

***Bethesda Episcopal Church
Saratoga Springs NY***



Stations of the Cross

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Silence is kept prior to the service. All stand when the ministers enter.

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

Amen.

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who in thy tender love towards the human race sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit for the stations.

First Station – Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Matthew 26:36-41*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace, we pray, to bear witness to thy Son, Jesus Christ, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Second Station - Jesus is arrested

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Mark 14: 43-46*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark.

Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. O God our heavenly Father, who to redeem the world didst deliver up thy only Son to be betrayed by one of his disciples and sold to his enemies: Take from us, we beseech thee, all covetousness and hypocrisy; and so strengthen us, that, loving thee above all things, we may remain steadfast in our faith unto the end; through him who gave his life for us, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Holy God,
**holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief period of silence is kept.

Third Station - Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Mark 14.55-64*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands".' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven".' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Silence is kept.

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Fourth Station - Jesus is denied by Peter

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Matthew 26: 69-75*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. O Thou who art the light of the minds that know thee, the life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the thoughts that seek thee; grant us so to know thee that we may truly love thee, and so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Fifth Station – Jesus is judged by Pilate

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Mark 15: 1-5, 15*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark.

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again, Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the Way, the Truth and the Life: we pray thee suffer us not to stray from thee who art the Way, nor to distrust thee who art the Truth, nor to rest in any other thing than thee who art the Life; for thy name's sake. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Sixth Station – Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Mark 15.17-19*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose sovereign power none can make void: give us faith to stand calm and undismayed amid the tumult of the world, knowing that all things work together for good for them that unfeignedly love thee; through thy beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Seventh Station - Jesus carries his cross

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *John 19: 6, 15-17*

A reading from the Gospel according to St John.

When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to 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 himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. O blessed Lord, grant us by the virtue of thy cross and bitter passion, to embrace all the trials and difficulties of our earthly pilgrimage, that we may always be ready to take up our cross and follow thee; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, world without end. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Eighth Station - Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Mark 15: 21*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Ninth Station - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Luke 23: 27-31*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Have compassion, O Lord, on all who are mourning for those dear to them, and all who are lonely and fearful. Be their comforter and friend; give them such help as may be best for them; and grant them the fullness of thy love and mercy; for thy holy name's sake. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Tenth Station – Jesus is crucified

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Luke 23: 33-34*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

Silence is kept.

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 God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Eleventh Station - Jesus promises his kingdom to the good thief

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Luke 23: 39-43*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Blessed Saviour, who when hanging on thy Cross didst welcome the penitent sinner: we beseech thee by that same compassion, to pardon the guilty, recover the fallen, and restore the wandering; that casting themselves on thy mercy they may return to the embrace of thy love; who with the Father and eternal Spirit art one holy Trinity of love, world without end. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Twelfth Station - Jesus speaks to his mother and the beloved disciple

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *John 19: 25-27*

A reading from the Gospel according to St John.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Thirteenth Station – Jesus dies on the cross

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Luke 23: 44-46*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Hear us, O merciful Lord, and remember now the hour in which thou didst commend thy spirit into the hands of thy heavenly Father; grant that being dead unto the world, we may live only unto thee, and that, at the hour of our departing from this mortal life, we may be received into thine everlasting kingdom, to reign with thee, world without end. **Amen.**

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.

A brief period of silence is kept.

Fourteenth Station – Jesus’s body is placed in the tomb

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Reading: *Matthew 27: 57-60*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray. Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, now and evermore. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

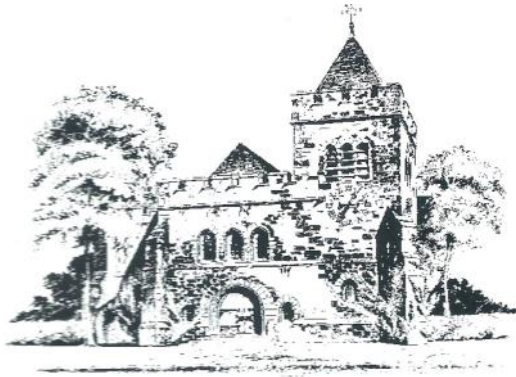
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us.
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross, who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

All depart in silence.





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