whom the warming of the Earth has affected their livelihoods. May they receive the strength they need to continue their journeys.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ our Lord.

THE TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

(Matthew 33-36)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, you suffered great humiliation. Help us to find ways to minister to those who suffer, whether from poverty, war, or toxic changes in their environment.

God our Creator, to those who are hungry and thirsty, give food and drink.
To those who are not hungry and thirsty, give a hunger and a thirst for justice.
Help us to share in the creation of a more just and peaceful world.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Holy Mother ! Pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.



THE ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: 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. [...]

One of the criminals who was hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.'

Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

(Luke 23, 32-33; 39-43)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, you persevered through your pain. Give your strength to those who are destitute, especially when they face situations that magnify their vulnerability.

Grant me, O Lord my God,
A mind to know you, a heart to see you,
Wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you,
Faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
And a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

~ St. Thomas Aquinas



Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain;
Who for me in torment died.

THE TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "*This man is calling for Elijah.*" At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "*Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.*" Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Please kneel. [*Pause for reflection.*]

Please sit or stand.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.... Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "*Truly this man was the son of God!*"

(Matthew 28, 45-51;54)



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we remember your death and the death of many who die because of injustice. Help us remember that we are all part of one human family. May we exemplify your life in our own lives.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

THE BODY OF JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (Matthew 27:55-56)

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph... [who] came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down. (Luke 23:50-53a)



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we contemplate your lifeless body being taken off the cross, strengthen us in our willingness to give away our lives for others, and give us the courage to work selflessly towards that end.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Virgin of all Virgins best,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

THE BODY OF JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

Mary Magdalen and the other Mary remained there, sitting opposite the tomb.

(Matthew 27:59 -61)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we conclude our reflection on your passion and death, may our lives reflect you and your love of all humanity.

May your teachings inspire each of us to work for peace in the world.

Teach us the true meaning of solidarity with all who suffer injustice. Amen.

Leader: All rise.

All: Help us to walk in your steps.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy Mother my defense,
Be Thy Cross my Victory.



CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, “*Peace to you,*” grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from our hearts anything that might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

~ Saint Pope John Paul II

All: Holy God, you have been with us as we meditated on your Son's journey to Calvary. Remind us that still, in this present day, many of your children continue that walk to Calvary, carrying heavy, difficult crosses. May we be Simon of Cyrene to those whose burdens are too heavy to be borne alone. May we be Veronica to those who need the touch of love and comfort. And may we, struggling with our own crosses, always remember your promises of justice, mercy and peace.



Acknowledgements: The texts of these stations were chosen by parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in 2018, and were revised and approved by the Liturgy Council in 2026. The quotations from the New Testament are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, Catholic edition. The images of all but one of the Stations are from *Stations of the Cross*, by Education for Justice, engravings by Sr. Mary Grace Thul, O.P. (educationforjustice.org) James Reid is the artist of the 12th Station. The engraving on this page is by David Jones. The frontispiece and cover art are engravings in the public domain.

A Brief History of the Stations of the Cross

The practice of the Stations of the Cross originated in the Middle Ages as an imitation of the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, the route supposed to have been taken by Jesus as he walked to Mount Calvary. After the siege of Jerusalem in 1187 made travel to the Holy Land dangerous or impossible, some Europeans began to create local replicas of the sites to enable the faithful to perform a spiritual pilgrimage in their home churches.

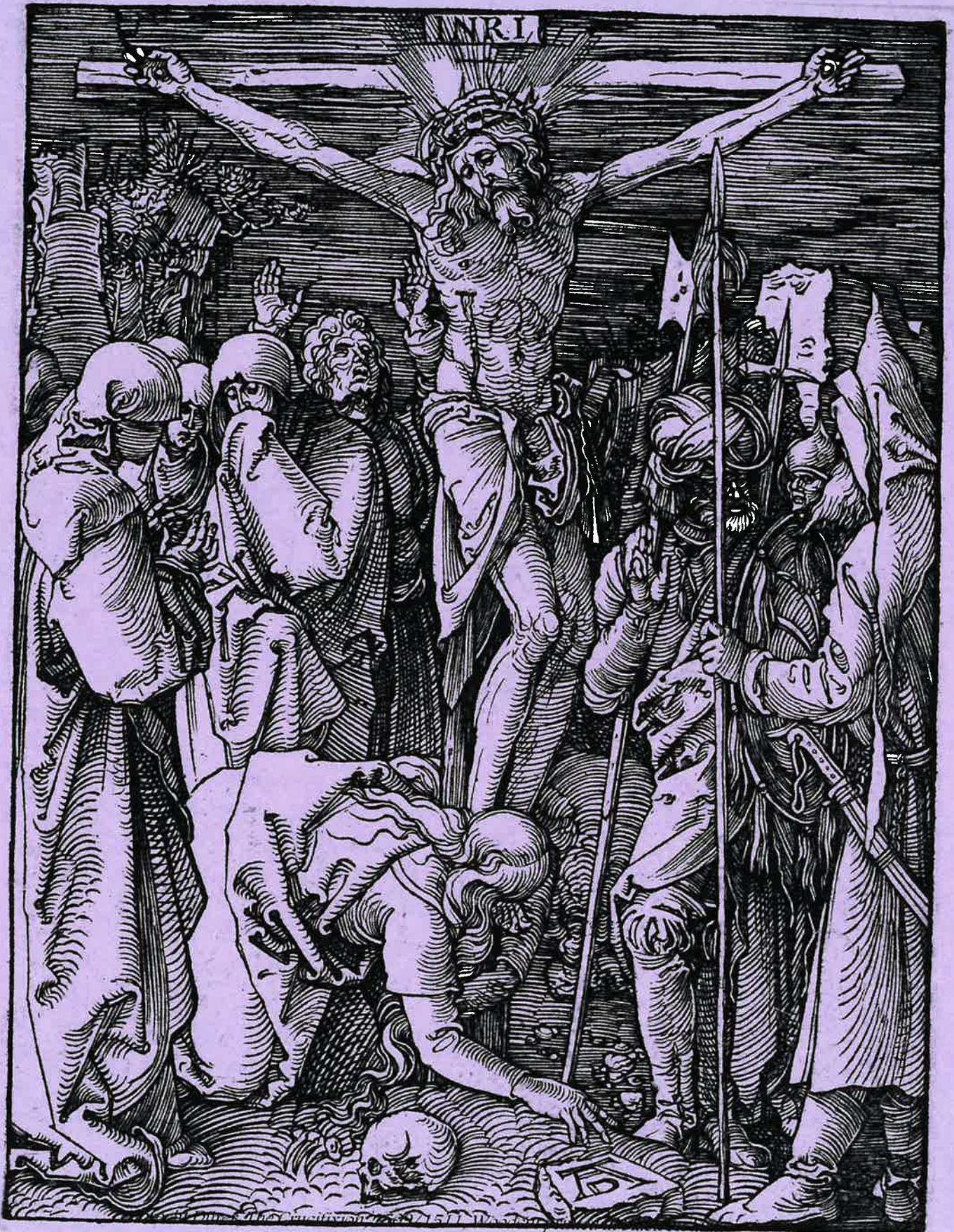
St. Francis of Assisi held the Passion of Christ in special veneration (he was the first to receive the stigmata), and in 1217, he founded the *Custody of the Holy Land* to guard and promote the devotion to Christian holy places. A century later, Pope Clement VI granted custody of the Holy Land sites to the Franciscan Friars; they retain it to this day.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Franciscans began to build a series of outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate those in the Holy Land. In 1686, Pope Innocent XI granted them the right to erect the Stations in all of their churches. The Franciscans were thus instrumental in spreading the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. Today, almost every Catholic church has a set of the stations somewhere on its grounds.

The earliest use of the word "Stations", as applied to the accustomed stopping places along the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, was reported in the mid-15th century by an English pilgrim, William Wey, who described fellow pilgrims following the footsteps of Christ to Golgotha. In 1521, a book called *Geystlich Strass* (German: "spiritual road") was printed with illustrations of the Stations in the Holy Land.

The number of the Stations of the Cross originally varied from 7 to 30. In 1731, Pope Clement XII fixed the official number at 14, and allowed all churches to erect them, under the supervision of a Franciscan Friar. Of the 14 traditional stations, only nine have clear scriptural foundation. Stations 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 are not attested in the Gospels. A more recent form of the devotion, which omits any events not found in the Gospels, was introduced by St. Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991.





Albrecht Dürer, The Crucifixion, between 1509 and 1511, woodcut printed in black ink on laid paper, 13 cm x 10.2 cm. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase, 21.130. Public domain.