



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Good Friday
The Way of the Cross
April 7, 2023 – 5:30pm



A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF READINGS, HYMNS AND PRAYERS

Adapted from the Way of the Cross from This Far By Faith.

Our Stations of the Cross service will be an adaptation of a liturgy taken from the African American Lutheran Hymnal, “This Far By Faith.” Usually seen as a “Catholic” ritual of devotion, The Way of the Cross resonates with several aspects of African and African American Christian traditions: an association with struggle and suffering and the idea of pilgrimage and marching for justice. “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’” (Matthew 16:24).

In some communities, stations are made at significant locations in the immediate neighborhood where healing is needed and where associations between the contemporary struggles of life and the events of Christ’s suffering can be made. Examples include sites where crimes have occurred, abandoned buildings that reveal economic decay, or other places of human struggle that point to suffering and our need for healing. Our Stations will take place in the sanctuary where the extinguishing of candles and short readings will accompany music and prayers marking each of the stations.

We hope this evening’s prayers, readings, and hymns offers you the opportunity to reflect on the gift offered on this “Good Friday” and our call to follow the way of the cross. The ancient title for this day, celebrating the triumph of the cross, reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life.

OPENING PRAYERS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray...

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, forever and ever. Amen.

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

Let us pray.

Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Reader 1

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

The first candle is extinguished.

God did not spare his own Son,
but delivered him up for us all.



CONGREGATIONAL HYMN **Ah, Holy Jesus** (verses 1-2) ELW #349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

Reader 2

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

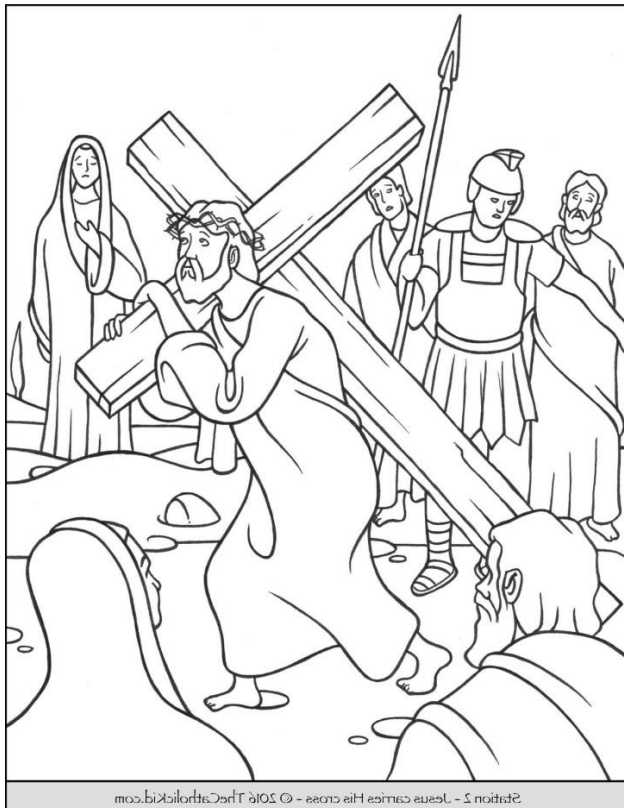
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 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. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing.

The second candle is extinguished.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

for the transgression of my people was he stricken.



CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless* ELW #357



Lamb of God, pure and sin - less, once on the cross an of - f'ring,



pa - tient, low - ly, guilt - less, for - sak - en in your suf - f'ring:



from sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.



- 1 Grant us your mer - cy, O Je - sus.
- 2 Grant us your mer - cy, O Je - sus.
- 3 Your peace be with us, O Je - sus. A - - - men.

Let us pray.

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 forever and ever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

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

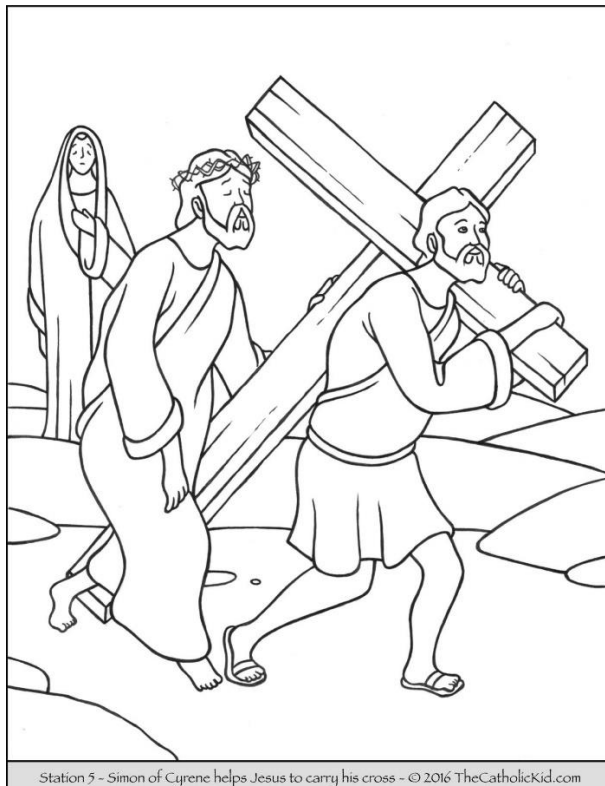
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take

up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The third candle is extinguished.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
cannot be my disciple.



CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* ELW #335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Let us pray.

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 and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Reader 4

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were 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."

The fourth candle is extinguished

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.





1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me,
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Let us pray.

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 and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Reader 5

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

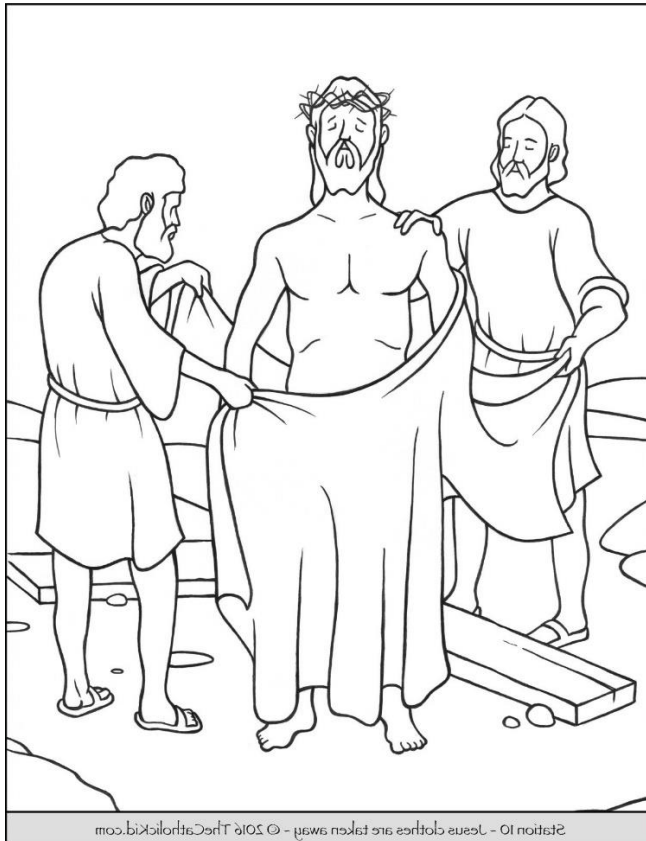
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

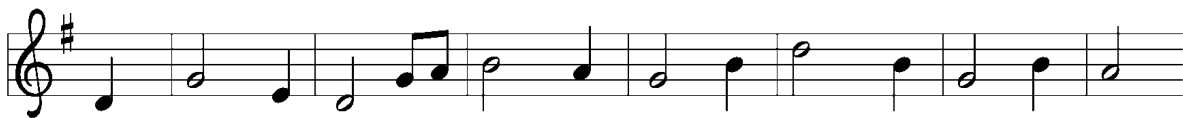
The fifth candle is extinguished.

They gave me gall to eat,

and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.



CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* ELW #337



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Let us pray.

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Reader 6

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

They pierce my hands and my feet;
they stare and gloat over me.





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



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

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



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

Let us pray.

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 and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

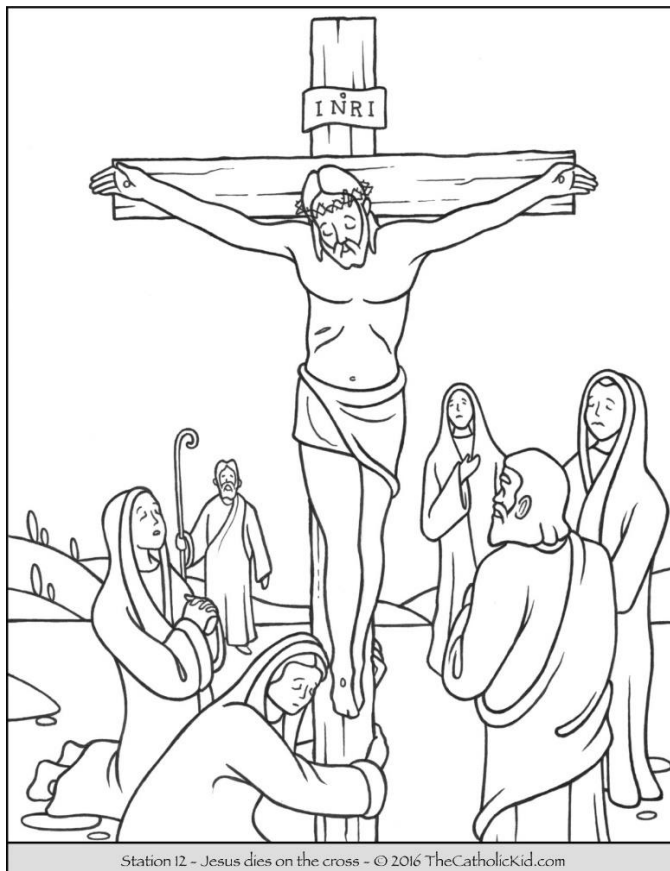
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, 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!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

Christ for us became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.





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



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

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



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

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Reader 8

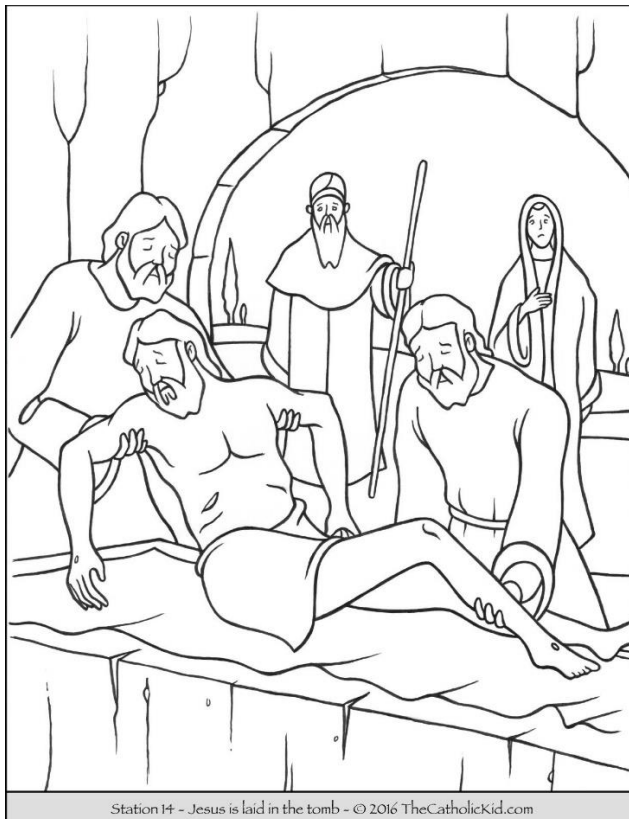
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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

The eighth candle is extinguished.

You will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see corruption.





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



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

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



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

Let us pray.

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 forever and ever.

Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

CONCLUSION

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.

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, 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 forever and ever.

Amen.

There is no Benediction all are asked to leave the sanctuary in silence and reflection as we begin the Vigil of Easter in preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection on Sunday. On either side of the altar is a basket of nails. As you leave the Sanctuary this evening you are invited to come forward to take a nail with you to carry with you for the final three days of our Lenten pilgrimage.

