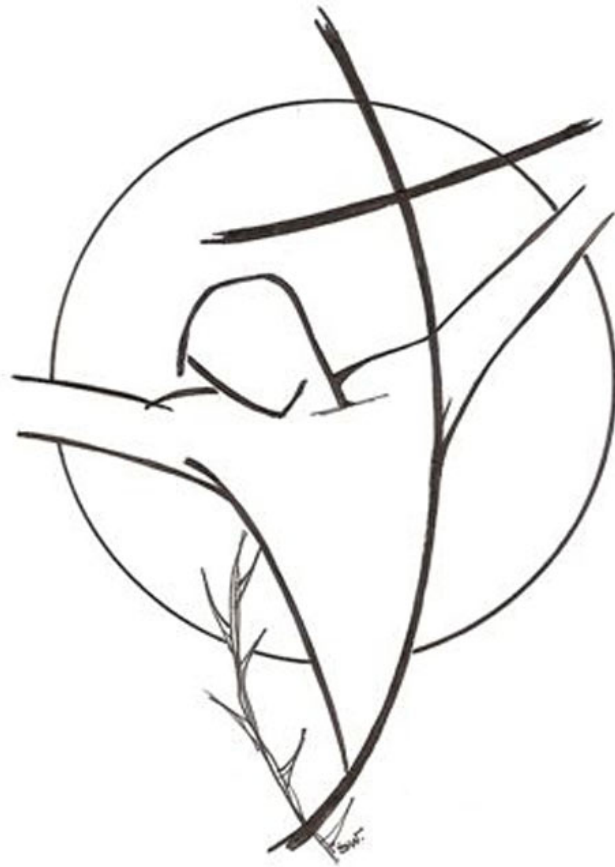


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Good Friday

March 29th, 2024



Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.

Streaming

Our principal services are streamed to YouTube. We strive to minimize individuals' appearances on camera.

Gathering

Silence

We continue to keep the great silence that began last night as the church was stripped.

Silent Procession

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.

Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned
in thought and word and deed;
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We pray you of your mercy,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and given into the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Opening Devotions

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.

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:
in whom is our salvation, our life, and our resurrection.

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.

Jesus, Remember Me ²

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me
when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me
when you come in - to your king - dom.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first two staves form the first line of the song, and the last two staves form the second line, which ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.



The First Station:
Jesus in agony
in the Garden of Gethsemane

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.’ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’

Mark 14.32—36

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear and faced the agony of your impending death: be with those who share that agony and face death unwillingly this day. You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity: give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing. To you, Jesus, who sweated blood, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Second Station:
Jesus betrayed by Judas
and arrested

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



A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. *Mark 14.43—46*

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend: be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused. You knew the experience of having your love thrown back in your face for mere silver: be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation. To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Third Station:
Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ‘We heard him say, “I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands”.’ But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, ‘Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?’ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, ‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?’ Jesus said, ‘I am; and “you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power”, and “coming with the clouds of heaven”.’ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?’ All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Mark 14.55—64

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry: be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority. You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts: deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the experience and wisdom of others. To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Fourth Station:
Peter denies Jesus

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



A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.

Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept. *Mark 14.72*

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you, you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied: be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society. You understood the fear within Peter: help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future. To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Fifth Station:
Jesus judged by Pilate

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

Pilate asked them, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him!’ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15.14-15

Silent Prayer

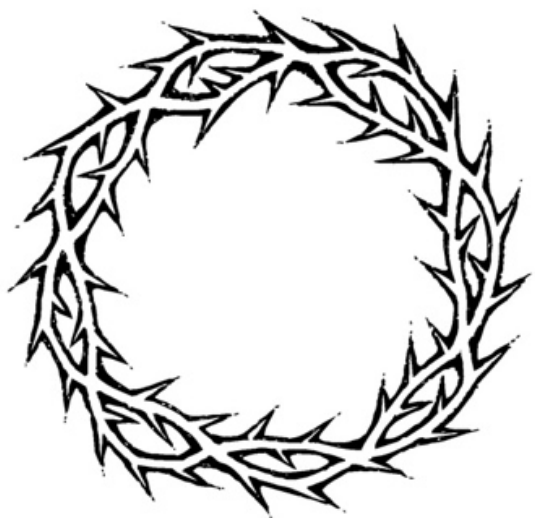
Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency: be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice: change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace. To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Sixth Station:
Jesus scourged
and crowned with thorns

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

Mark 15.17—19

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue: be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress. You endured unbearable abuse: be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today. To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

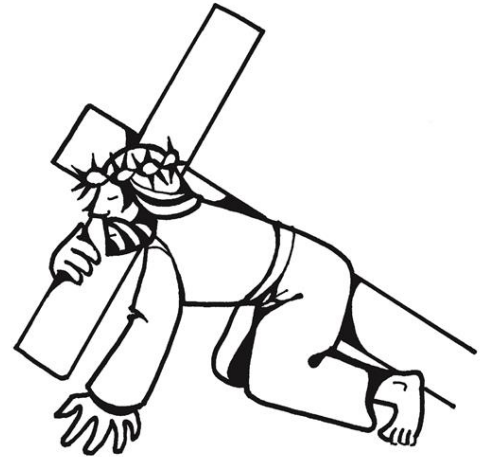
Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Seventh Station:
Jesus carries the cross

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



A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Mark 15.20

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem: be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength. You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross: help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us. To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Eighth Station:
Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus
to carry the cross

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Mark 15.21

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue: be with those from whom life drains all energy. You needed the help of a passing stranger: give us the humility to receive aid from others. To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Ninth 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.**

A reading from the gospel according to
Luke.



A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.” For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?’

Luke 23.27-31

Silent Prayer

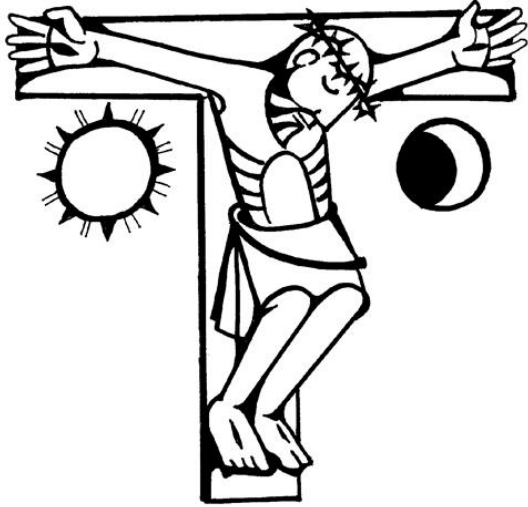
Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you: move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world. You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the ‘city of peace’: bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace. To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Tenth Station:
Jesus is crucified

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Mark 15.24

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh:
transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer. To
you, Jesus, our crucified Lord, be honour and glory with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

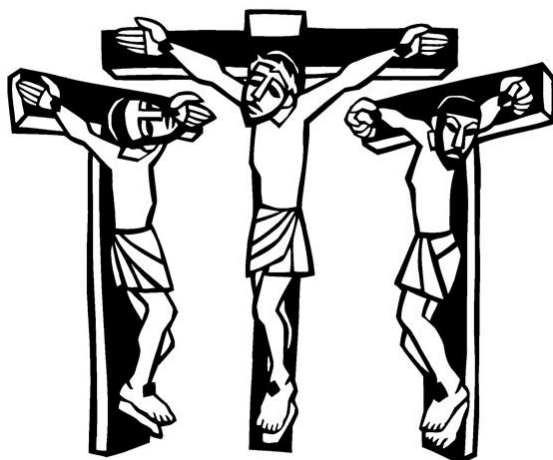
Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Eleventh Station:
Jesus promises the kingdom
to the penitent thief

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



A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

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

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief: hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears. You spoke words of love in your hour of death: help us to speak words of life to a dying world. To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Twelfth Station:
Jesus on the cross;
his mother and his friend

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

A reading from the gospel according to John.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

John 19.26, 27

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end, yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them: be with all broken families today and care for those who long for companionship. You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes: give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of death. To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

The Thirteenth 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.

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, '*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15.34—37

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross and entered the bleakest of all circumstances: give courage to those who die at the hands of others. In death you entered into the darkest place of all: illumine our darkness with your glorious presence. To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)



The Fourteenth Station:
Jesus laid in the tomb

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

A reading from the gospel according to Mark.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mark 15.46

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us: be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes. You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight: be with all who suffer and die in secret, hidden from the eyes of the world. To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

(repeats)

Meditation on the Cross of Jesus

In silence, interspersed with the following responsories, we meditate on the cross of Christ. All are welcome to come forward to offer reverence to God as we respond to the love that is poured out for us and all the world. Some may touch or kiss the cross; others may kneel; others might bow their heads and pause in its presence. Offer your reverence in the manner to which you are moved.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

O my people, O my Church, What have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counsellor. I pray that all may be as one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

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

Holy Communion

Hymn of Procession of the Blessed Sacrament #202

There Is a Green Hill Far Away³

During the hymn, the consecrated elements of the eucharist are returned from altar of repose in the chapel to the altar in the sanctuary.

**There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father

**in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

**who are 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

Communion

The gifts of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept as we receive communion this day.

Almighty and eternal God,
**you have restored us to life
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.
Continue this healing work within us.
May we who partake of this mystery
never cease to give you dedicated service.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The service ends with the following prayer.
No blessing or dismissal is added.*

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people
who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son
in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.
Grant them pardon; bring them comfort.
May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We depart in silence.

*Please refrain from speaking in the narthex or corridors for the sake of all
who choose to remain behind in the church or chapel for silent prayer.*

Our liturgy of the Great Three Days is not yet finished.

Sources

All of the prayers in the station are drawn from the Church of England's *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*.

All music is used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹ Text: Isaac Watts (1674—1748). Music: *Melody Psalmody in Miniature*, Second Supplement, 1780?

² Text: Luke 23.42. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923—94). Music © 1978, 1980, and 1981 Les Presses de Taizé.

³ Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818—95). Music: William Horsley (1774—1858).

⁴ *The Book of Alternative Services*.