

WELCOME

A deacon or assisting minister greets us and encourages us to pray in these or similar words:

For our sake, our Lord Jesus Christ became like the grain of wheat that falls to the earth and dies, so that it may bear much fruit. (John 12:24) He invited us to follow him along this path when he told us that “the one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:25) Yet we are attached to our life. We do not want to abandon it; we want to keep it all for ourselves. We want to hold on to it, not to give it away. But he goes before us, showing us that it is only by giving away our life that we can save it. As we walk with him on the Way of the Cross, he leads us along the way of the grain of wheat, the way of a fruitfulness which leads to eternity. (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Good Friday Way of the Cross, 2005)

As we stop to pray at each station, take time to enter the story with your heart and imagination:

What do you see? What do you hear?

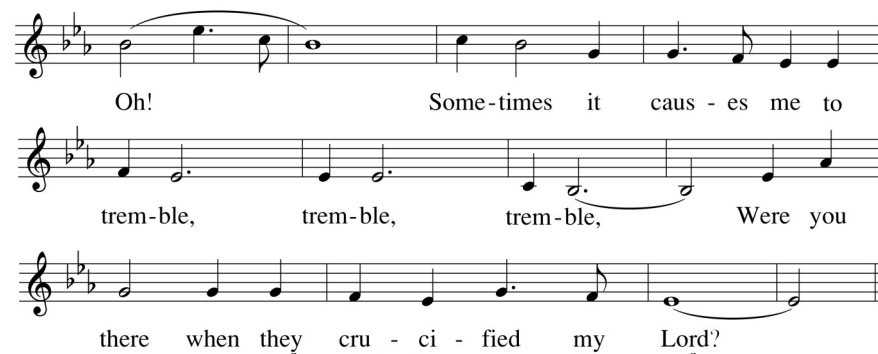
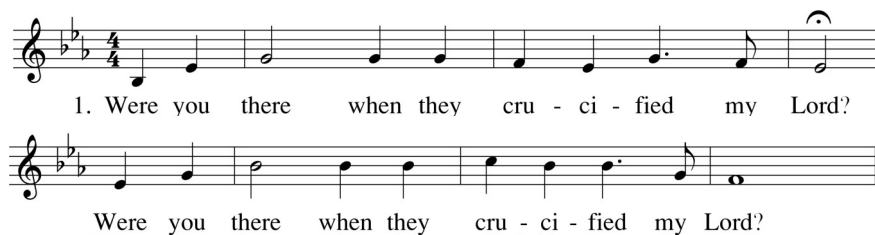
With whom do you identify? What do you feel?

What part of yourself or your life can you give to Jesus
to unite with his offering to the Father?



HYMN

All stand to sing together as the ministers enter:



Text: African-American spiritual

Tune: WERE YOU THERE, 10 10 with refrain; African-American spiritual; harm. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

OPENING PRAYER

Presiding minister, facing East:

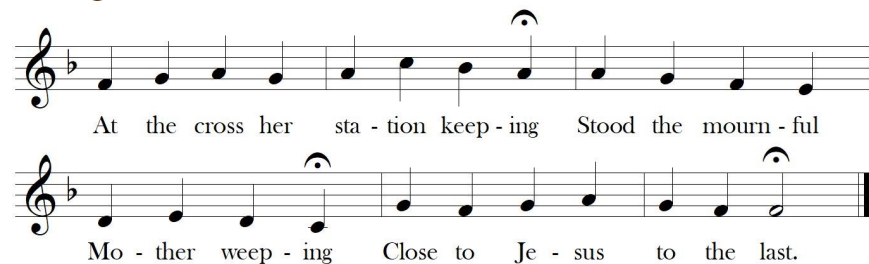
God of power and mercy,
in love you sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with you forever.
Bless us as we gather to meditate
on his suffering and death
that we may learn from his example
the way we should go.

We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.

R: Amen.

SEQUENCE

sung by all in procession to the First Station



THE FIRST STATION

Jesus is Sentenced to Death

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 22-23, 26

Pilate said to them, "Then what should 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 he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Father, in the flesh of your Son
you condemned sin.
Grant us the gift of eternal life
in the same Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Second Station*

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



Stations of the Cross, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Leawood, Kansas. Cast in bronze by parishioner Rick Redhair after plaster originals from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Topeka, Kansas.

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Takes His Cross

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

Kneel

PRAYER in silence or accompanied by music

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Father, your Son Jesus humbled himself
and became obedient to death.
Teach us to glory above all else in the Cross,
in which is our salvation.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

✠ **Amen.**

SEQUENCE sung by all in procession to the Third Station

O, how sad and sore distressed,
Was the Mother highly bless'd
Of the sole-Begotten One.



THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

VERSICLE

- ℣ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
℟ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Isaiah 53: 4-6

Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

℣ Let us pray. **Stand**

Father, help us to remain irreproachable in your sight,
so that we can offer you our body
as a holy and living offering.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Fourth Station*

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



THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

VERSICLE

- ℣ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
℟ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Luke 2: 34-35, 51b

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And his mother kept all these things in her heart.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

℣ Let us pray. **Stand**

Father, accept the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of your Son.
May they obtain from your mercy
every good for our salvation.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Fifth Station*

Is there one who would not weep,
'Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold.



THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. *Genuflect*
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Mark 15: 21

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.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. *Stand*

Father, you have first loved us
and you sent your Son to expiate our sins.
Grant that we may love one another
and bear each other's burdens.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Sixth Station*

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

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Isaiah 53: 2b-3

He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Heavenly Father,
grant that we may reflect your Son's glory
and be transformed into his image
so that we may be configured to him.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Seventh Station*

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



THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Second Time

VERSICLE

- ℣ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. *Genuflect*
℟ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Lamentations 3: 1-2, 9, 16

I am one who has known affliction under the rod of God's anger, one whom he has driven and forced to walk in darkness, not in light; he has hemmed in my ways with fitted stones, and made my paths crooked. He has made me eat gravel, trampled me into the dust.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

℣ Let us pray. *Stand*

God our Father,
grant that we may walk in the footsteps of Jesus
who suffered for us and redeemed us not with gold and silver
but with the price of his own blood.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Eight Station*

For the sins of his own nation
Saw him hang in desolation
Till his spirit forth he sent.



THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Speaks to the Holy Women

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Luke 23: 28-31

Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

Kneel

PRAYER in silence or accompanied by music

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Heavenly Father, you desire to show mercy rather than anger
toward those who hope in you.
Grant that we may weep for our sins
and merit the grace of your glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ **Amen.**

SEQUENCE sung by all in procession to the Ninth Station

O sweet Mother! Fount of Love,
Touch my spirit from above
Make my heart with yours accord.



THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Third Time

VERSICLE

- ℣ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
℟ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Lamentations 3: 27-32

It is good for a person, when young, to bear the yoke, to sit alone and in silence, when its weight lies heavy, to put one's mouth in the dust—there may yet be hope—to offer one's cheek to be struck, to be filled with disgrace. For the Lord does not reject forever; though he brings grief, he takes pity, according to the abundance of his mercy.

Kneel

PRAYER in silence or accompanied by music

COLLECT

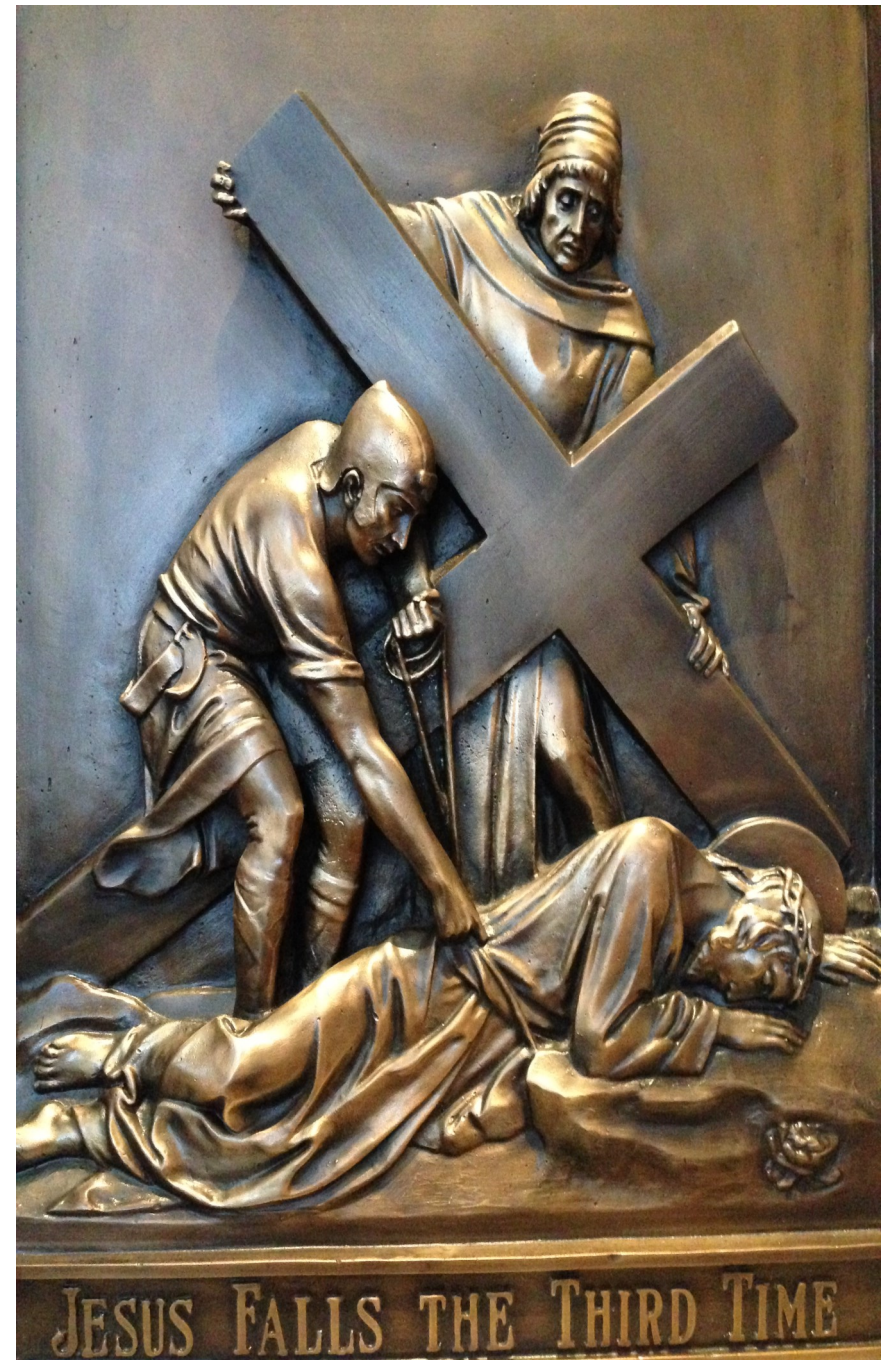
℣ Let us pray. **Stand**

God our Father, look with pity on us,
oppressed by the weight of our sins,
and grant us your forgiveness.
Help us to serve you with our whole heart.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.

SEQUENCE sung by all in procession to the Tenth Station

Make me feel as you have felt
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.



THE TENTH STATION

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 33-36

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Heavenly Father, let nothing deprive us of your love—
neither trials nor distress nor persecution.
May we become the wheat of Christ
and be one pure bread.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Eleventh Station*

Holy Mother, pierce me through
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.



THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 37-42

And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" Likewise, the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So, he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him."

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Heavenly Father, your Son reconciled us to you
and to one another. Help us to embrace this gift of grace
and remain united with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ **Amen.**

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Twelfth Station*

Let me share with you his pain,
Who for all our sins was slain
Who for me in torments died.



THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

VERSICLE

✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. *Genuflect*

✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27:45-50

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” That is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “This man is calling Elijah.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. *Stand*

God our Father, by his death your Son has conquered death,
and by his resurrection he has given us life.

Help us to adore his death and embrace his life.

We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the Thirteenth Station*

Let me mingle tears with thee

Mourning him who mourned for me,

All the days that I may live.



THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is Taken from the Cross

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 54-55

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!” There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.

Kneel

PRAYER in silence or accompanied by music

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. Stand

God our Father,
grant that we may be incorporated into Christ’s death
so that we may advance toward the Resurrection
with great hope.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE sung by all in procession to the Fourteenth Station

By the cross with you to stay,
There with you to weep and pray—
All I ask of you to give.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is Laid in the Sepulchre

VERSICLE

- ✠ We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. **Genuflect**
✠ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Stand

READING

Matthew 27: 59-61

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. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

Kneel

PRAYER *in silence or accompanied by music*

COLLECT

✠ Let us pray. **Stand**

Heavenly Father,
you raised Jesus from the dead
through the Holy Spirit.
Grant life to our mortal bodies
through the same Spirit who abides in us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ Amen.

SEQUENCE *sung by all in procession to the foot of the altar*

Virgin of all virgins bless'd!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share your grief divine.



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presiding minister, facing East:

Heavenly Father,

You delivered your Son to the death of the cross

to save us from evil.

Grant us the grace of the Resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

 **Amen.**

HYMN sung by all as the ministers depart

