

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



THE WAY OF THE CROSS
A SERVICE OF LAMENT AND
REPENTANCE FOR THE
SLAVE TRADE

INTRODUCTION

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe
Bishop of Central New York and President of Province II

INVITATION

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Bishop of Central New York and President of Province II

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Presider In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Lord, have mercy.

All 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 those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Presider We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

People **In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

STATION 1

Presider We begin at the First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Presider God did not spare his own Son:
People **But delivered him up for us all.**

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of Albany for a prayer and reflection for this station.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 2

Presider The Second Station, Jesus takes up his cross
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

People The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Presider We turn now to the people of the Diocese of Central New York for a prayer and reflection for this station.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 3

Presider Ahora nos dirigimos a la gente de la Episcopal Diócesis de Cuba para la tercera estación.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 4

Presider The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his afflicted mother.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

People A sword will pierce your own soul also:
And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Presider We turn now to the people of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe for a prayer and reflection.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 5

Presider We turn now to Fr. Nathanael Saint-Pierre, who will present the fifth station on behalf of the people of the Diocese of Haiti.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 6

Presider The Sixth Station: A woman wipes the face of Jesus
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Presider Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:
People **Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of Long Island for a prayer and reflection.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 7

Presider The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

People But as for me, I am a worm and no man:
Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of Newark for a reflection and prayer.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 8

Presider The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

People Those who sowed with tears:
Will reap with songs of joy.

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of New Jersey for a reflection and prayer.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 9

Presider We turn now to the people of the Diocese of New York for Station 9.



Presider Almighty and everlasting God, whose blessed Son, Jesus falls for the third time. Let us bear witness to the weight, the damages, and the cruelty of the cross. Mercifully help us to see the cruelty of the world through Christ's suffering and humiliation. We confess to the societal cruelty and dehumanization of the Slave trade. We repent for the systematic evil of slavery, and the suffering brought upon enslaved people, here in the United States and throughout the world. Purify our hearts, to recognize the pain, lament it, and repent. Awaken our conscience to the indifference and ignorance to their suffering, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 10

Presider Ahora nos dirigimos a la gente de la Iglesia Episcopal Diócesis de Puerto Rico para la décima estación.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 11

Presider The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Presider When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

People They pierce my hands and my feet:
They stare and gloat over me.

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of Rochester for a reflection and prayer.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 12

Presider The Twelfth Station, Jesus Dies on the Cross
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

People Christ for us became obedient unto death:
Even death on a cross.

Presider We turn now to the Diocese of the Virgin Islands for a reflection and prayer.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 13

Presider We turn now to the Partnership of the Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania for the thirteenth station.



All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

STATION 14

Presider The Fourteenth Station, Jesus is Laid in the Tomb
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

People You will not abandon me to the grave:
Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Presider Let us pray
O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day, but so many of your children who have been the victims of the slave trade and of ongoing racial oppression and violence were given no dignified resting place and no holy rest: Grant that we who have been buried with Jesus in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in God's eternal and glorious kingdom and that, through your grace to guide and strengthen us, we may work for the dignity of all human beings and for the sacred rest and wellbeing of all your children and your whole world; and, in the fullness of time, grant that we may all join hands as your family in your new heaven and new earth where sin and dehumanization no longer divide and desecrate and where you, your Son our Savior, and your Holy Spirit live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS AT THE ALTAR

Presider Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

People **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

Presider

Let us pray.

We thank you loving God, for helping us to see and reveal the sin and death that has afflicted us, and that we have afflicted on others. By his life and death, we too have walked our way of the cross that leads us to your forgiveness and the Love of Jesus. By the guidance and sanctification of the Holy Spirit we can turn to the Way of Love, repenting of the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf, and follow Jesus toward reconciliation with all your beloved people and your Creation. That our ministry and mission as the Church of today and tomorrow will be to share the eternal joys of your everlasting love for all your people, forgiven, healed and renewed as we are called to lives lived in respect and unity with you, as we walk the journey of becoming beloved community. **Amen.**

People

Let us go forth, redeemed by God's grace and empowered for the work God has given us to do.
Thanks be to God. Gracias a Dios. Mèsi Bondye.



This worship program will be re-released as a full transcript of today's service and, when they are completed, translations of the service in its entirety will be released in both Latin American Spanish and Haitian Creole. Stay tuned to the Province II website and social media channels for these resources.



Since 2018, faithful people in Province II have been prayerfully working on this liturgy. The prayers and reflections that we included were prepared by each diocese of convocation. Our deepest thanks to all who contributed to and made this liturgy possible.