



New Mosaic Stations of the Cross

Today we commemorate the Passion and Death of our Lord. We are nearing the end of the Lenten season, traditionally a time of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice. These spiritual times and small denials are done not for their own sake, but in the hope that our actions move ourselves and the world a step closer to understanding the meaning of Christ's life among us, of his death on the cross, and finally, of his glorious resurrection.

This year, we cannot be together in person, but we can still commemorate this holy day. You are encouraged to read each reflection, praying the prayers and singing or speaking the refrain out loud. If you can, print out the reflections and take a walk around your neighborhood (observing social distancing guidelines); stop every so often to observe each station. If you can't go outside, perhaps walk around your house, reading each reflection in a different room. However you choose to engage these readings and reflections, trust the promise that nothing can ever separate you from the love of God.

As you begin your walk, keep in mind the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Thus says the Lord God: cry out full-throated and unsparingly; lift up your voice like a trumpet blast. Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance: that a man bow his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

This is the fasting I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed: your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help and he will say: "Here I am!"

If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted: then light shall rise for you in darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; then the Lord will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails.

(excerpts from Isaiah 58)

Jesus, Our God and Our All

Adapted from "Jesus, My God" by Rufine Zaragoza, OFM

Guitar



1. Je-sus our life- giv- ing bread. Je-sus, our life- giv- ing bread.
2. Je-sus, you lead us to light. Je-sus, you lead us to light.
3. Je-sus, may we all be one. Je-sus, may we all be one.
4. Je-sus, the fab- ric of life. Je-sus, the fab- ric of life.
5. Je-sus, you com- fort our souls. Je-sus, you com- fort our souls.
7. Je-sus, the hope for our world. Je-sus, the hope for our world.

Guit



Je-sus, our source; Je-sus, our nour- ish- ment. Je-sus, our
Je-sus, our hope; Je-sus, our glo- - ry. Je-sus, our
Je-sus, our truth; Je-sus, our sac- ri- fice. Je-sus, our
Je-sus, our strength; Je-sus, our bea- u- ty. Je-sus, our
Je-sus, our love; Je-sus, a- maz- ing grace. Je-sus, our
Je-sus, our joy; Je-sus, e- ter- nal one. Je-sus, our

Guit



God and our all.
God and our all.
God and our all.
God and our all.
God and our all.
God and our all.

Thanks to all who helped make this Good Friday Cross Walk possible:

Good Friday Cross Walk Planning Team

Katie O'Hern Hamilton

Marilyn Henderson

Ed Poling, songwriter

Angie Scheerer, author of meditations

Gwen Skrabak

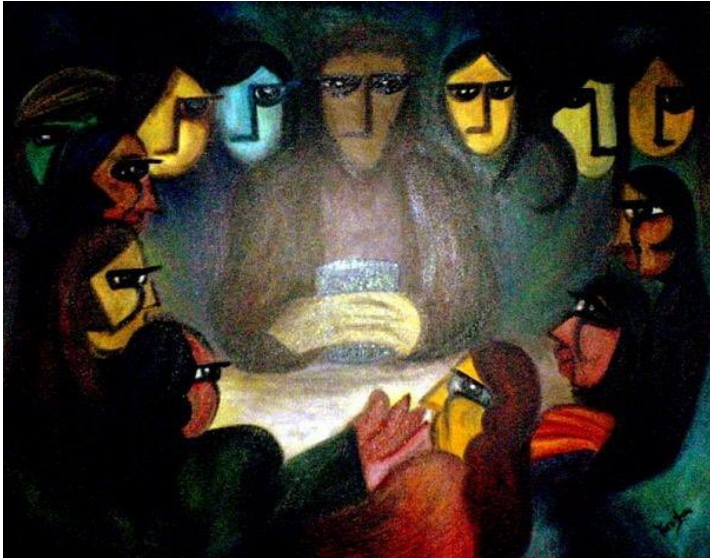
For more information about the Hagerstown Area Religious Council:

Visit harccoalition.org

Or contact Wendi Perry, Executive Director
director@harccoalition.org

THE FIRST STOP: THE LORD'S SUPPER

"I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples..."



Modern Version of the Last Supper
by Yureshini Kangaraarachchi, 2012

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, my time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."' So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

(Matthew 26:17-19)

Reflect I sit, a child at your table, and you feed me. You break bread and pass it to me with nourishing drink, here at this meal commemorating family, history, and belief. You do this today, and you will do this all the days of my life. You give me my daily bread.

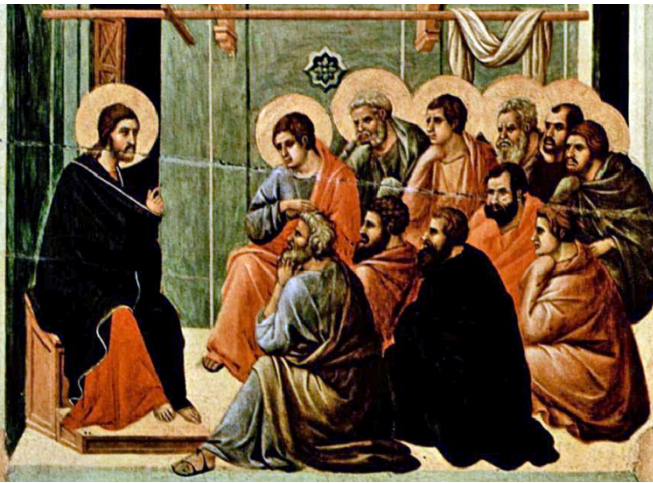
Tradition calls this your "last Supper," but this night, truly, is the *beginning* of a promise that you will keep – at great cost – a promise that those who love you will treasure into eternity. Some of us, from time to time, will forget; some of us, from time to time, will falter, but together we will *remember* your covenant made this night. Tonight you promise us eternal life, and tonight you give us food for the journey. I will partake, and I *will remember*.

Pray **Jesus, give me this day my daily bread, and feed me throughout my life. Keep me every mindful of your love and your care for me, and bring me into eternal life with you. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, our life-giving bread. Jesus, our life-giving bread.
Jesus, our source; Jesus, our nourishment.
Jesus, our God and our all.*

THE SECOND STOP: THE LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE

*"Now this is eternal life: that they know you,
the only true God, Christ, whom you have sent."*



Farewell Discourse from John's Gospel
Maestà by Duccio, c. 1310

"A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

(John 16:32-17:3)

Reflect Your crucifixion is imminent, and through it you will be glorified. '

You, Jesus, Lord God of Power and Might, allow yourself to be brought into humanity – trapped in the limitations of a body – like me. You see what I see, feel what I feel, question what I question, fear what I fear. You endured – and you *endure* – ever led to the light, the will and the glory of God. Your great love for *me* is the shining light that guides me through the often-dark valley of my human existence.

In tonight's breaking of the bread you ask me to be broken – like you – for others – a daunting challenge that I can endure only if your love patterns my love, if your life patterns my life, if your Way patterns my way – my path to eternal life.

Pray **Lord, help me in this earthly existence. Help me to see with your eyes, hear with your ears, and love with your heart so that I might endure and grow and, through you, follow the path you have laid out, the path to your kingdom. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, you lead us to light. Jesus, you lead us to light.
Jesus, our hope; Jesus, our glory.
Jesus, our God and our all.*

THE THIRD STOP: JESUS PRAYS TO THE FATHER

"I made known to these your name."



Christ in Gethsemane
by Michael D. O'Brien

"But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world. Just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

(John 17:13-17)

Reflect What is this world of which Jesus speaks – of which he is not a part, of which, by his designation, we are not a part? Perhaps it is the world of what I need, of what I want, of what makes *me* feel good, of what aggrandizes *me*, of what serves *me*. How could we not be a part of this world in which we live, this world that is presented to us in too many personal encounters, in too many media bombardments? What sets us apart? Perhaps we can infer the reason for our separation from Jesus' words, "...so that they (those who believe, those to whom Christ's words are made known in a succession of believers) may all be one..." moving together toward unity with God.

Jesus, in his willing and loving sacrifice of himself, gives us not only the means to know and become one with the Father. He also gives to each one of us the astounding power of bringing salvation to others. He prays for each of us as a binding link in the thousands-year old chain of believers. How could we not accept this honor of moving the world toward salvation?

Pray **Lord, let me be a worthy conduit of the knowledge of you to the world. Let me never forget the power you give me to represent you. Let your Holy Spirit guide me in right paths so that through my witness others may come to know you better. Let me never be an obstacle to their understanding of your goodness and love. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, you lead us to light. Jesus, you lead us to light.
Jesus, our hope; Jesus, our glory.
Jesus, our God and our all.*

THE FOURTH STOP: FOR HIS VESTURE THEY CAST LOTS

"...but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down."



The Soldiers Casting Lots
for Christ's Garments
by William Blake

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled:

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots."

This is what the soldiers did.

(John 19:23-25)

Reflect Already salvation in Christ is apparent. Jesus has prayed, "...that they may be brought to perfection *as one*..." The soldiers' custom and privilege was to divide the possessions of those they had executed. Jesus' tunic, "woven in one piece from the top down," was recognized by these worldly men as something to be treasured. There, on Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, that place of worldly death, this seamless garment stood – and stands – in mute witness of the integrity of the fabric into which believers are woven, the fabric that enfolds and moves all believers together toward Eternal Life. How fortunate, how blessed is each of us to be woven into that fabric of unity with the Father.

Pray **Lord, help me to live my life so that I am ever a strong and beautiful thread in the fabric of salvation, that Jesus has woven around me. Help me to mend other threads that may have broken, and to submit to mending when it becomes necessary. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, the fabric of life. Jesus, the fabric of life.
Jesus, our strength; Jesus, our beauty.
Jesus, our God and our all.*

THE FIFTH STOP: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED BETWEEN TWO THIEVES

"...today you will be with me in Paradise."



Jesus Looks at the Good Thief
by Pere Marie-Bernard
(at Abbey of La Grande Trappe)

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are 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 kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

(Luke 23:39-43)

Reflect Here we are side by side, you and I – you the tender unblemished Lamb and I the pettiest of thieves. You have done nothing to deserve death, while I have been a thief all my life. I have not robbed a store or a bank, nor stolen my neighbors' goods. But too often I have robbed others – sometimes even those I love – of joy, of emotional comfort, of satisfaction at a job well-done, of compassion, of assistance, of praise, of peace. How often have I withheld the smallest godly touch and clouded their understanding of your goodness, how often have I hidden from them a glimpse of you?

Yet you love me now, as you always have. And for the simple act of willing to love you, you give me eternal life with you – in Paradise.

Pray **Lord, let my selfish acts and failings fall away like leaves in autumn so that I might emerge into the springtime of Paradise and live always in the fullness of your love. Lord, make me worthy. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, you comfort our souls. Jesus, you comfort our souls.
Jesus, our love; Jesus, amazing grace.
Jesus, our God and our all.*

THE SIXTH STOP: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

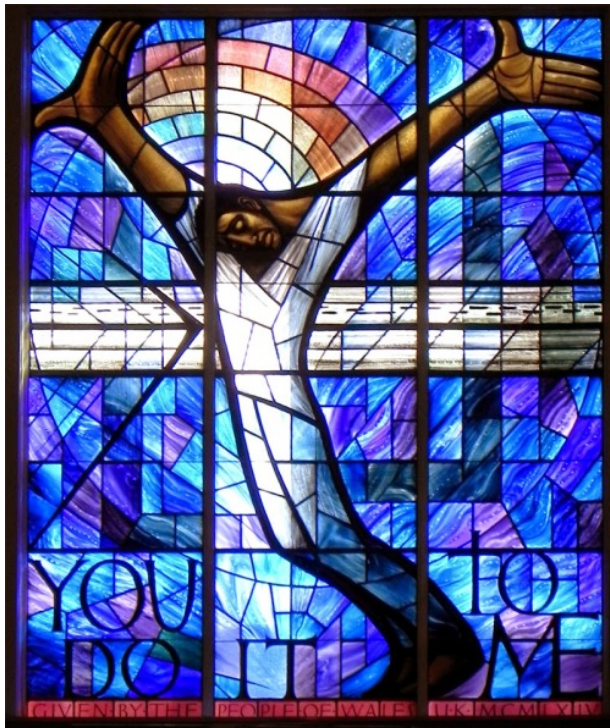
"Truly, this was the Son of God!"

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"* which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

(Luke 23:39-43)

Observe a few minutes of silent reflection.

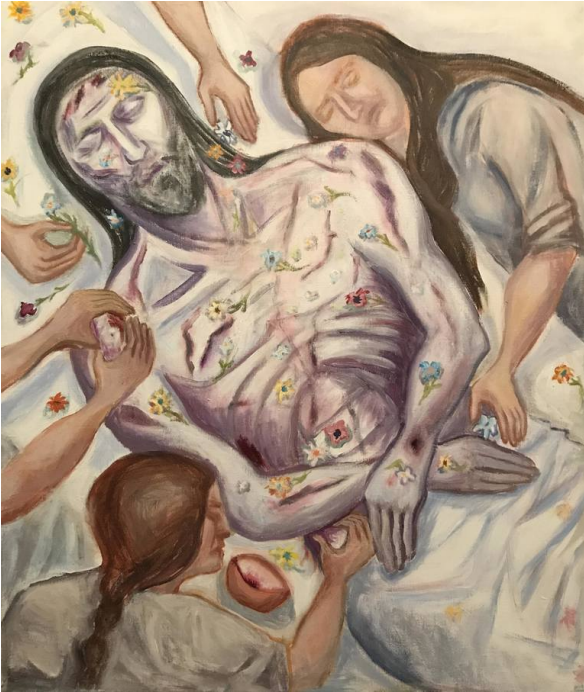


Wales Window
by John Petts

On September 15, 1963, the Ku Klux Klan planted a bomb at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Four young girls who were there for Sunday School were killed. John Petts, a Welsh artist, was moved by the tragedy and set about to design a stained glass window for the Birmingham church. It was paid for by small donations from Welsh citizens. The window was installed and dedicated in 1965. It shows Jesus with arms outstretched, his right arm pushing away hatred and injustice and his left arm offering forgiveness. The rainbow represents racial diversity.

THE SEVENTH STOP: THE BURIAL OF JESUS

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



Jesus is Laid in the Tomb
by Tea Schaino

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

(Matthew 27:57-61)

Reflect Burial is the period at the end of the human sentence. Its crushing finality bears witness to the extent of loss. How does one ever find compensation for the death of a loved one – more so for the death of one who carries all hope for the future?

The Hindu poet Tagore tells of a widow who grieved bitterly by the river for her dead husband and wished desperately to join him. A wise man, finding her so aggrieved, sent her home with much spiritual encouragement, promising that she would soon find her beloved.

After a month, neighbors noticed a change in the woman's demeanor and a lightness about her, and asked, "Woman, have you found your husband? Where is he?" She answered, "In my heart is my lord, one with me." She had realized what all who grieve must learn – that what is held in the heart is never truly lost.

Pray **Lord, may your presence in our hearts sustain us in hope until we find you again – face to face. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sing *Jesus, the hope for the world. Jesus, the hope for the world.
Jesus, our joy; Jesus, eternal one.
Jesus, our God and our all.*