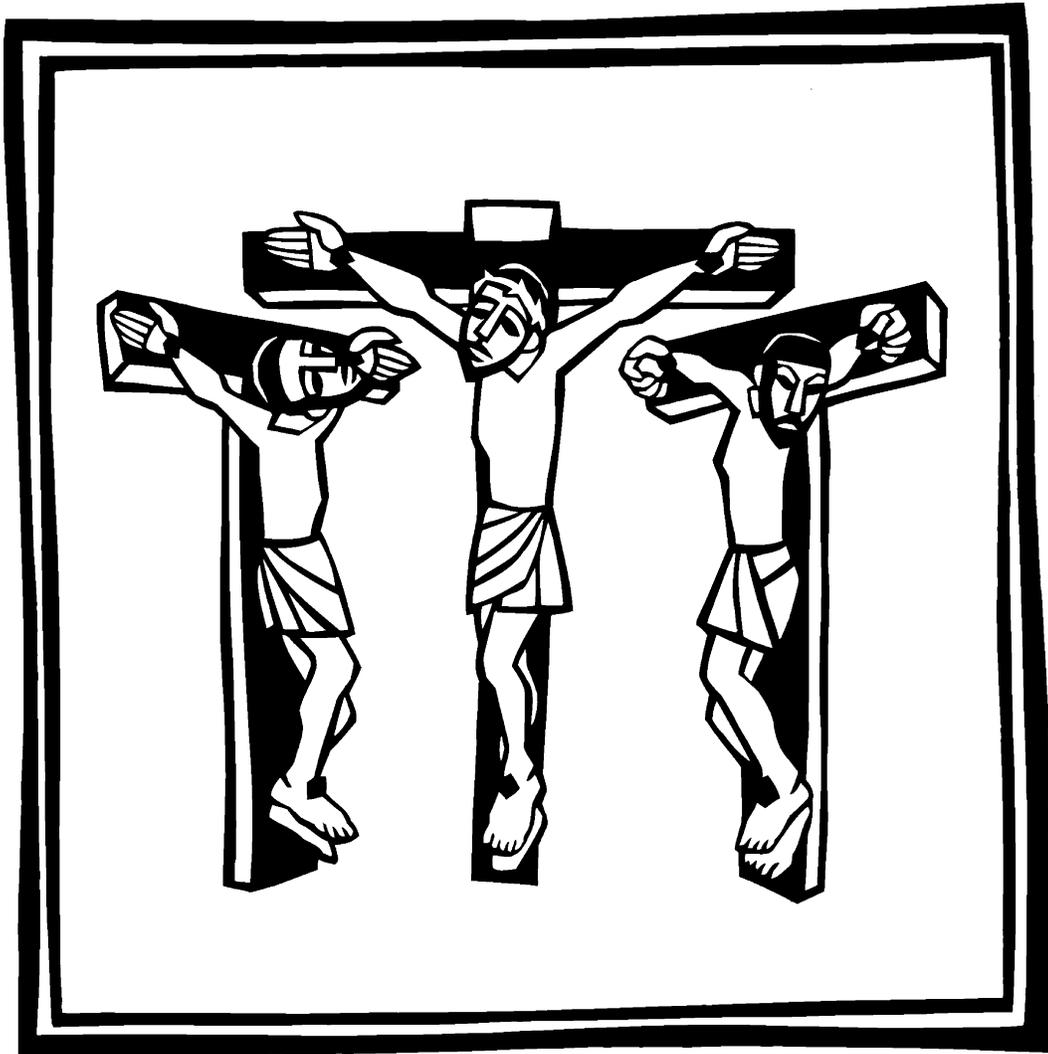


**The Episcopal Church of
St. James the Apostle
Paso Robles, California**

Our Mission

**St. James is a community centered on the love of Jesus,
focusing on inclusion, spiritual growth, and service.**



**The Liturgy of Holy Friday
3 April 2026
Noon and 7:00 PM**

Good Friday Liturgy

The noon time service will begin with the Stations of the Cross. People of the congregation are invited to take turns reading the prayers at each station and to carry the cross between the stations. After we have completed the Stations of the Cross we will sit in silence for a short time before beginning the Good Friday Liturgy.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

On this day the ministers enter in silence.

All then stand or kneel for silent prayer, after which the Presider stands and begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.

Presider: Blessed be our God.
People: *For ever and ever. Amen.*
Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold 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.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹³See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 22

Remain seated.

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

⁸“He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

⁹Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

After the Holy Spirit says, ¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Silence may follow.

THE PASSION GOSPEL: John 18:1--19:42

The Passion Gospel may be read or chanted by lay persons. Specific roles may be assigned to different persons, the congregation taking the part of the crowd.

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (John 19:17) all stand.

Please refer to Passion Gospel handout.

Deacon: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS

All standing, the Deacon, or other person appointed, says to the people

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers

and the people whom they serve

For Lucinda, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese of El Camino Real

For all people of faith in this community

For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Priest

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Leader

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Priest

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Leader

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Priest

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Leader

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation

For those who have lost their faith

For those hardened by sin or indifference

For the contemptuous and the scornful

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Priest

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Deacon or leader

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

Priest

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

ENTRANCE OF THE CROSS

If desired, a wooden cross may now be brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.

The versicle and response is said three times.

Deacon: This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

People: *Come, let us worship*

After the ministers have revered the cross, you are invited to come forward to venerate the cross with any appropriate reverence: stand, kneel, touch it with your hand, or kiss it.

Music Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

ANTHEM 1

The people say the parts in italics

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
*and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come to the whole world.*

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.
*Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

*We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross
joy has come to the whole world.*

ANTHEM 2

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

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.
*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

ANTHEM 3

O Savior of the world,
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 forever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

The people come forward to receive Holy Communion from the reserve sacrament or to receive a Blessing

The Body of Christ, the Bread of heaven. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

FINAL PRAYER

The service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added. People leave in silence.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Ministers of the Liturgy

Noon Service

Presider
Deacon
Eucharistic Minister
Lector
Usher

The Rev. Russell Gordon
The Rev. Jim Arnold
Marilyn Gerber
Carol Hungerford
Jeanne Marsh



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1335 Oak Street, office: 514 14th Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-238-0819

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

Email office@saintjamespr.org Website: www.saintjamespr.org Facebook: [stjamespasorobles](https://www.facebook.com/stjamespasorobles)

The Rev. James Arnold, Deacon



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

From the Episcopal Book of Occasional Services

Opening Devotions

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

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Presider and People

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.

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

Presider: 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.

The procession goes to the First Station.

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.

Presider: 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.

Presider and the People

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

SECOND STATION

Jesus takes up his Cross

People:

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.

Presider

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.

Presider and People

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

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time

People:

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.

Presider: 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.

Presider and People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his afflicted mother

People:

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.

Presider: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

FIFTH STATION

The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

SIXTH STATION

A woman wipes the face of Jesus

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls a second time

People:

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 everyone 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.

Presider:

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty and ever living 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Presider and the People

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

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

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls a third time

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

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

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of his garments

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross

People:

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.

Presider:

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 forever. Amen.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

THIRTEENTH STATION

The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

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

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb

People:

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.

Presider:

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.

Presider and the People:

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

Presider and the People:

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.

Presider:

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 forever. 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.

Concerning the Service

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with us Lord's passion and death. The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these traditional stations, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels, with the remaining six based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend. In 1991, Pope John Paul II inaugurated a new set of fourteen stations, based strictly on events in the Gospels. The following form uses the same scriptural events, adding versicles drawn from scripture and collects drawn from The Book of Common Prayer, previous editions of the Book of Occasional Services, and new compositions.

This form is appropriate either as a public service or as a private devotion, particularly on the Fridays of Lent, but it should not displace the Proper Liturgy of Good Friday.

Traditionally, the stations are made before a series of plain wooden crosses placed along the walls of the church or in some other convenient place. With each cross there is sometimes associated a pictorial representation of the event being commemorated.

The hymn *Stabat Mater* (“At the cross her vigil keeping,” *The Hymnal* 1982, 158) has frequently been associated with this service, but is not an integral part of it. Selected stanzas of this hymn may appropriately be sung at the entrance of the ministers, and (after the opening devotions before the Altar) as the procession approaches the first station. In the form which follows, the Trisagion (“Holy God”) is the chant recommended as the procession goes from station to station. Alternatively, the Trisagion may be used to conclude each station, and stanzas of appropriate hymns sung as the procession moves. It is appropriate that all present take part in the procession. The procession should conclude at the altar, after the fourteenth station.

The presider at the service, whether clerical or lay, customarily leads the opening versicle at each station and reads the concluding Collect. The Readings (and the versicles which follow) are appropriately assigned to other persons.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

1335 Oak Street, office: 514 14th Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-238-0819

Email office@saintjamespr.org Website: www.saintjamespr.org