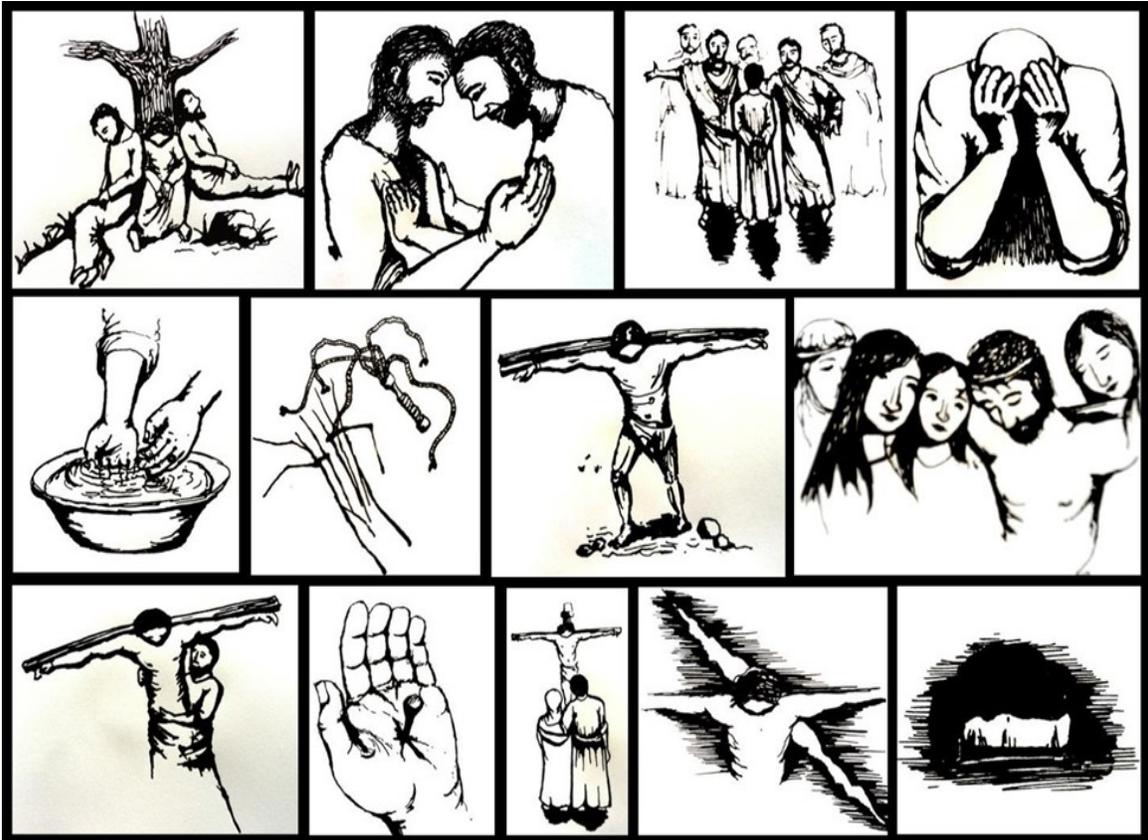


Welcome

Stations of the Cross

A Meditational Journey during Holy Week



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

*The following **Stations of the Cross** are presented here as a way of reflecting more deeply on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion.*

Thank you for stopping by and taking this journey.

How it works:

- *Stop.*
- *Turn all devices off.*
- *If there are two or more gathered in the vehicle, designate someone to be the reader*
- *Remember not to rush through it and take time to be quiet at each station*
- *Pray together: 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 reflect on his suffering and death that we may learn from his example the way we should go.*
- *Now proceed to the first station*

FIRST STATION: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)

Reader: Lord, grant us your strength and wisdom, that we may seek to follow your will in all things. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

SECOND STATION: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested.

Reader: Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. (Mark 14: 43-46)

Reader: Lord, grant us the courage of our convictions that our lives may faithfully reflect the good news you bring.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

THIRD STATION: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Reader: When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth." (Luke 22: 66-71)

Reader: Lord, grant us your sense of righteousness that we may never cease to work to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

FOURTH STATION: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Reader: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Matthew 26: 69-75)

Reader: Lord, grant us the gift of honesty that we may not fear to speak the truth even when difficult, especially when we speak in prayer with you.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

FIFTH STATION: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Reader: The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas... [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified. (Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

Reader: Lord, grant us discernment that we may see as you see, not as the world sees.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

SIXTH STATION: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Reader: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (John 19: 1-3)

Reader: Lord, grant us patience in times of suffering that we may offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Bears the Cross

Reader: When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19: 6, 15-17)

Reader: Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Reader: 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. (Mark 15: 21)

Reader: Lord, grant us willing spirits that we may be your instruments on earth.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

NINTH STATION: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Reader: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. 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?" (Luke 23: 27-31)

Reader: Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

TENTH STATION: Jesus is Crucified

Reader: When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] (Luke 23: 33-34)

Reader: Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Reader: Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)

Reader: Lord, grant us perseverance that we may never stop seeking you.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

Reader: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19: 25-27)

Reader: Lord, grant us constancy that we may be willing to stand by those in need.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Reader: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23: 44-46)

Reader: Lord, grant us trust in you that when our time on earth in ended our spirits may come to you without delay.

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Reader: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matthew 27: 57-60)

Reader: Lord, grant us your compassion that we may always provide for those in need.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Thank you for taking this journey with us and we pray that it provided you with a special blessing this Holy Week.

You are welcome to come back if you'd like to take the journey again.

Please remember to join us on Facebook live or on the webpage for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services.

- *On Easter we invite you to come and bring your floral offering to decorate the cross. (Pick something from your yard... a branch, a flower – it's done to the glory of God)*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, Jane Peeler, and Zarah Plyler (Autumn Care), Betty Herion and Jean Ray (Brookdale), Bob Wilhelm (The Meadows-Rockwell), Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

Homebound Members - Mary Brady, Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Gladys Morgan, Frances Norris, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery - Genevieve Baker, Bill Broadway, Rev. Tom Corbell, Kiki Deaton, Glenn Eagle, Ruth Goodman, Bob Goodwin, Linda Hartley, Tommy Kerns, Teressa Kesler, Pat Kluttz, Eric Miller, Donnie Miller, Harold Miller, Dusty Morgan, Grace Morgan, Ruth Myers, Karen Plyler, Rev. Dawn Rister, Larry Shepherd, Effie Vellines, and Ronald Vellines

Continual Prayer - Vonnie Agner, Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (coworker of Karen Barringer), Jim Byrd, Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Donna Collins (friend of Sharon Leazer), Robert Cook (uncle of Lisa Morgan), Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (Niece of Grace Morgan), June Fraley, Teresa Frank (Pam Vellines cousin), Marie Gorapic (sister of Linda Spencer), Tamara Honeycutt, Edna & John McCollough (friends of Jennifer & Scott Curlee), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Hong Nguyen (Pete Nguyen's mother), John Oddie, Jr. (brother of Ruby Leazer and Ruth Myers), Robert Parker (brother of Jimmy Parker), Jamie Troutman (son of Joan Troutman), Justin West and David Mitchell (friends of Pete Nguyen)