

The Way of the Cross



“If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”
Mark 8:34

**Welcome to the Way of the Cross
at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**

The Way of the Cross (also known as the Stations of the Cross) developed from a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem; the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with Jesus’ passion and death. The first record of this practice dates to the late fourth century.

The number of stations varied widely at first but later became fixed on fourteen, eight of which are based directly on events recorded in the gospel. The remaining six stations are based on sacred tradition or inferences from the gospel.

St. Philip’s has used the traditional fourteen stations. The stations begin near the front door of the church, follow a path along the front of the church, and conclude inside the columbarium. Each station has a plaque depicting a particular event of Jesus’ final hours.

The Way of the Cross at St. Philip’s is an offering to Uvalde, intended for and open to everyone. The stations of the cross are open and available all the time. Each station is lit at night. The stations may be used by individuals or groups.

There are many different devotional formats for praying the stations of the cross and no one way is the only way or the right way. Feel free to use any devotion that is meaningful to you or even to create your own.

This booklet contains two devotionals for praying and walking the Way of the Cross: 1) The Way of the Cross¹, a traditional devotion with a reading and prayers associated with each station; and 2) a private meditation² with a brief thought about each station.

The Way of the Cross4
A Private Meditation on the Stations of the Cross21

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2. Material excerpted from St. Augustine’s Prayer Book, Copyright 2014 Forward Movement. Used by permission.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or if we may ever be of assistance.

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The Way of the Cross

Opening Devotions	5
Second Station - Jesus takes up his Cross	7
Third Station - Jesus falls the first time	8
Fourth Station - Jesus meets his afflicted mother	9
Fifth Station - The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene	10
Sixth Station - A woman wipes the face of Jesus	11
Seventh Station - Jesus falls a second time	12
Eighth Station - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem	13
Ninth Station - Jesus falls a third time	14
Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of his garments	15
Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the Cross	16
Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the Cross	17
Thirteenth Station - The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother	18
Fourteenth Station - Jesus is laid in the tomb	19
Concluding Prayers	20

Opening Devotions

(The opening devotions may be said in the church or at the first station.)

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

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

R. In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

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.*

I.

First Station - Jesus is condemned to death

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

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.

V. God did not spare his own Son:
R. But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

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



II.

Second Station - Jesus takes up his Cross

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

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.

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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



III.

Third Station - Jesus falls the first time

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

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

V. Surely he has borne our griefs:
R. And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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



IV.

Fourth Station - Jesus meets his afflicted mother

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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.

V. A sword will pierce your own soul also:

R. And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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



V.

Fifth Station - The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

V. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

R. Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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



VI.

Sixth Station - A woman wipes the face of Jesus

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

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.

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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



VII.

Seventh Station - Jesus falls a second time

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

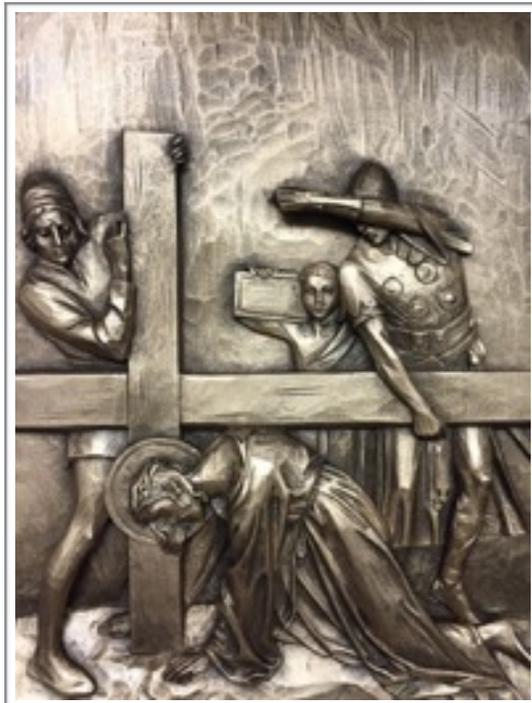
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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



VIII.

Eighth Station - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

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.”

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children’s children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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



IX.

Ninth Station - Jesus falls a third time

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

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. "Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!"

V. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:
R. And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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



X.

Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of his garments

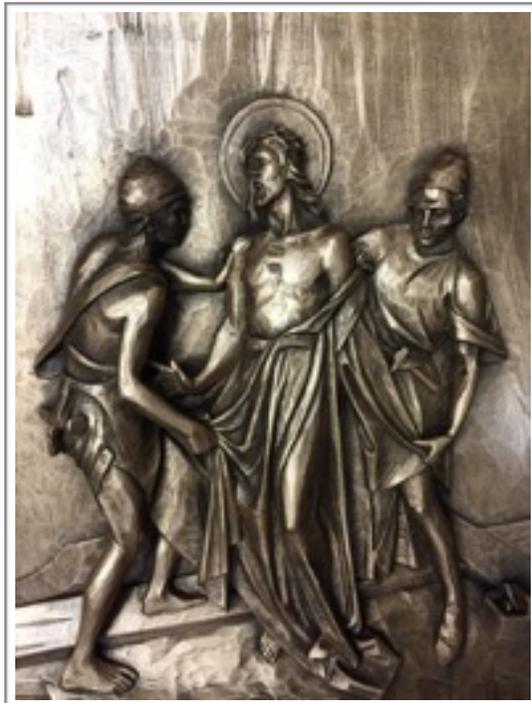
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

V. They gave me gall to eat:
R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)
Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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



XI.

Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the Cross

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

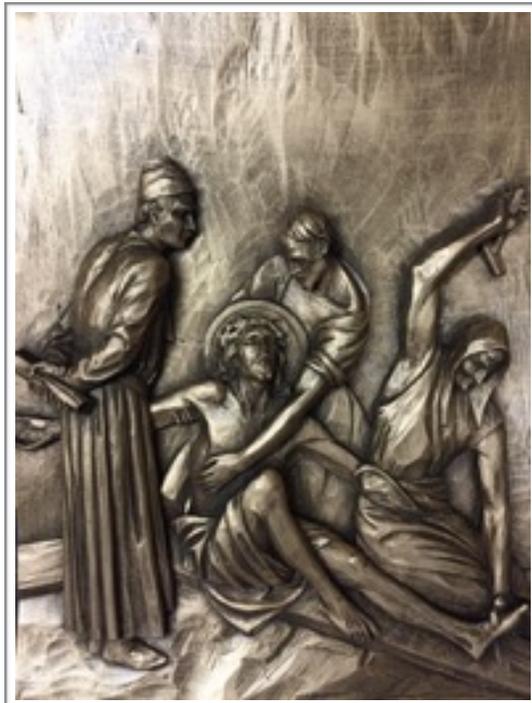
When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.
Amen.

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



XII.

Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the Cross

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

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.

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

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



XIII.

Thirteenth Station - The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

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

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

V. Her tears run down her cheeks:
R. And she has none to comfort her.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.*

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



XIV.

Fourteenth Station - Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

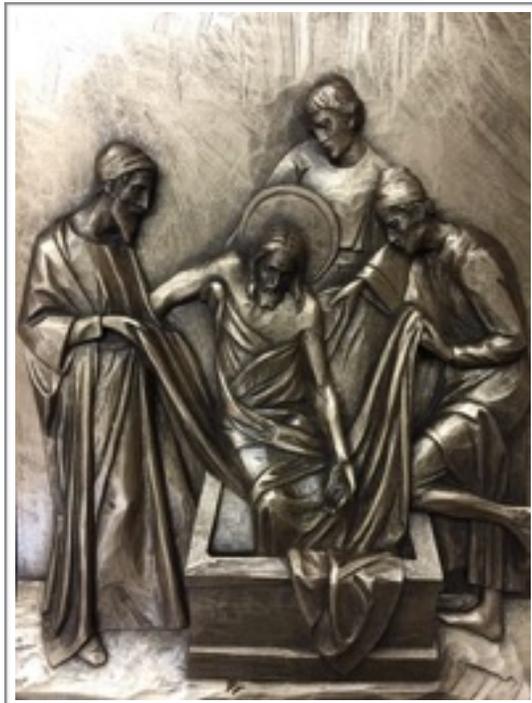
When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which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

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

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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



Concluding Prayers

(Concluding prayers may be said at the last station or in the church.)

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*



You may keep this booklet. If you prefer not to please place it in the box at station fourteen.

Thank you for visiting and praying the Stations of the Cross at St. Philip's.

A Private Meditation on the Stations of the Cross

First Station - Jesus is condemned to death.....	22
Second Station - Jesus takes up his cross	22
Third Station - Jesus falls the first time.....	22
Fourth Station - Jesus encounters his mother	22
Fifth Station - The cross is laid on Simon	23
Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus	23
Seventh Station - Jesus falls the second time	23
Eighth Station - The women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus	24
Ninth Station - Jesus falls a third time.....	24
Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of his clothes	24
Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the cross	24
Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the cross	24
Thirteenth Station - The body is taken down from the cross and laid in the arms of Mary	25
Fourteenth Station - The body is buried in the tomb.....	25

I.

First Station - Jesus is condemned to death

Judas said, “The one I kiss is the man.” Peter said, “I do not know the man.” The crowd said, “We have no king but Caesar.” And so, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

II.

Second Station - Jesus takes up his cross

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great sufferings. And Peter said, “God forbid it, Lord. This must never happen to you.” Jesus said, “If any want to be my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

III.

Third Station - Jesus falls the first time

Jesus said, “I am deeply grieved, even to death...remain here and watch with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

IV.

Fourth Station - Jesus encounters his mother

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword shall pierce your own should also.”

V.

Fifth Station - The cross is laid on Simon

Jesus saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea and said to them, "Follow me."

Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me."

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Many women were there also, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him.

VI.

Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

As you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me

VII.

Seventh Station - Jesus falls the second time

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

VIII.

Eighth Station - The women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion...but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph. The elder daughters of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; the young girls of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

IX.

Ninth Station - Jesus falls a third time

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength...God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

X.

Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of his clothes

He did not think equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking human form, and being found in human form, he became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

XI.

Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the cross

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

XII.

Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the cross

I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

XIII.

Thirteenth Station - The body is taken down from the cross and laid in the arms of Mary

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

XIV.

Fourteenth Station - The body is buried in the tomb

Joseph of Arimathea took the body down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.



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Holy Eucharist
Thursday at 12:10 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer
Monday through Thursday at 7:30 a.m.