

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Stations of the Cross

April 7, 2023

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

GOOD FRIDAY

The Way of the Cross for Social Justice and Peace

OPENING SONG | In a Time of Pain

Francis Patrick O'Brien



1. In a time of pain when con - fu - sion reigns, will you
2. When our lead - ers fail, when the dark pre - vails, be the
3. When the weak - est ones have no place to run from the
4. Teach us what is just and in whom to trust; by your



hear our burn - ing cry? When the wound won't heal
path that will guide our way. When our an - ger burns
ter - ror that haunts their days, Who will give them peace,
wis - dom we will a - bide. May the ones with pow'r,



as the truth's re - vealed, when our an - guish just won't die:
may we strive to learn to re - veal the light of day.
make their night-mares cease? Who will drive their dark a - way?
in this cru - cial hour, seek the Spir - it as their guide.



Come save us as you saved your Son, who was faith - ful
Come save us as you saved your Son; in your truth we will
Come save us as you saved your Son, who em - braced each
Come save us as you saved your Son from cor - rup - tion's



to the end. God of jus - tice reign; through our sin and
 be set free. Teach us how to deal with the hurt we
 child in pain. May your heal - ing balm bring a peace and
 dead - ly toll. May we rise at last from our shad - owed



shame be sal - va - tion, God, and friend.
 feel; may we rise from this Cal - va - ry.
 calm that will make us whole a - gain.
 past with your love as our guide and goal.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING PRAYER

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death

*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Death Penalty***



As we move to the first station, all join in singing:



At the cross her sta-tion keep-ing, Mar-y stood in sor-row, weep-ing, When her Son was cru-ci-fied.

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

READING

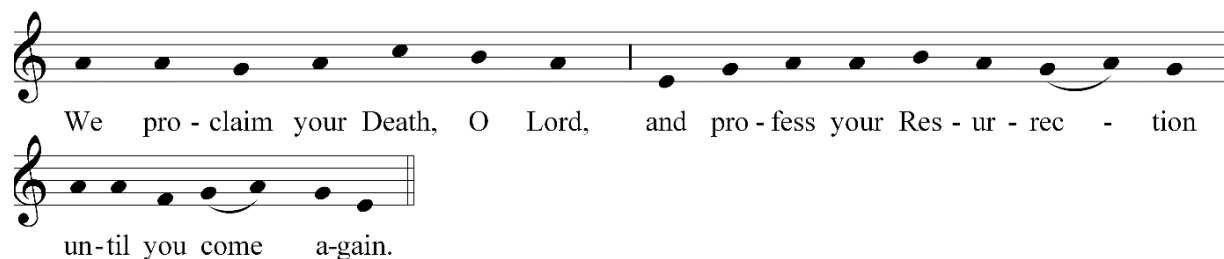
PRAYER

Presider: Jesus is executed by being nailed to a piece of wood, hung naked, exposed to taunts, reduced to an object of ridicule. State-sponsored crucifixions continue today, only in place of wooden beams there are gas chambers, electric chairs, lethal injections, and firing squads. As a people of faith who follow Christ, a victim of the death penalty, may we wake up and stand with those who are killed without any chance of restoration. We pray for a system that honors the dignity of every human person and encourages restorative justice for the improvement of society.

May we always stand against state-sanctioned death.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the second station, all join in singing:

**While she waited in her anguish,
Seeing Christ in torment languish,
Bitter sorrow pierced her heart.**

SECOND STATION

Jesus takes up his cross

*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Labor Rights***



Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

READING

PRAYER

Presider: Jesus bears the burden of his people and takes up the sins of humanity. The cross symbolizes the whole history of hate, violence, rejection, and war. The world can have no justice, mercy, or peace when any of God's children lacks dignity.

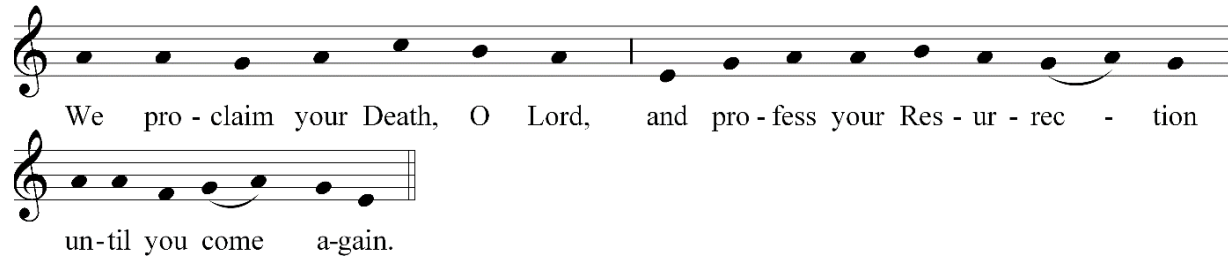
In the next day or two we will renew our baptismal promises and recommit ourselves to living as followers of Jesus. May we recognize the burdens others carry and reject all perspectives and beliefs that are contrary to the Gospel. We pray for those who work each day to provide for themselves and their families—working for unjust wages in conditions that are inhumane.

We think of the farm workers who work to produce and harvest the food we eat each day.

We think of the labor conditions we cannot even imagine that are the reality for many of our brothers and sisters. And we pray for people who work hard to make a living—especially those in our neighborhoods who work to keep us safe, fed, and healthy.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the third station, all join in singing:

**With what pain and desolation,
With what noble resignation,
Mary watched her dying Son.**

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls for the first time

*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Racism***



Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

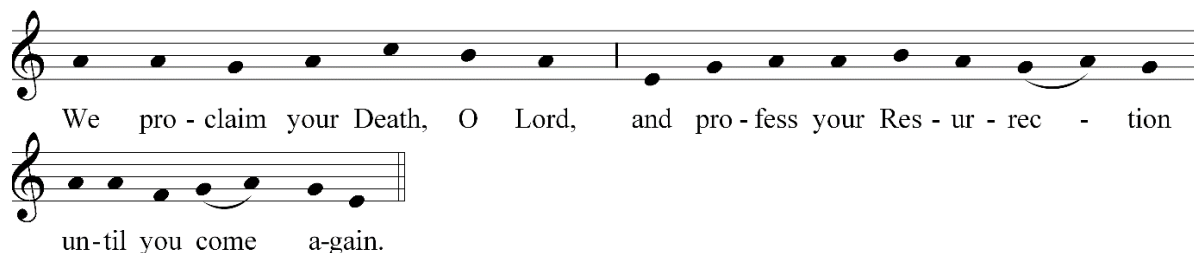
READING

PRAYER

Presider: As Christians, we are called to live in the world and not apart from it. Our call to be holy means that we have to rise above the standards our culture sets for us. In talking about social and racial justice, we must rise above the harmful language or actions that contribute to racism. May we grow increasingly comfortable talking about diversity. May we take the time to appreciate or learn about a culture that is not our own. In our response to the call to combat racism and embrace the beauty of our differences, we honor the dignity of all human life.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the fourth station, all join in singing:

**Ever patient in her yearning,
Though her tear-filled eyes were burning,
Mary gazed upon her Son.**



FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his mother

*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Abortion***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

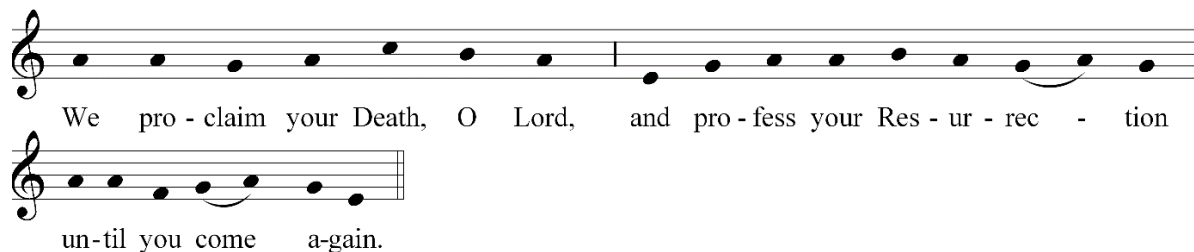
READING

PRAYER

Presider: As Jesus walks towards Golgotha, he encounters his mother. We can only imagine the pain that she feels as she watches her only son walk to his death. There is a connection between mother and child that is sacred and foundational, making this moment in Jesus' journey all the more poignant. In our own society, women are often faced with unplanned pregnancies and insufficient resources. As we walk this journey with Jesus, we ask ourselves how we can support women in their time of need in order to protect and foster the dignity of both the mother's life, and the life that she carries.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the fifth station, all join in singing:

**Who, that sorrow contemplating,
On that passion meditating,
Would not share the Virgin's grief?**

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Solidarity***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READING

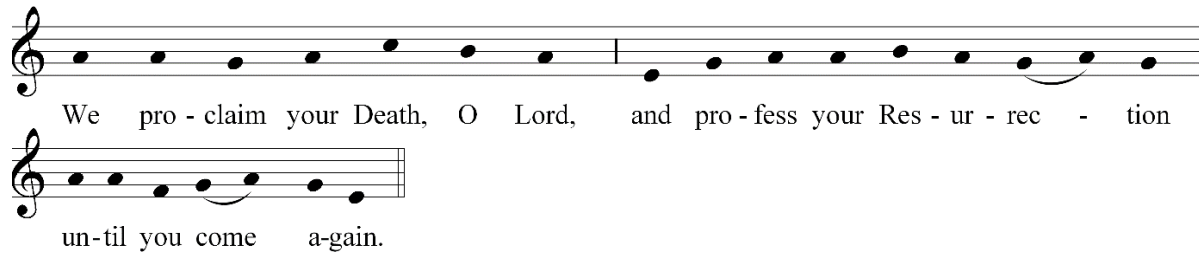
PRAYER

Presider: Simon gives us an example of service on behalf of others. As followers of Jesus we are called to bestow our bread on the hungry, help the afflicted, and work to remove from our society oppression, false accusations, and hateful speech. The works of justice and mercy teach us about loving others unselfishly and accepting responsibility for them.

Let us commit ourselves to act in solidarity with those who are poor, with those who are victimized by unjust systems, with those who have food insecurity, with those who experience homelessness, and with those whom society treats as outcasts. Many 'Simons' must respond to meet the pressing human needs in shelters, soup kitchens, houses of hospitality, hospices, and places of sanctuary. May God help us overcome any reluctance to associate with those who struggle without basic human needs. And may God help us choose compassion over personal convenience; and self-sacrifice over selfishness.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the sixth station, all join in singing:

**Christ she saw, for our salvation, Scourged
with cruel acclamation, Bruised and beaten
by the rod.**

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Related Catholic Social Teaching | Restorative Justice and the Prison-Industrial Complex

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

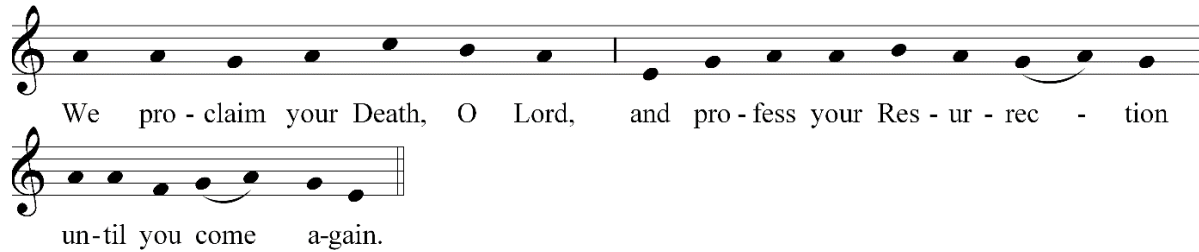
READING

PRAYER

Presider: As Jesus continues on, he is met by a woman named Veronica. There is nothing that Veronica can do to stop Jesus' execution from moving forward, so she does something simple, honest, and vulnerable. She steps out of the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from his face. Her simple gesture is remembered because she recognized Jesus' dignity when so many others did not. Sometimes we feel that we cannot do anything to impact larger social change. A major issue facing our country is the prison-industrial complex. The prison-industrial complex refers to the intersection of government and industry that profit from and use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social, and political problems. May we recognize that these actions are not solutions because they do not seek the betterment of the human person. May we, like Veronica, take small actions to help restore the dignity of each and every human person. And may our small actions lead to larger ones that can challenge unjust systems that find profit in the imprisonment of persons.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the seventh station, all join in singing:

**Christ she saw with life-blood failing,
All her anguish unavailing,
Saw him breathe his very last.**

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls for the second time



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **The Marginalized in Society***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

READING

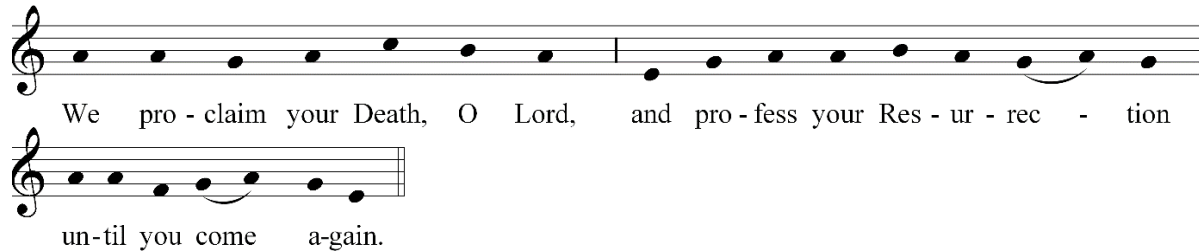
PRAYER

Presider: So many of our siblings fall again and again under the burdens of our society. We have names and categories for them: alcoholics, addicts, abusers. It's so easy to see them as problems rather than persons with individual stories. We tend to forget how many are victims of our failed educational, economic, and legal systems; scapegoats of racism, sexism, and intolerance.

Let us never underestimate how God can work through our hands; how God can speak in the words of modern-day prophets whose words and actions resonate with God's heart for justice. Let us commit ourselves to persevere in this work and to be agents of God's desire for the transformation of society.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the eighth station, all join in singing:

**Mary, fount of love's devotion,
Let me share with true emotion
All the sorrow you endured.**

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Women's Rights***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READING

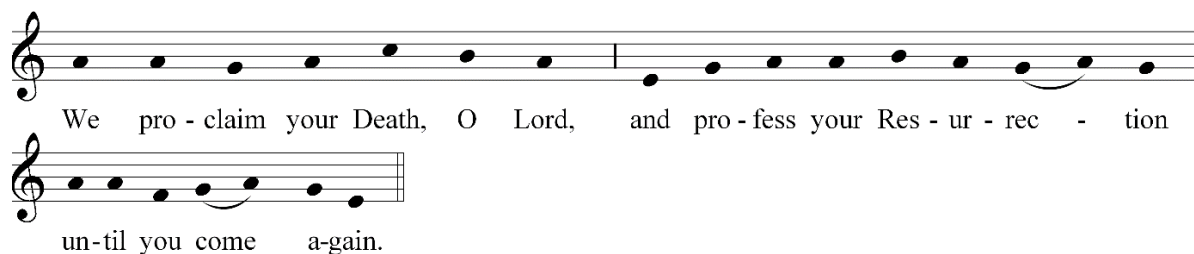
PRAYER

Presider: Whenever we neglect to treat women as equal to men, we are sinning against social justice. The unequal distribution of pay between men and women, the accessibility issues around the world, and the continued exploitation of women is *our* issue. May we and may our society continue to grow in our understanding that other individuals are not objects for our own use but are beloved manifestations of God, created in God's own image.

May God our mother and God our sister help us to recognize the importance of the work women do and may our society value the lives and the contributions of women.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the ninth station, all join in singing:

**Virgin, ever interceding,
Hear me in my fervent pleading:
Fire me with your love of Christ.**

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls for the third time



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Human Trafficking***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READING

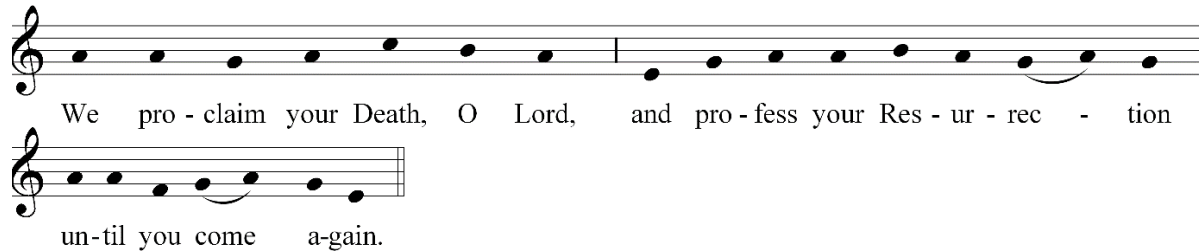
PRAYER

Presider: As Jesus neared the end of the way, he was tired, afraid and had little strength left. It is when we are vulnerable that we are most likely to fall. How difficult it is to struggle to our feet and begin again. The world knows this and tries to subjugate men and women who stand against injustice. Kidnapping, torture, and illegal imprisonment are all ways to subject bodies and destroy spirits.

After falling a third time, Jesus got up to face his fate and confront his executioners. May we avoid the temptation to look the other way when our siblings around the world fall victim to the evils of human trafficking today. We pray that God helps transform our hearts so that we may be moved to compassion and heed the call to action in our commitment to the freedom and hope of all people.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the tenth station, all join in singing:

**Mother, may this prayer be granted:
That Christ's love may be implanted in the depths of
my poor soul.**

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of his garments



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **The Rights of Those Who Are Financially Insecure***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READING

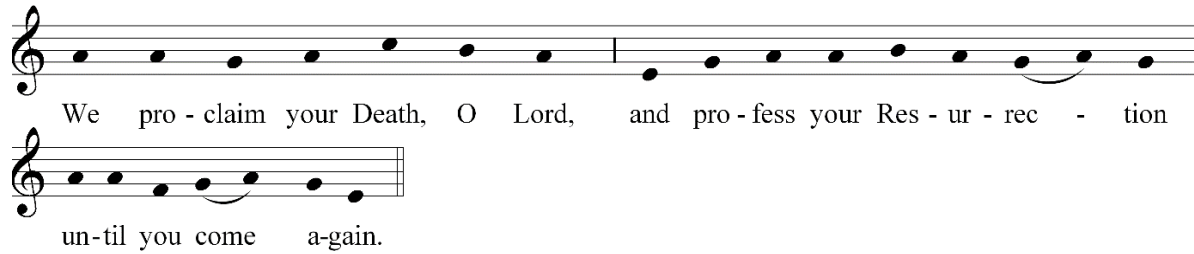
PRAYER

Presider: Jesus came into a broken world so that he might show us how to fix it. Only through God's love and mercy will we ever to see a world in which poverty does not exist. Until that time, however, we must do all that is in our power to combat the forces that push people farther and farther down until they do not have anything left. When we see an unhoused person walking down Mass Ave., are we annoyed? Are we embarrassed? Or do we see the face of Christ? Do we feel compassion in our hearts, or do we find ourselves walking faster?

Lord, take away our anxieties and our fears about meeting the poorest in our community. Bring our hearts closer to you through bringing us closer to your people. Mend the lives of those who continue to remain in the vicious cycle of poverty. Let us be agents for change as we encounter the poor in our midst.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the eleventh station, all join in singing:

**At the cross, your sorrow sharing,
All your grief and torment bearing,
Let me stand and mourn with you.**

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is crucified



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **The Call to Nonviolence***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

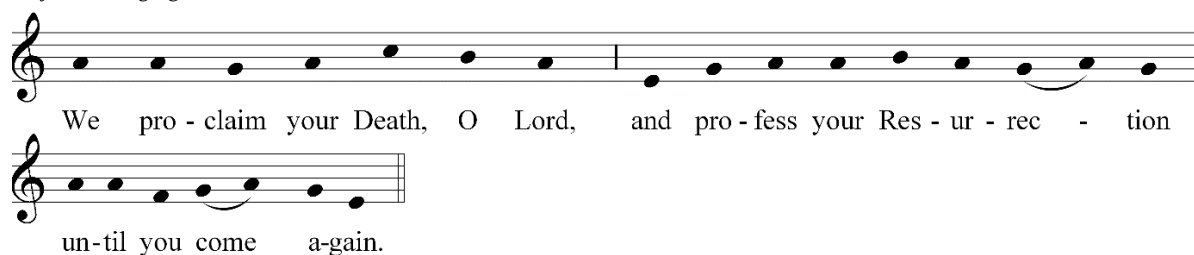
READING

PRAYER

Presider: At the end of his earthly life, Jesus experienced the force of violence, the power of fear, and the domination of those intent on destroying him. But through everything, Jesus remained committed to living in obedience to God, even as he faced the cross and execution. With Jesus as our example, let us resolve to keep the nonviolent Jesus as our example. Whenever we fall by giving into hatred, revenge, and injustice, may we have the fortitude to rise again and recommit ourselves to being people of peace and love.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the twelfth station, all join in singing:

**Fairest maid of all creation,
Queen of hope and consolation,
Let me feel your grief sublime.**

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the cross



*Related Catholic Social Teaching | **Religious Liberty***

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READING

PRAYER

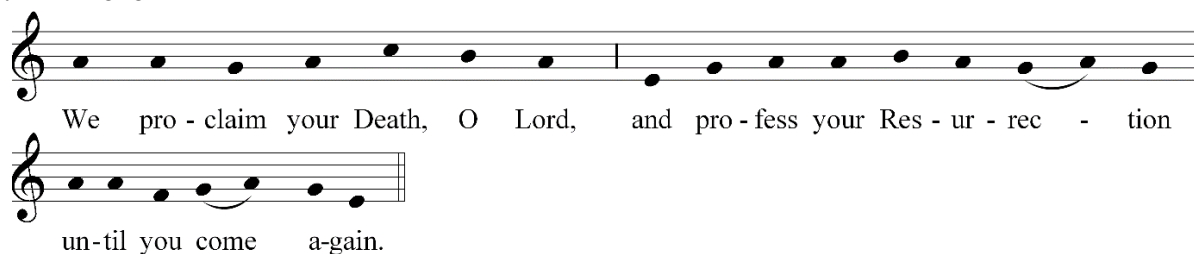
Presider: It's done. It is finished. But exactly what is over? Certainly not the life of Jesus, not his promise of the victory of justice and peace and freedom. No, instead, the reign of God is just beginning.

What is done and finished is the reign of destruction, violence, sin, and death. Now the peace of God reigns. If we want to be peacemakers, Jesus shows us that in being stretched between two enemies we can become reconcilers—transforming enmity into love, and adversaries into friends. Peace comes through nonviolently resisting injustice.

O God, into your hands we commend our lives. Incarnate in us the peace of Christ.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the thirteenth station, all join in singing:

**Virgin, in your love befriend me,
At the judgment day defend me.
Help me by your constant prayer.**

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is taken down from the cross



Related Catholic Social Teaching | End of Life Care

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

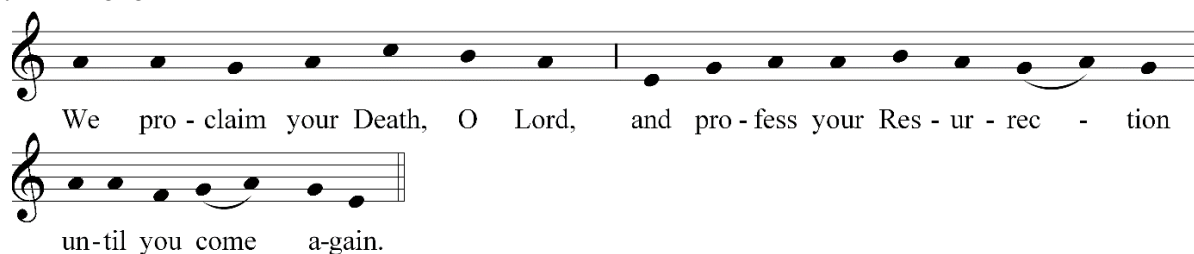
READING

PRAYER

Presider: Jesus was beaten and bruised, whipped and scourged, until just moments before his death. How do we treat those who are approaching death in our society? What types of messages does our society send to those nearing life's end? May God help us to know that our lives are made to be holy—right up until the moment of natural death.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows. All stand. As we move to the fourteenth station, all join in singing:

**Savior, when my life shall leave me,
Through your mother's prayers receive me
With the fruits of victory.**

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb



Related Catholic Social Teaching | Environmental Rights

Presider: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

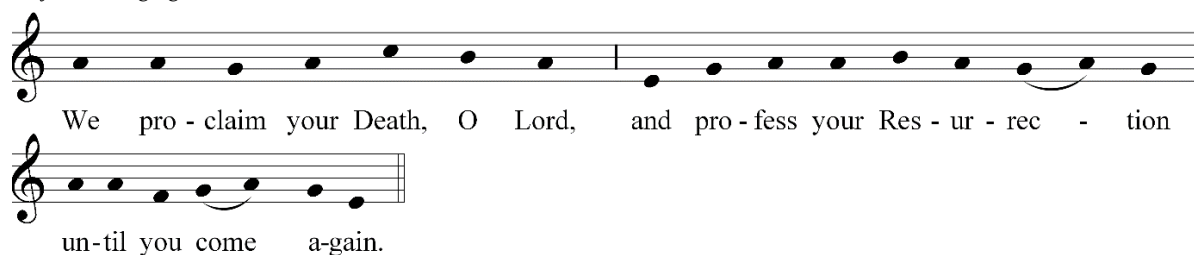
READING

PRAYER

Presider: As we commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus, may we grow in our desire to be stewards of God's creation and signs of hope and peace in the world, and may we always give God glory by our lives.

All: Amen.

All join in singing:



Those who are able are invited to kneel in silence. A prayer follows.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we believe that Jesus came into this world to show us how to live and to offer us an opportunity to live with love and justice in ways that would repair us and our broken world.

On this day when we commemorate the crucifixion, we pause to consider all the ways that we are hanging on to our brokenness. Ways that we participate in suffering. And the ways that we perpetuate the crucifixion.

As the Body of Christ now on earth, we are both crucifiers and crucified. As humanity suffers; and as our earth suffers, we, the Body of Christ suffer, too.

As we recall the suffering and death of your Son, may we be conscious of the brokenness that still exists in this world, the signs of hope that surround us, and our responsibility to finish the work of bringing the kingdom to fruition.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

CLOSING SONG | Were You There

African-American Spiritual



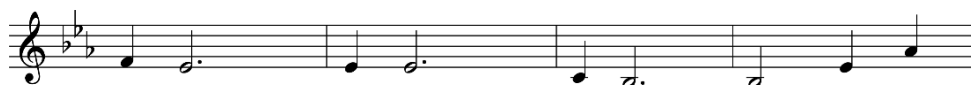
1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
6. Were you there when they rolled the stone a - way?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they rolled the stone a - way?



Oh! Some-times it caus - es me to



trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble, Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
there when they nailed him to the tree?
there when they pierced him in the side?
there when the sun re - fused to shine?
there when they laid him in the tomb?
there when they rolled the stone a - way?