

Praying the Stations

with

Pope John Paul II

BILL HUEBSCH

Introduction

On April 2, 2005, the beloved Pope John Paul II died. His life and ministry were a solid witness to faith. More than any other leader on the world stage, Pope John Paul II lived the Way of the Cross. He lived the Pascal Mystery—from his own illness to his self-sacrifice on behalf of the church.

During Holy Week in 1991, Pope John Paul II celebrated the Way of the Cross at the Coliseum in Rome. During that celebration, the Holy Father omitted some of the traditional stations and added others so that each station was based in Scripture. He believed that in this way, the faithful would better be led to the profound reality of these events in Christ's life.

Thus, the three falls of Jesus, the encounter of Jesus with his mother before the crucifixion, and the meeting with Veronica were all omitted. None of those stories are found in Scripture. Added instead were important and previously overlooked scriptural themes: Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Olives, Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, Pilate's judgment, Jesus' scourging, Jesus' promise to the good thief, and Jesus' words to his mother and the beloved disciple at the foot of the cross.

What is important—regardless of the version of the Way of the Cross we use—is that we come to grips with the reality of God's love and mercy for sinful people, that we understand the terrible suffering of Jesus, and that we enter into Christ's passion to make us conscious of our failures to be fully and divinely human.

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Suggestions for Use

In most churches worldwide, the tablets or statues depicting the Way of the Cross will not follow the order set down in this new papal version. That should not stand in the way, however, of the desire of the church to root its divine worship in the Sacred Scriptures.

When using this version of the stations in a traditional setting, then, it is best not to attempt to change existing church art but rather simply to commemorate these stations as though the art itself demanded them. The effect of the worship will be no less profound, and the beauty and order of the church will be left intact. What is important here is the meditation on the Sacred Word.

Opening Prayer

O great and loving Divine Spirit,
prepare our hearts now
to walk with Jesus
on the Way of the Cross.

Enlighten us in these moments of prayer
to see you more clearly
and to see our profound need for your love
in our lives today.

Guide our thoughts as we pray
that we might pay attention
to those secret parts of ourselves
where darkness still dwells
and where we allow it to do so.

Bless us with the grace of inner vision
so we may see you among us,
and seeing you,
may open our hearts to you.

We pray for these gifts
and we receive them in gratitude.

Amen.

The First Station

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

Announcement of the Station

Leader The First Station: Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Luke 22:39-46)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

He went, as usual, to the Mount of Olives with the disciples following him. When they reached the place, he said to them, "Pray now, that you may be faithful to what God wants." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "O Holy One, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." When he rose from prayer, he returned to his disciples but found them sleeping because of their grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise up and pray so that you may be faithful."

Responsorial Psalm (102:1–4, 8)

All

Hear my prayer, Yahweh,

let my cry come to you.

Do not hide your face from me now

for I am in trouble.

Listen to me; answer me quickly when I call.

For my days disappear like smoke,

and my bones burn like a furnace.

My heart is stricken and withered like grass,

All day long my enemies taunt me;

those who deride me

use my name like a curse.

Reflection

Leader

Help us realize, O God, that Jesus dreaded his death, just as we dread the dyings of our everyday lives. Be with us now as we make the commitment again to embrace the difficult aspects of our life and, with your power, to pass through death to new life.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Second Station

Jesus Is Betrayed by Judas

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Second Station: Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Matthew 26:45–49)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

Then Jesus once again came back from his prayer to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and rest now because as you can plainly see, everything is culminating here and I will be handed over to sinners. Rise, then, and let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand." While he was still speaking, Judas arrived. He was one of the Twelve and he had with him a large crowd sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people and they carried swords and clubs. Now the betrayer had given them a sign: "The one I will kiss," he had told them, "is the man, seize him." Upon arriving, Judas immediately came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Responsorial Psalm (37:1–6)

All

Do not worry because of wicked people
and do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like grass,
and wither like green plants.

Trust in the Divine Presence

and do good deeds

and in that way you will be at home where you are
and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Presence of God

who will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way of living to the Divine Spirit.

Trust God who will act.

God will make your virtue shine like the light,

and the right nature of your cause

like the noonday sun!

Reflection

Leader

Judas betrayed Jesus but the real betrayal was of Judas' own self. Can we realize that our own life and destiny is bound tightly to Jesus? Can we see how we have sometimes betrayed our true calling and in so doing also betrayed Christ?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Third Station

Jesus Is Condemned to Death by the Sanhedrin

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Third Station: Jesus is condemned to death by the Sanhedrin

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Mark 14:56, 61-64)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Mark*

Many people gave false evidence against Jesus, but their stories did not agree. Finally, the high priest asked him, "Are you Christ, Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am"; and 'you will see the Human Son seated at the right hand of the Power, 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.

Responsorial Psalm (36:1–4)

All

Sinners listen to evil deep in their hearts;
they have no awe in the face of Divine Presence.
For they lie to themselves so well
that they can no longer recognize or hate
their own sin.
Whatever they say is foolish or false.
They have ceased to act wisely and do good.
They plot their sins while lying awake at night.
I tell you,
they are set on a way that is horrible
and they do not reject it.

Reflection

Leader

O God, we are sometimes so reluctant to admit that we are also part of Christ, part of the Blessed One. Take away the fear that we will be condemned as Jesus was. Help us not be ashamed to claim Christ as our own.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Fourth Station

Jesus Is Denied by Peter

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Fourth Station: Jesus is denied by Peter

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord,

All Whose suffering led him to Grace.

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Luke 22:54-62)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

Once arrested, they led Jesus to the High Priest's house and Peter followed at quite a distance. Having made a fire in the courtyard of this house, a group of people sat around it. Then a servant girl, seeing Peter in the firelight, stared at him awhile and said, "This man was with Jesus." But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of his followers, aren't you?" But Peter said, "Man, I am not." Then about an hour later another person said emphatically, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he is even a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I don't even know what you're talking about!"

At that moment, the cock crowed before he'd finished speaking. Jesus turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Responsorial Psalm (38:1–5)

All O God, do not punish me in your anger
or discipline me in your rage.
For your arrows have pierced me,
and your hand has come down on me.
I experience no wholeness in my body
because of your fury;
I am unhealthy to my very bones
and it's all because of my sin.
For my sinning has now overwhelmed me
and weighs me down.
It's a burden which is too heavy for me.
My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness.
I am at the bottom of my rope
and in very deep pain.

Reflection

Leader Can we admit the times we have denied your presence in
the world by denying the truth of your love? We pray for
all those whom we have hurt and we offer forgiveness to
all who have hurt us.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we
do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit,
we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our
judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Fifth Station

Jesus Is Judged by Pilate

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Luke 23:20-25)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

Pilate spoke to the crowd a second time because he wanted to release Jesus. But the crowd wouldn't listen to him and kept shouting for Jesus to be crucified. A third time, then, Pilate spoke to them: "What evil has he done? I have found him guilty of nothing serious. I intend to give him a warning and release him." But the crowd screamed to have Jesus crucified and their voices finally prevailed. Pilate decided to carry out their demand. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over and let them do with him whatever they wanted.

Responsorial Psalm (35:15–20)

All

The crowd now gathers together
and is happy that I've fallen.
They mock me: many of them I don't even know!
They scream at me and ridicule me,
grinding their teeth at me in hatred.
How long, O God, will you permit this?
Rescue me from these horrid beasts
and save me from these lions!
Then I will thank you in the assembly;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.
Do not let my treacherous enemies rejoice over me,
or permit the sly wink of those who hate me.
For they do not speak peace,
but they make up lies against those
who are innocent,
the ones causing me harm among us.

Reflection

Leader

O God of infinite goodness and love, we pray that we can see the ways in which we have delivered divine hope up to the powers of darkness. We now take all that is not loving within and among us and offer it to you so it can be transformed into the energy of your Son. We pray for humility to accept your love through whomever you send it.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Sixth Station

Jesus Is Flogged and Crowned with Thorns

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Sixth Station: Jesus is flogged and crowned with thorns

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (John 19:1-3)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of John*

Then Pilate had Jesus taken away. He was flogged. The soldiers wove a wreath of thorns and put it on his head, and they threw a purple robe around him. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they struck him again and again.

Responsorial Psalm (27:1–3, 13–14)

All

God is my enlightenment and my healing;

whom shall I fear?

The Divine One is the stronghold of my life;

of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil people attack me to hurt or even kill me,

they are the ones who stumble and fall.

Even if an entire army would attack me this way,

my heart would not fear;

A full-scale war could rise up against me,

but I would still be confident.

I believe I shall see the goodness of God

in the land of the living.

Trust in the Divine One!

Be strong and let your heart take courage;

I tell you again: trust in God!

Reflection

Leader

Can we trust in the Lord when we feel beaten and overcome with suffering? Can we trust in God when we feel most alone?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Seventh Station

Jesus Carries His Cross

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Seventh Station: Jesus carries his cross

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (John 19:17)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of John*

The crowd then took charge of Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Responsorial Psalm (77:1-10)

All I cry loudly to God,

aloud to God I cry that God may hear me.

When I am in trouble I seek the Divine One.

Throughout the night I stretch out my hand

but my soul refuses to be comforted.

I think of God, and I moan;

I meditate, and my spirit grows weak.

I can no longer sleep in comfort!

I'm so troubled I can't even speak.

I think about the old days,
and remember years past.

All night long I'm preoccupied with this;

I meditate and ask myself:

Would God reject me forever?

Would God reach a point where God
would never again be favorable to me?

Has God's unconditional love ceased forever?

Are God's promises ended for all time?

Has Divine anger ended mercy?

Reflection

Leader What is your cross? What burden are you carrying? What do you bear in order to be happy and at peace?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Eighth Station

Jesus Is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Mark 15:20-21)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Mark*

When they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They forced a passerby, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Responsorial Psalm (86:1-7)

All
O God, listen to me and answer me,
for I am poor and needy,

Preserve my life, for I am loyal to you;
save me because I am your servant
and I trust in you.

You are my God;
show mercy toward me
because you are the only one
to whom I pray.

Give me reason to celebrate,
for to you, O God, I lift my soul.

For you, O God, are good and forgiving,
abounding in faithful love
for all who pray to you.

So listen, O God, to my prayer;
listen to my cry for help!

When I am in trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

Reflection

Leader

Can we see others near us, seated in this very church with us, carrying their crosses alone? Can we see beyond our own narrow lives into a vision that drives us to help carry the burdens of others?

momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Ninth Station

Jesus Encounters the Women of Jerusalem

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Ninth Station: Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Luke 23:27–31)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

A large number of the people followed Jesus on his way to Calvary, and among them were women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming indeed when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the tree is full of sap, just imagine what will happen when it is dry!"

Responsorial Psalm (91:1-7)

All

If you allow the Most High to be your shelter
and stay close to the Almighty One

then you can say to God:

"You are indeed my refuge and my fortress;
you are my God. I trust in you."

For God will rescue you from the trap
set by the deadly hunter

and save you from the deadly plague.

God will cover you with protective feathers
and under those wings you will find safety.

God's fidelity to you is a shield and protector.

You needn't fear the terrors of night,

nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in secret,

or the destruction that comes in broad daylight.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,

but you will be safe forever!

Reflection

Leader

Jesus warns us that if One Who Came to Speak the Truth
is treated as badly as he was, the rest of us will surely also
suffer. How do you suffer when you speak the truth as
Jesus did?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we
do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit,
we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our
judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Tenth Station

Jesus Is Crucified

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Mark 15:22-26)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Mark*

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of the skull). And they offered him spiced wine as a drug but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The plaque stating the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

Responsorial Psalm (22:1-7, 16-18)

All My God, my God, why have you deserted me?

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you remained with them.

To you they prayed and were saved;

in you they trusted,
and they were not let down.
But are you also with me?
I seem like a worm, and not a human;
scorned by others,
and despised by the people.
All who see me ridicule me;
they sneer at me and shake their heads.
They have bound me hand and foot,
leaving me for dead;
I can count my bones, so depleted am I.
They divide my garments among each other
and cast lots for my clothing!
But Yahweh has not ignored the poor
and has not hidden from them
but has answered when they called!
Therefore we will proclaim you to generations
who have not yet been born!

Reflection

Leader

How can we understand what crucifixion is like? Have we
ourselves been held up, arms outstretched and vulnera-
ble, a spectacle for all to see? Have we been publicly
ridiculed?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we
do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit,
we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our
judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Eleventh Station

Jesus Promises to Share His Reign with the Good Thief

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Eleventh Station: Jesus promises to share his reign with the good thief

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Luke 23:39-43)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

One of the criminals who was hanged with Jesus mocked him and said, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us, too!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of death? After all, we've been condemned justly and we're 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 reign." He replied, "Indeed I tell you, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

Responsorial Psalm (25:1–5)

All

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

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

don't let my enemies gloat over me.

Don't let those who trust in you

be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are freely sinful!

Enlighten me so I may know your ways, O God;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth,

for you are the God who saves me.

You are the one in whom I hope forever!

Reflection

Leader

Can we accept the forgiveness of Jesus as he offers it to us? Or do we hold our own sins against ourselves and one another?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Twelfth Station

Jesus Is on the Cross, with His Mother and Disciple Below

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Twelfth Station: Jesus is on the cross, with his mother and disciple below

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (John 19:25–27)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of John*

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and his beloved disciple standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, this is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "And here is your mother." From that moment, the disciple took her into his own life.

Responsorial Psalm (121)

All

I stand, looking up to the hills—

asking, “From where will my help come?”

My help comes from the Divine One

who made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot slip on the path,

the One who keeps you will never rest!

The One who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

God is your keeper;

God is your shade:

The sun shall not burn you by day,

nor the moon harm you by night.

God will keep you from all harm;

God keeps your life.

God accompanies you

whether you are going out or coming in,

now and forever!

Reflection

Leader

Jesus has given us to each other in the church for sharing love and knowing peace. Let us offer thanksgiving for the energy of Jesus' love present among us now.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Thirteenth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord

All Whose suffering led him to Grace

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Matthew 27:45-50)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

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?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the ones standing there heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." Immediately 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's see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus, groaning loudly, released his spirit and died.

Responsorial Psalm (130)

All

Out of the depths I cry to you, O God!

O God, hear me when I call!

Listen with compassion

to my plea for mercy!

If you, O God, remember our sins,

who could ever stand?

But you do indeed offer us forgiveness

and we honor you for that.

I have more trust in you to be present

than those who wait for dawn

believe it will come each day

O members of the church,

let us hope in God

more than those who watch for the morning!

For with God there is steadfast love,

and with God there is great power to heal.

It is God who will redeem us

from all our sins.

Reflection

Leader

Let us pause here to allow the death of Jesus to enter deeply into our consciousness, for we also enter into the death of the Lord.

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The Fourteenth Station

Jesus Is Placed in the Tomb

Announcement of the Station

Leader The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Dialogue

Leader Let us enter into the Death of the Lord.

All Whose suffering led him to Grace.

Leader Let us take up our Cross

All Let us follow the way of the Lord

Proclamation of the Word (Matthew 27:57-61)

Leader *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

When evening had come, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph (who was also a disciple of Jesus) arrived on the scene. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body and Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the 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 Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the grave.

Responsorial Psalm (23)

All

O God, you are my shepherd,

I lack nothing whatsoever!

You give me rest in green pastures;

you lead me beside still waters,

you restore my soul.

You guide me in ways that are right

for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil for you are with me;

your rod and your staff comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in your house forever!

Reflection

Leader

We now wait for the Risen Lord to appear in our own lives and our own time. Where do you see him? How is he present among you? within you?

A momentary, sacred pause...

Communal Prayer

All

O God, we know that you are with us; you behold all we do and say. Grant that, by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest as we search for truth, and fair in our judgments of others. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Sample-do not duplicate