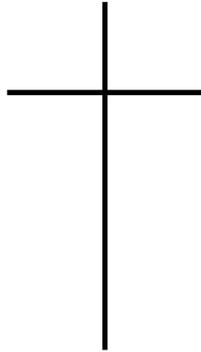


A Scriptural Way of the Cross



TERENCE O'DONNELL

Opening Prayer

O great and loving Father,

Open our hearts to walk with your Son, Jesus, on the Way of the Cross.

Help us in our hope to know you more clearly

And to appreciate our need for your love.

Guide our thoughts that we might be aware of our failure to love you

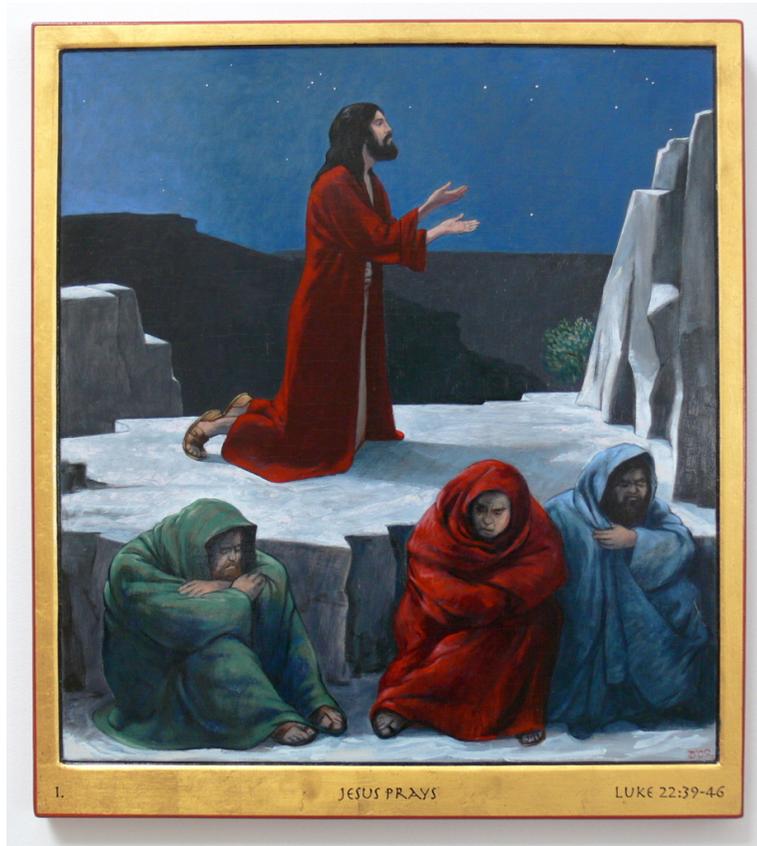
In response to your abundant love for us.

Bless us with the grace to be aware of your silent presence among us

And open our hearts to accept your abundant Love,

We ask this, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The First Station**Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Luke 22:39-46**

He then left to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When they reached the place he said to them, **"Pray not to be put to the test."** Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed. **"Father,"** he said, **"if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine."** Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. **"Why are you asleep?"** he said to them. **"Get up and pray not to be put to the test."**

Psalm 102:1-4,8

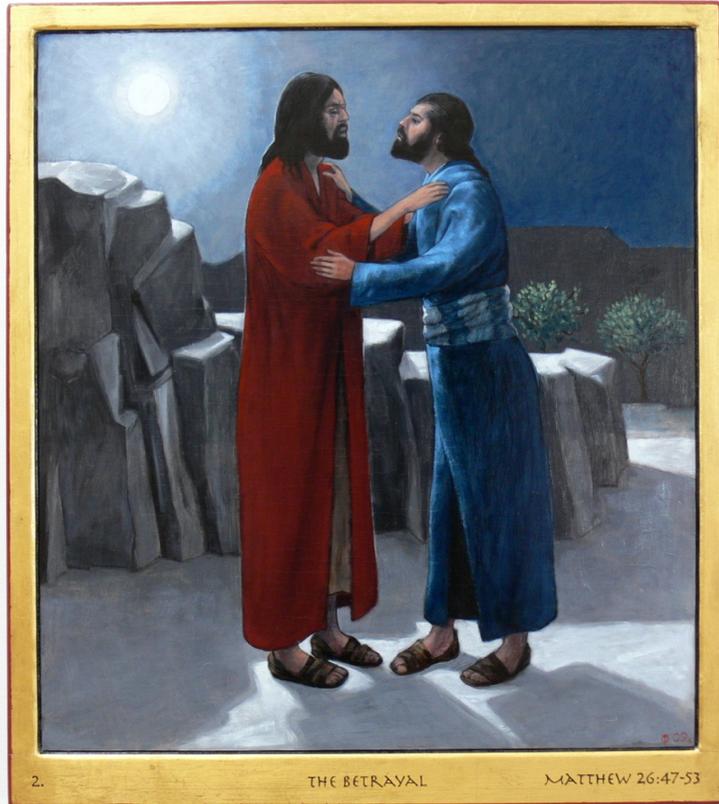
**Lord, hear my prayer,
let my cry for help reach you;
do not hide your face from me
when I am in trouble;
For my days are vanishing like smoke,
my bones smouldering like logs,**

**my heart shrivelling like scorched grass
and my appetite has gone;
my enemies insult me all day long,
those who used to praise me
now use me as a curse.
when I call, be quick to answer me!
bend down to listen to me,**

Reflection Jesus dreaded his death, just as we dread the real sufferings of our own lives. Let us now make the commitment again to embrace the difficult aspects of our life and, with the help of God's grace, to pass through them to new life.

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): **Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

The Second Station**Jesus is Betrayed by Judas**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 26:47-53**

He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. "The one I kiss," he had said, "he is the man. Take him in charge." So he went straight up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi", and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "**My friend, do what you are here for.**" Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said, "**Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.**"

Psalm 37:1-6

**Do not worry about the wicked,
do not envy those who do wrong.
Quick as the grass they wither,
fading like the green in the field.**

**Trust in the Lord and do what is good,
make your home in the land and live in
peace;
make the Lord your only joy,**

**and he will give you what
your heart desires.**

**Commit your fate to the
Lord,
trust in him and he will act:
making your virtue clear as
the light,
your integrity as bright as
noon.**

Reflection Judas, in betraying Jesus, betrayed himself. Our own life and destiny is bound tightly to Jesus. Do we understand how we too have sometimes betrayed our true calling and in so doing also betrayed Christ?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): **Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

The Third Station**Jesus before the High Priest**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 26:63-66**

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, "I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." **"The words are your own,"** answered Jesus. **"Moreover, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."** At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?" They answered, "He deserves to die."

Psalm 36:1-4

**The wicked man's oracle is Sin
In the depths of his heart;
there is no fear of God before his eyes.**

**He sees himself with too flattering an
eye to detect and detest his guilt;**

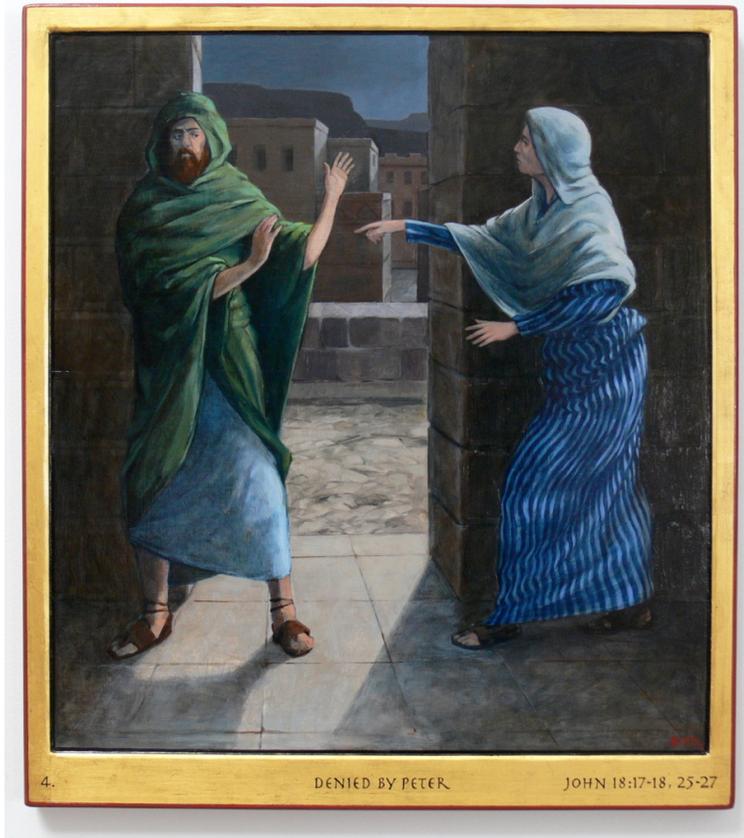
**all he says tends to mischief and deceit,
he has turned his back on wisdom.**

**How best to work mischief he plots
even when he is in bed;
he persists in his evil course,
he never rejects what is bad.**

Reflection Sometimes we are reluctant to admit that we are also part of Christ, members of his body. We should not fear that we would be condemned as Jesus was. We should not be ashamed to claim Christ as our own.

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): **Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

The Fourth Station**Jesus is denied by Peter**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **John 18:17-18,25-27**

The maid on duty at the door said to Peter, "Aren't you another of that man's disciples?" He answered, "I am not." Now it was cold, and the servants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were standing there warming themselves; so Peter stood there too, warming himself with the others.

As Simon Peter stood there warming himself, someone said to him, "Aren't you another of his disciples?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." One of the high priest's servants, a relation to the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it; and at once a cock crew.

Psalm 38:1-5

***O God, do not punish me in your rage,
or reprove me in the heat of anger.
Your arrows have pierced deep,
your hand has pressed down on me;
no soundness in my flesh
now you are angry,
no health in my bones,
because of my sin.***

***My guilt is overwhelming me,
it is too heavy a burden;
my wounds stink and are festering,
the result of my folly;
bowed down, bent double, overcome,
I go mourning all the day.***

Reflection Can we admit the times we have denied God's presence in the world by denying the truth of his love? Let us acknowledge those times when we have hurt others in order to protect ourselves and offer forgiveness to all who have hurt us.

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

The Fifth Station**Jesus Before Pilate**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **John 18:33-38**

So Pilate went back to the Praetorium and called Jesus to him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked. Jesus replied, "**Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?**" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?" Jesus replied, "**Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.**" "So you are a king then?" said Pilate. "**It is you who say it,**" answered Jesus. "**Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this; to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.**" "Truth?" said Pilate "What is that?" and with that he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no case against him."

Psalm 35:15-19

**Now I have fallen,
they crowd round delighted,
flocking to jeer at me;
strangers I never even knew
with loud cries tear me to pieces,
riddling me with gibe after gibe,
grinding their teeth at me.
How much longer, Lord,
will you look on?**

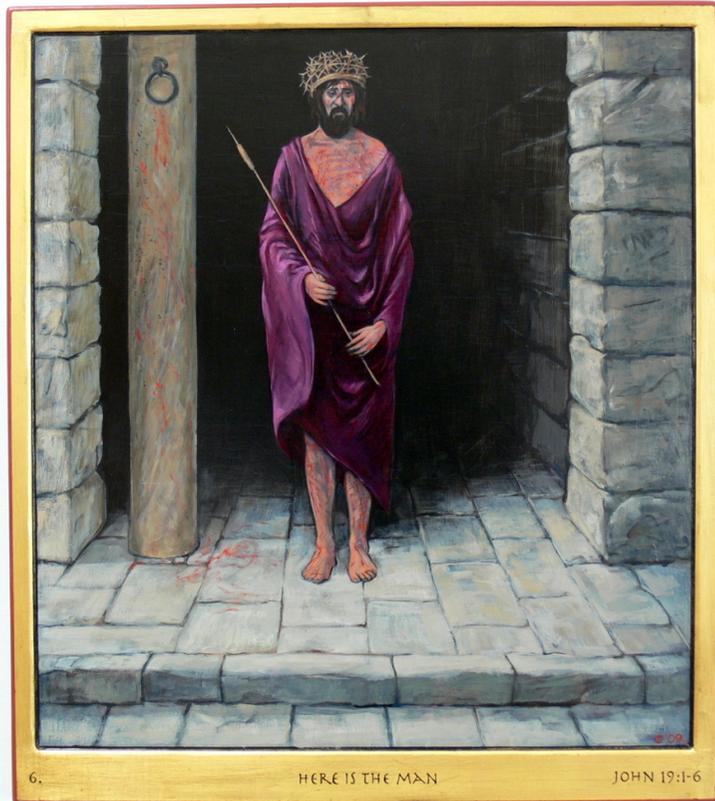
**Rescue my soul from their onslaughts,
my dear life from these lions.
I will give thanks in the Great Assembly,
praise you where the people throng.**

**Do not let my lying enemies
gloat over me,
do not let those who hate me
for no reason
exchange sly glances.**

Reflection Let us reflect on the ways in which we have ourselves delivered divine hope for the world up to the powers of darkness. As we take all the faults and failings of our life and place them before God, let us pray through his Son, for the grace of humility to accept God's compassion and love.

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): **Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

The Sixth Station**Jesus is Flogged and Crowned with Thorns**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **John 19:1-6**

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" and they slapped him in the face. Pilate came outside again and said to them, "Look, I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that I find no case." Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said, "Here is the man." When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and crucify him: I can find no case against him."

Psalm 27:1-3,13-14

***The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom need I fear?
The Lord is the fortress of my life,
of whom should I be afraid?***

***When evil people advance against me
to devour my flesh,
they, my opponents, my enemies,
are the ones who stumble and fall.***

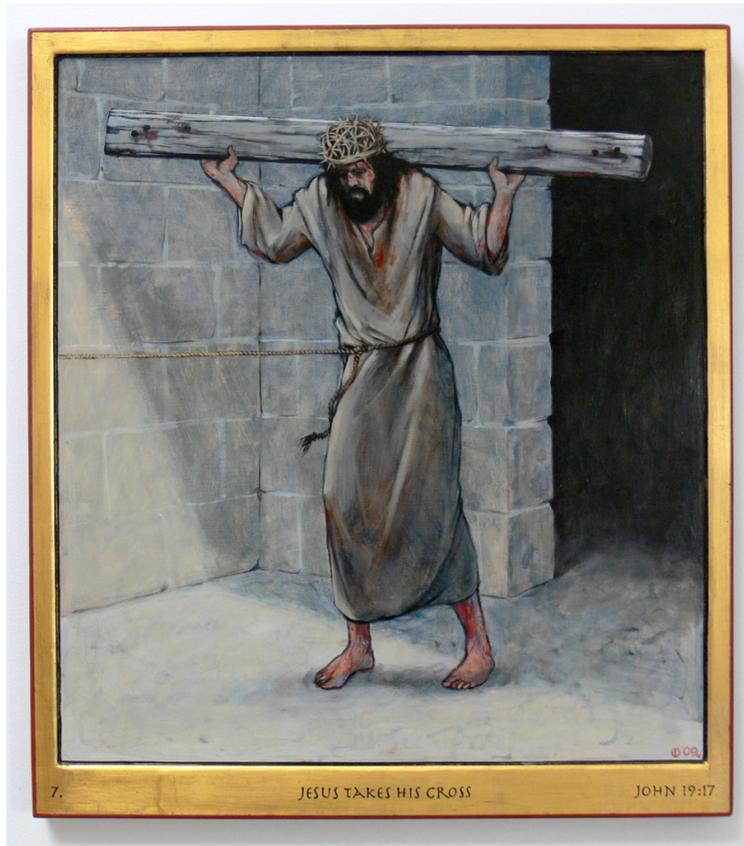
***Though an army pitched camp against
me,
my heart would not fear;
though war was waged against me,
my trust would still be firm.***

***This I believe:
I shall see the goodness of the Lord,
in the land of the living.
Put your hope in the Lord, be strong,
let your heart be bold,
put your hope in the Lord.***

Reflection In whom can we rely in our darkest moments when we feel defeated and overcome with grief and suffering? When we feel most alone and abandoned can we open our hearts to rely on God's compassion and abundant love?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

*The Seventh Station**Jesus Carries His Cross*

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **John 19:17**

They then took charge of Jesus and, carrying his own cross, he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha...

Psalm 77:1-9

***Loudly I cry to God,
loudly to God who hears me.
When in trouble I sought the Lord,
all night long I stretched out my hands,
my soul refusing to be consoled.
I thought of God and sighed,
I pondered and my spirit failed me.
You stopped me closing my eyes,
I was too distraught to speak;***

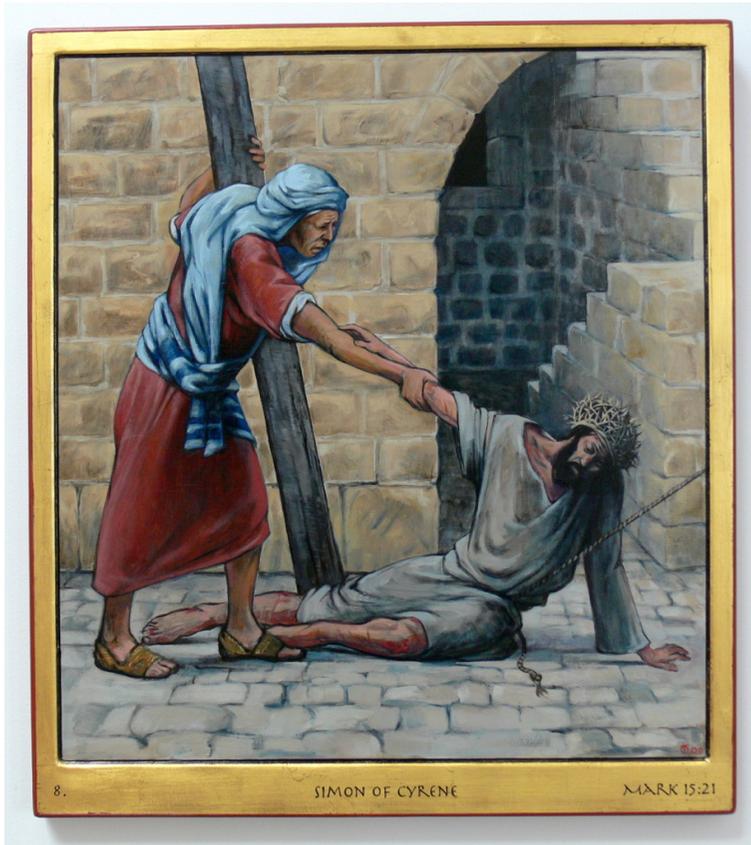
I thought of the olden days,

***years long past came back to me,
I spent all night meditating in my heart,
I pondered and my spirit asked
this question:
"If the Lord has rejected you,
is this final?
If he withholds his favour,
is this forever?
Is his love over for good
and the promise void for all time?
Has God forgotten to show mercy,
or has his anger
overcome his tenderness?"***

Reflection What is our cross? What burden are we carrying? What must we bear in order to be at peace?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

The Eighth Station**Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Mark 15:21**

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross.

Psalm 86:1-7

*Listen to me, O God, and answer me,
poor and needy as I am;
keep my soul: I am your devoted one,
save your servant who relies on you.*

*You are my God, take pity on me, Lord,
I invoke you all day long;*

*give your servant reason to rejoice,
for you, Lord, I lift my soul.*

*Lord, you are good and forgiving,
most loving to all who invoke you;
O God, hear my prayer,
listen to me as I plead.*

*Lord, in trouble I invoke you,
and you answer my prayer.*

Reflection Are we aware of others, maybe those close to us or in our community, who are carrying crosses alone? Are we able to see beyond our own burdens a way, a path, and a vision that we can help carry the burdens of others?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

The Ninth Station**Jesus Encounters the Women of Jerusalem**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Luke 23:27-31**

Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, **"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?"**

Psalm 91:1-7

**If you live
in the shelter of the Most High
and make your home
in the shadow of the God of Heaven,
you can say to the Lord,
'My refuge, my fortress,
my God in whom I trust!
He rescues you
from the snares of fowlers
hoping to destroy you;**

**You need not fear
the terrors of the night
the arrow that flies in the daytime,**

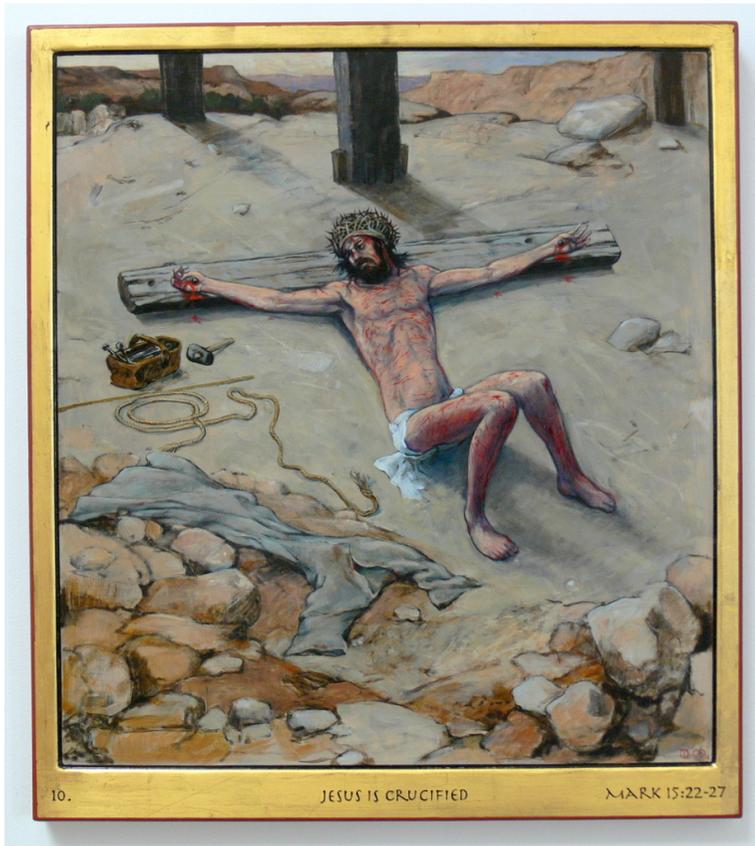
**the plague that stalks in the dark,
the scourge that wreaks havoc
in broad daylight.**

**Though a thousand fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
you, yourself will remain unscathed
with his faithfulness
for shield and buckler.
He covers you with his feathers,
and you find shelter
underneath his wings.**

Reflection The One Who Came to Speak the Truth was treated very badly and mocked by the crowd. Are we prepared to suffer when we speak the truth as Jesus did?

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): **Oh Lord Hear My Prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

The Tenth Station**Jesus is Crucified**

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Mark 15:22-27**

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: "The King of the Jews." And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Psalm 22:1-7,16-18,24,31

*My God, my God,
why have you deserted me
How far from saving me,
the words I groan!
I call all day, my God,
but you never answer,
all night long I call and cannot rest.
Yet, Holy One, you who make your
home in the praises of Israel,
in you our fathers put their trust,
they trusted and you rescued them;
they called to you for help
and they were saved,
they never trusted you in vain.*

*Yet here am I,
now more worm than human,
scorn of mankind, jest of the people,
all who see me jeer at me,*

*they toss their heads and sneer,
they tie me hand and foot
and leave me dying in the dust of death.
I can count every one of my bones,
and there they glare at me, gloating;
they divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothes.*

*For he has not despised
or disdained the poor man in his
poverty,
has not hidden his face from him,
but has answered him when he called.*

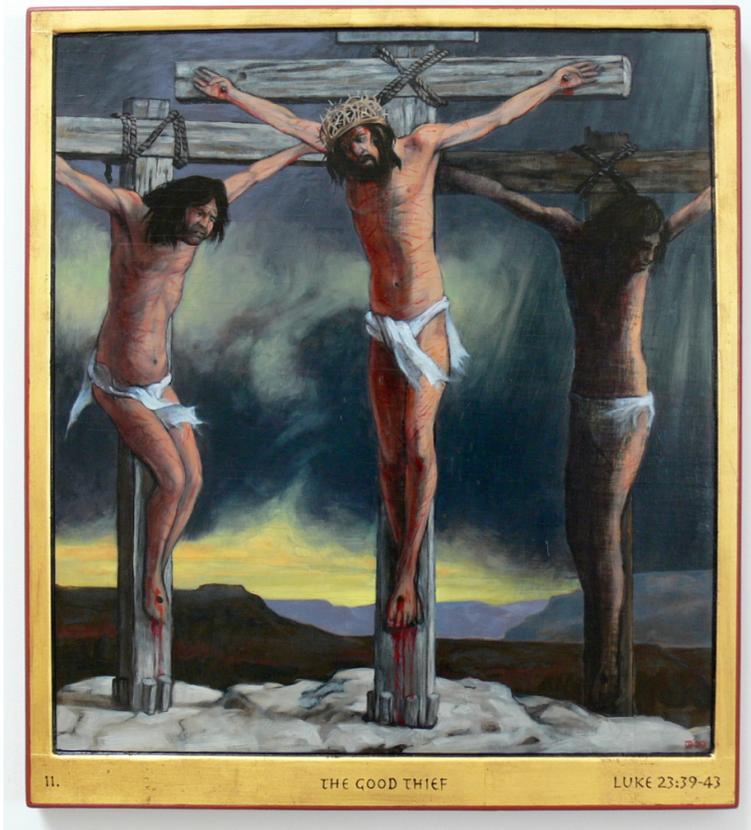
*People will proclaim the Lord
to generations still to come,
his righteousness
to a people yet unborn.*

Reflection How can we possibly understand crucifixion? The pain, the humiliation, the vulnerability is beyond our experience. Have we ever been publicly ridiculed?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): *Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

The Eleventh Station *Jesus Promises Paradise to the Good Thief*



Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Luke 23:39-43**

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. "Are you not the Christ?" he said. "Save yourself and us as well." But the other spoke up and rebuked him. "Have you no fear of God at all?" he said. "You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserve it. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus," he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." **"Indeed I promise you,"** he replied, **"today you will be with me in paradise."**

Psalm 25:1-5

***To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul,
O my God.***

***I rely on you, do not let me be shamed,
do not let my enemies gloat over me!
No, those who hope in you are never shamed,
shame awaits disappointed traitors.***

***Lord, make your ways known to me,
teach me your paths.
Set me in the way of your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.***

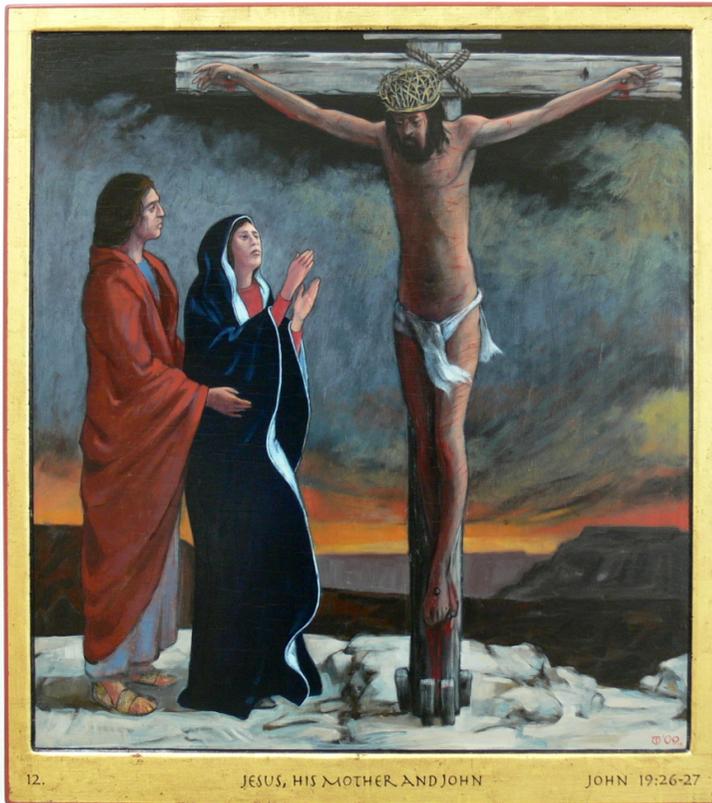
***All day long I hope in you
because of your goodness, O Lord.***

Reflection Jesus offers us forgiveness. Are we humble enough to accept his generosity and admit our guilt and his innocence?

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

The Twelfth Station Jesus Speaks to his Mother and John



Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **John 19:26-27**

Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, **“Woman, this is your son.”** Then to the disciple he said, **“This is your mother.”** And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

Psalm 121

*I lift my eyes
to the mountains:
from where will come
my help?
Help comes to me
from the Lord,
who made heaven and
earth.*

*No letting our footsteps
slip!
This guard of yours,
he does not doze!
The guardian of Israel
does not doze or sleep.*

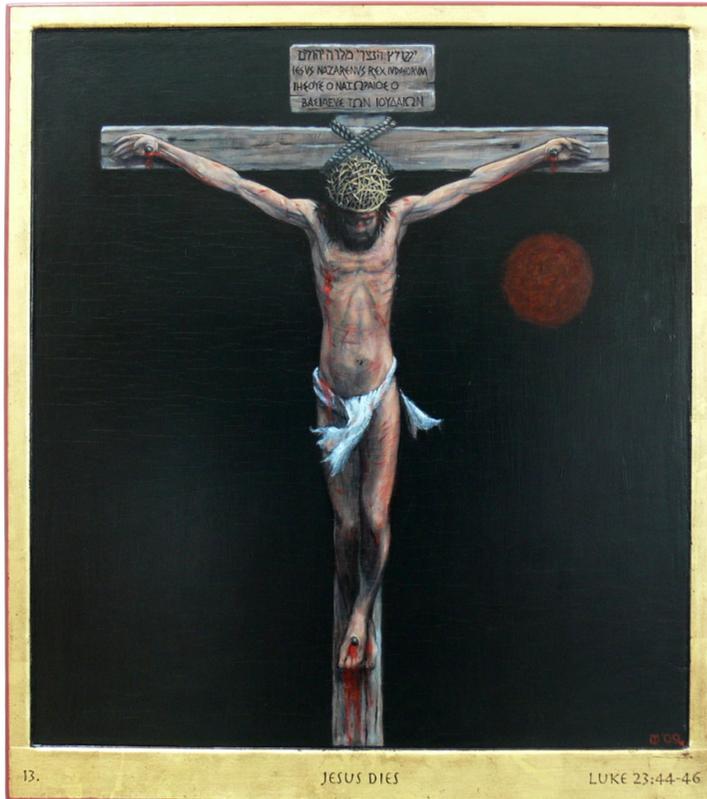
*The Lord guards you,
shades you.
With the Lord
at your right hand
the sun cannot strike you
down by day,
nor moon at night.*

*The Lord guards you from
harm,
he guards your lives,
he guards you leaving,
coming back,
now and for always.*

Reflection Jesus has made us a gift of one to the other as a family, the Children of God, with his mother as our Spiritual Mother. Let us be grateful and offer thanks for Jesus' love, present among us at this moment.

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): *Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

*The Thirteenth Station**Jesus Dies on the Cross*

Let us enter into the Passion and Death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

in Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Luke. 23:44-46**

It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, "**Father into your hands I commit my spirit.**" With these words he breathed his last.

Psalm 130

*From the depths
I call to you O Lord,
Lord, listen to my cry for
help!
Listen compassionately
to my pleading!*

*If you never overlooked
our sins, O Lord,
Lord, could anyone
survive?
But you do forgive us:
and for that we revere you.*

*I wait for the Lord,
my soul relies on the Lord
more than a watchman
on the coming of dawn.*

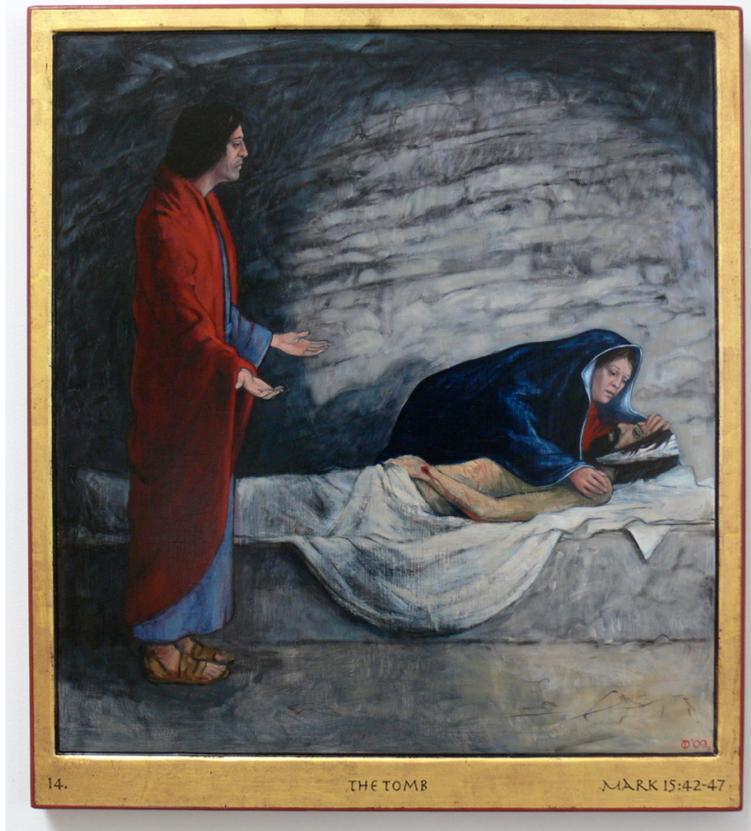
*Let Israel rely on the Lord
as much as the watchman on the dawn!
For it is with the Lord that mercy
is to be found,
and a generous redemption;
it is he who redeems Israel
from all their sins.*

Reflection Let us pause to embrace this moment and to allow the death of Jesus to penetrate deeply into our consciousness, for we also enter into the death of the Lord.

**O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

(sung): *Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

The Fourteenth Station Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



Let us enter into the Passion and death of the Lord,

Whose suffering led him to Glory.

For now we live,

In Jesus, the Christ.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to **Mark 15:42-47**

It was now evening and, since it was Preparation Day (that is, the vigil of the Sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and took note of where he was laid.

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.
In meadows of green grass
he lets me lie.
To the waters of repose
he leads me;
there he revives my soul.
He guides me
by paths of virtue
for the sake of his name.*

*Though I pass through a
gloomy valley, I fear no harm;*

*beside me your rod and your staff
are there, to hearten me.*

*You prepare a table before me
under the eyes of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
my cup brims over.*

*Ah, how goodness and kindness
pursue me,
every day of my life;
my home, the house of the Lord,
as long as I live!*

Reflection Let us surrender to God's will as we await the Risen Lord and pray for the wisdom to discern his presence among us, within us.

O God, you are with us always and you know all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might earnestly search for truth, and be fair in our judgment of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(sung): ***Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.***

Stabat Mater

By the Cross her vigil keeping
 Stands the **Queen** of sorrows
 weeping,
 While her **Son** in torment hangs;

Now she feels – O heart afflicted
 By the sword of old predicted!
 More than all a mother's pangs.

Sad and heavy stands beside him
 She who once had magnified him
 One-begotten, only-born;

While she sees that rich atoning,
 Long the moaning, deep the
 groaning
 Of her mother-heart forlorn.

Who, **Christ's Mother** contemplating
 In such bitter anguish waiting,
 Has no human tears to shed?

Who would leave **Christ's Mother**,
 sharing
 All the pain her **Son** is bearing,
 By those tears uncomforted?

Victim-priest of Jewry's nation,
 There he hangs in expiation;
 Scourge and nail have had their will;

Earth and heaven his cause
 forsaking,
 Now his noble heart is breaking,
 Now the labouring breath is still.

Mother, fount whence love flows
 truest,
 Let me know the pain thou knewest,
 Let me weep as thou has wept.

Love divine within me burning,
 That diviner love returning,
 May thy **Son** this heart accept.

Mother, if my prayer be granted,
 Those five wounds of his implanted
 In my breast I fain would see;

Love exceeding hangs there
 bleeding,
 My cause pleading, my love needing
 –
 Bid him share his **Cross** with me.

Till life fails, I would not fail him,
 Still remember, still bewail him,
 Born thy **Son** and crucified;

By the **Cross** my vigil keeping
 I would spend those hours of
 weeping,
Queen of sorrows, at thy side.

When my body lies forsaken
 Let my ransomed soul awaken
 Safe, in **Paradise**, with thee.

Ascribed to Jacapone da Todi O.F.M.,
 d. 1306
 Tr. R.A. Knox, 1888 – 1957