

The Way of The Cross

Wednesday in Holy Week at 7pm



THE WAY OF THE CROSS
OPENING PRAYERS

IN THE NAME of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Officiant: Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

JESU, the very thought of thee

With sweetness fills my breast;

But sweeter far thy face to see,

And in thy presence rest.

I JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

Who will rise up with me against the wicked?

Or who will take my part against the evil doers?

They gather them together against the soul of the righteous,

And condemn the innocent blood.

But the Lord is my refuge,

And my God is the strength of my confidence.

PRAYER

O Lord God, whose blessed Son, our Saviour, gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame; Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,

Nor can the memory find,

A sweeter sound than thy blest name,

O SAVIOUR of mankind!

II JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows;

Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.

The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

PRAYER

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 the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

O hope of every contrite heart,

O joy of all the meek

To those who fall, how kind thou art!

How good to those who seek!

III THE CROSS IS LAID UPON SIMON OF CYRENE

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

The Lord ordereth a good man's going,
And maketh his way acceptable to himself.
Though he fall he shall not be cast away;
For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.
The law of his God is in his heart,
And his goings shall not slide.

PRAYER

Grant, O Lord, that we on whose forehead hath been set the sign of the Cross, may be ready and resolute to bear the Cross itself, in company with Simon of Cyrene and all thy saints that have endured for thee and with thee; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of JESUS! what it is,
None but his loved ones know.

IV JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? (Silence)

RESPONSORY

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears,
And givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours,
And our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Turn us again, thou God of hosts;
Show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

PRAYER

Vouchsafe, O Lord God that as we thy sons and daughters look upon the Saviour for our sakes ready to die, we may mourn not for him, whose pains were our glory, but for ourselves, whose shames are his wounds: and may repent unto thee, who with the same thy Son and the Holy Spirit art one God, holy and pitiful, for ever and ever.
Amen.

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;
R/. Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

JESU, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
JESU, be thou our glory now,
And through eternity.

V JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part: and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones;
They stand staring and looking upon me.

They part my garments among them,
And cast lots upon my vesture.

But be not thou far from me, O Lord;
Thou art my succour, haste thee to help me.

PRAYER

O Lord and Saviour, stripped naked upon the Cross, yet robed eternally in holiness and light: Take from us the rags both of our sins and our imagined righteousness; and clothe us with the mantle of thy praise in Sion; where thou livest and reignest in the glory of the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

O JESU, King most wonderful

Thou Conqueror renowned,

Thou sweetness most ineffable,

In whom all joys are found!

VI JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me?
And art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint.
All they that see me laugh me to scorn;
They shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
He trusted in the Lord, that he would deliver him;
Let him deliver him, if he will have him.
O go not far from me, for trouble is hard at hand,
And there is none to help me.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honour of thy Name. *Amen.*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

When once thou visitest the heart,

Then truth begins to shine;

Then earthly vanities depart;

Then kindles love divine.

VII JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

Consider and hear me, O Lord my God;
Lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death;
Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him;
For if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice at it.
But my trust is in thy mercy,
And my heart is joyful in thy salvation.

PRAYER

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy; Grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;
R/. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

O JESU! Light of all below!
Thou Fount of living fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
And all we can desire.

VIII THE BODY OF JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathæa, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: he went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

He was cut off out of the land of the living;

For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death.

Because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great;

Because he hath poured out his soul unto death.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death; Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; through thy mercy, who livest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

JESU, may all confess thy Name,

Thy wondrous love adore,

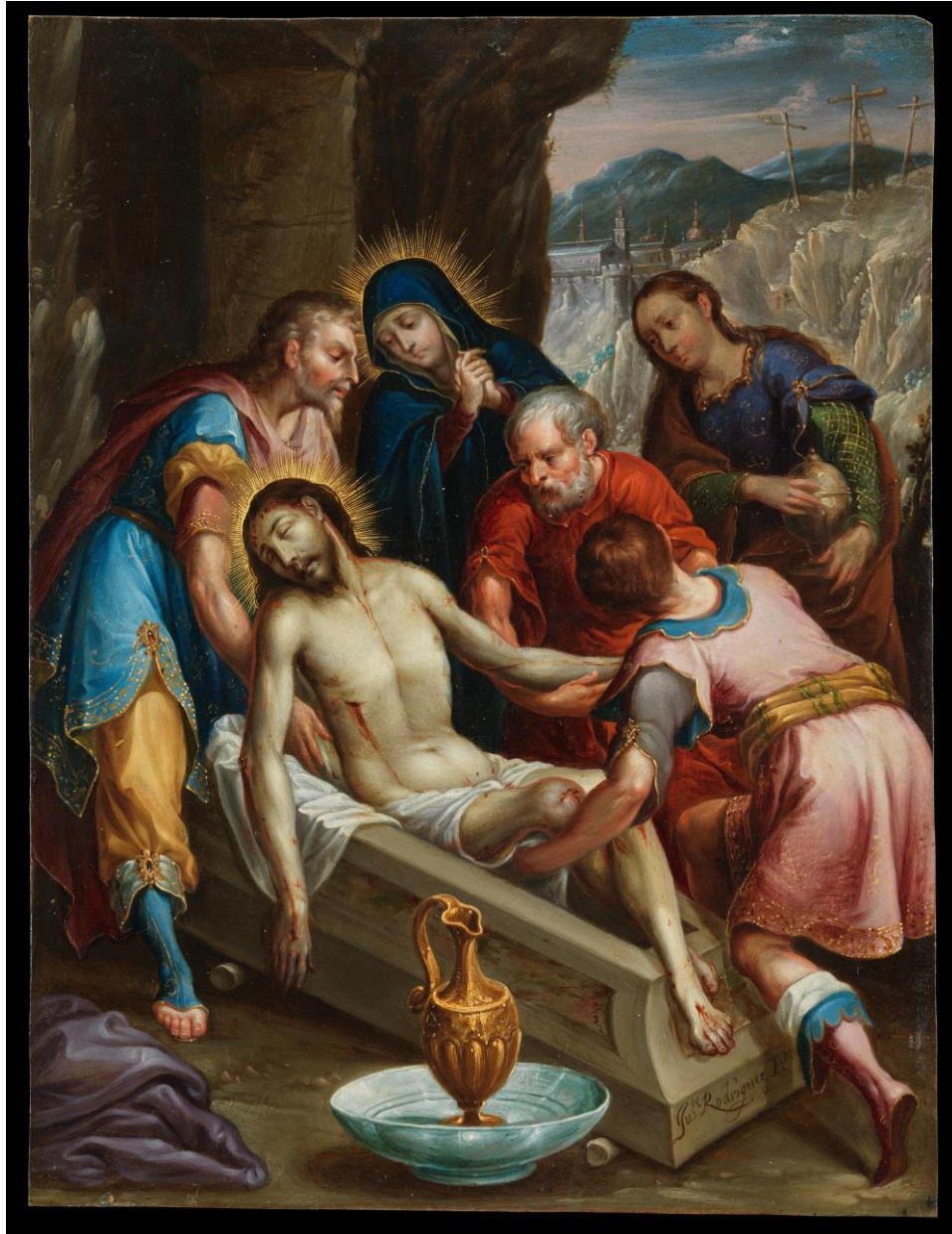
And seeking thee, their hearts inflame

To seek thee more and more.

IX THE BODY OF JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

V/. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

R/. *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*



SCRIPTURE READING Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. (Silence)

RESPONSORY

I have set the Lord alway before me;

For he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth;

My flesh also shall rest in hope.

For why? thou shalt not leave my soul in hell;

Neither shalt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.

PRAYER

O God, whose blessèd Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism, may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he liveth and reigneth for ever and ever.

Amen.

V/. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross + and precious blood hast redeemed us;

R/. Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Thee, JESU, may our voices bless,

 Thee may we love alone,

And ever in our lives express

 The image of thine own.

INTERCESSION

LET US PRAY for peace, and for the unity of all Christian people.

Let us pray for Christ's holy catholic church:

That we may prefer the foolishness of the Cross to the wisdom of the world, and seek happiness in God alone,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

That we may know God in all His works; in all creatures and peoples,
and so may be moved to service and praise,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

That God's wisdom will guide and direct the leaders of the nations,
especially Elizabeth our Queen and all in authority under her, to
establish peace and justice within their borders and throughout the
world,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

That God's compassion will come to the aid of the afflicted;
particularly the hungry and homeless, those suffering from violence
and war, the refugee and the imprisoned, the sick and the dying, and
for those who have especially asked our prayers,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

That in preparation for the Paschal Feast, we will amend our hearts
and minds, and reveal in our actions that love with which Christ has
loved us,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

That at the great day of Salvation we may share with all our
departed brothers and sisters in the Resurrection to life eternal,

V/ We pray to the Lord:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer

These prayers and praises we offer to God's eternal majesty, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the Celebrant shall say:

COMPASSION and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have sinned against Him. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BLESSING

O LORD JESU CHRIST, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy Passion, Cross, and Death between thy judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death.

Vouchsafe to grant mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest God world without end. *Amen.*

THE PEACE OF GOD, which passeth all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
And of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord:

And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
Be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Images from the Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection

Station

1 **Christ before Pilate** (Detail), Ludwig Schongauer, German ca. 1440/55–1493/94

2 **Plaque with Christ Carrying Cross**, Atelier of Nardon Pénicaud, French, 16th century

3 **Christ Bearing the Cross**, North Netherlandish (Utrecht?) ca. 1470

4 **Christ Shown to the People** (Detail), Jan Mostaert, Netherlandish, 1510–15

5 **Ecce Homo**, Sodoma (Giovanni Antonio Bazzi), Italian, ca. 1540–49

6 **Crucifix**, French, ca. 1300

7 **The Crucifixion**, Fra Angelico, Italian, ca. 1420-23

8 **The Lamentation of Christ** (Detail), Simon Marmion, French, ca. 1473

9 **The Entombment of Christ**, Juan Rodríguez Juárez, Mexican, ca. 1702