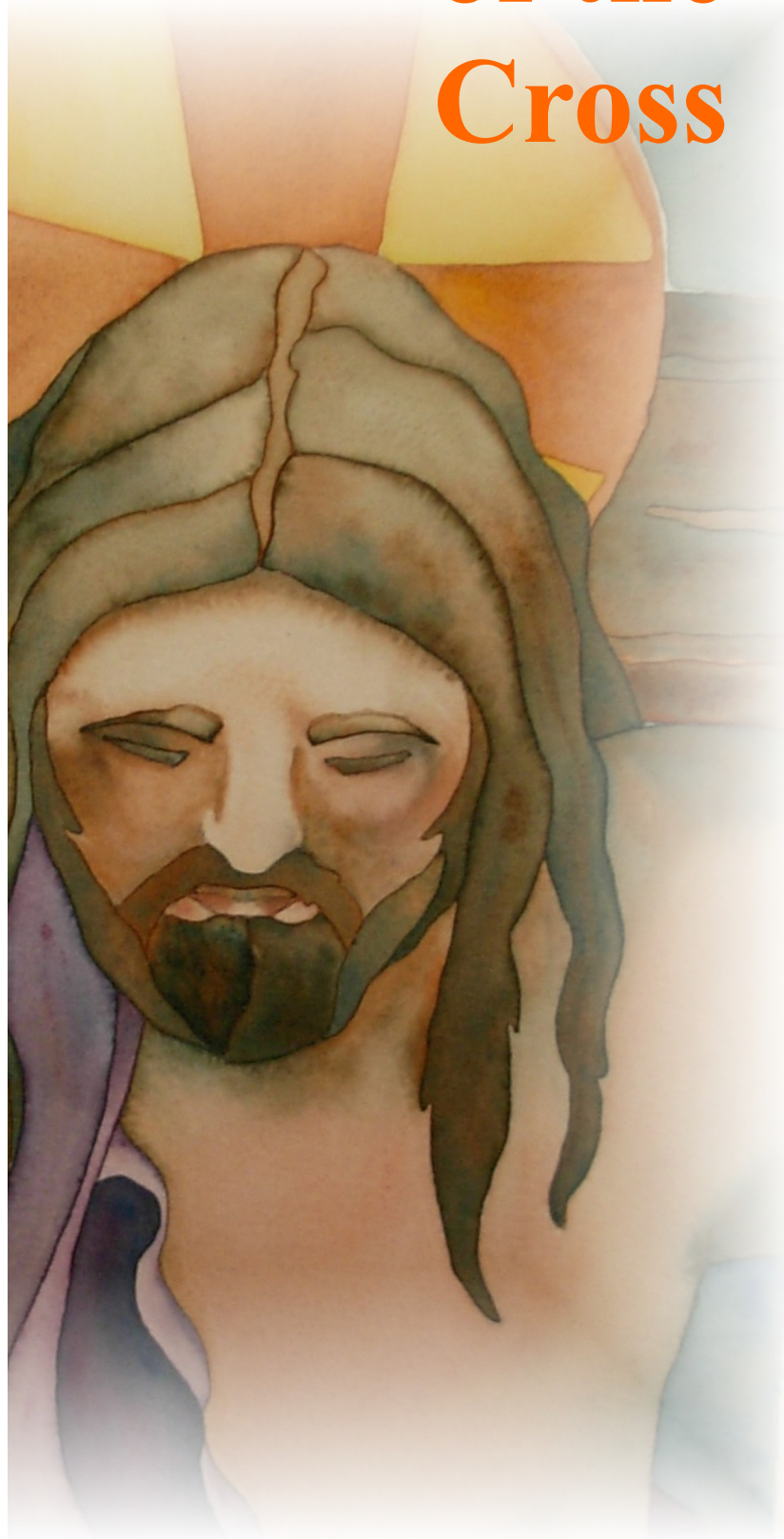


Walking the Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross Images:
Artist: Carolyn Gates

Designed for
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Forest Grove, OR 97116
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Prayers and Text from:
1979 Book of Common Prayer
The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible,
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Prayer Before the Stations

In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

R. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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

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

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 his cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.

After a period of silence, move to the first station.

own foolishness, sin, poor decisions, or caused by living in a broken world, are transformed through the suffering and risen body of Jesus.

Much of our cultural Christianity leaves us without a place deep enough to hold our human suffering and disappointments. We need to know that—

"There is no human pain or human joy that Jesus has not taken into himself... There is immense pain in the wide world around us; there is immense pain in the small world inside us. But all pain belongs to Jesus and is transformed by him into glorified wounds which allow us to recognize him as our risen Lord."

(Henri Nouwen)

Lest we forget, the journey with Christ is not marked by power and positioning, but by suffering, letting go, death, and a radical bursting forth into life. It is foolishness in the eyes of the world to be sure.

This is our story. This is our journey.

Suggestions for Walking and Praying the Stations of the Cross:

- Enter into Christ's story as you walk the stations. What was he feeling? What was he thinking? Put yourself in his shoes. What would you be thinking and feeling if you were the one walking this journey towards death.
- In this world we all walk in journeys of suffering and death. As you walk the stations, allow God to connect them to places in your life that have been touched by suffering (betrayal, rejection, accusation, powerlessness, forced letting go, humiliation, loneliness, loss, neediness, brokenness, death, or whatever else the Holy Spirit might stir to consciousness in your soul).
- Walk this journey for the suffering of another. For those devastated by the war, hurricanes, for the homeless in your city, for a country or person on your heart. In your mind, press their wounds into the wounds of Christ.

WHY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

This is a way to experience the radical upside-down world of the gospel. During this season of Lent, large parts of the church spend time focusing on Christ's journey of suffering and death in order to more fully appreciate and understand the beauty and miracle of Easter. This is an important part of our story.

The traditional number of stations representing Christ's journey towards the cross became fixed at fourteen. The fifteenth station represents the resurrection. Eight of the stations are based on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining seven (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13) are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from Christian tradition.

Newer versions of the stations include stations that are all based on Gospel passages.

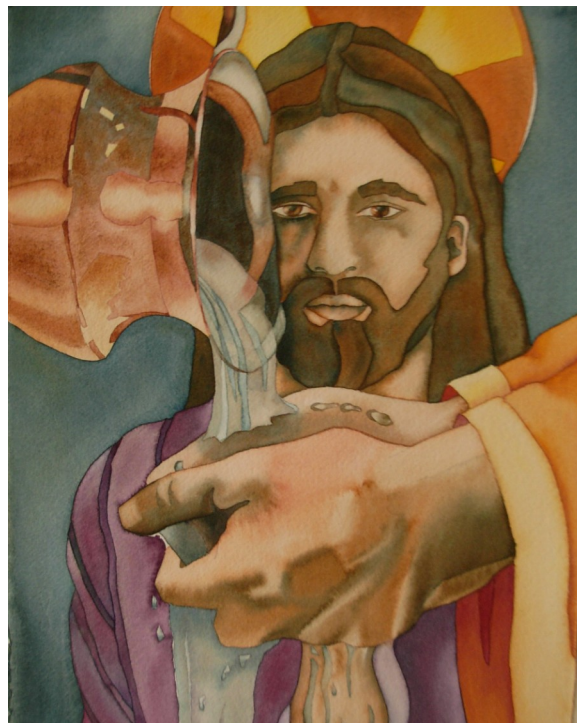
Why dwell on the horrors of the story? Isn't that a bit, um...morbid? After all, Jesus is risen!

So why are we drawn toward these stark images of betrayal, rejection, false accusation, powerlessness, forced letting go, humiliation, loneliness, loss, neediness, brokenness and death? These are not exactly marketing points for church growth or what most of us think of when we think of good Christian leadership. Yet here's Jesus, the one we are trying to follow, in all sorts of pitiful, compromising positions.

We are drawn to these images because we have felt these things at times in the depth of our own being. When we are really honest and really quiet we recognized all these things are part of us and were present in our own journey as well as the journey of those around us. The nightly news bombards us with similar images experienced by those in my neighborhood and in every corner of the world.

In walking and praying the Stations of the Cross, we are reminded that somehow, what Jesus did in his journey to the cross is relevant for all who suffer. They do not walk alone. We do not walk alone. And what God did to transform this ultimate display of death and darkness allows for hope in the places of death and darkness inside of us and in our world.

Our brokenness and pain, be they caused by our



The First Station **Jesus is Condemned to Death**

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

All the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Pilate said to them, "What should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he flogged Jesus, and handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:1-2,22-24,26

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

O Jesus, it was not so much Pilate as our sins that condemned you to die on the Cross. Grant, by your grace, that we may hate our sins and by true repentance obtain your mercy and pardon. **Amen.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us



The Second Station

Jesus Takes up His Cross

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:27-31

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

R. For the transgression of many people was he stricken

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

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**

Concluding Prayer

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

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

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**



The Fourteenth Station **Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

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

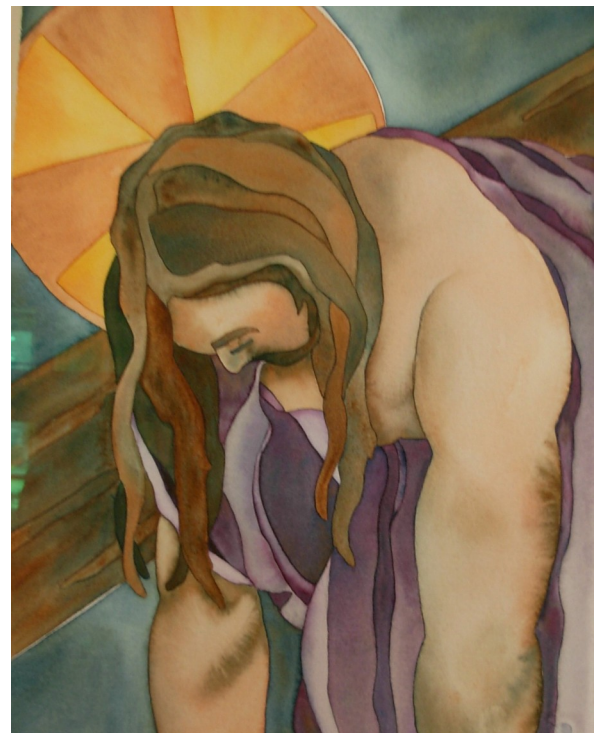
Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

John 19:41-42; Luke 23:55-56

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

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.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us



The Third Station **Jesus Falls for the First Time**

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

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole. 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.

Isaiah 53:4-6

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

O Jesus, you bore the heavy burden of the cross and you fell under its weight, the weight of our numerous sins. May the thought of your sufferings move us to imitate your humility and to abandon our self-destructive pride that we may be saved from our fall into sin. **Amen.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us



The Fourth Station **Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother**

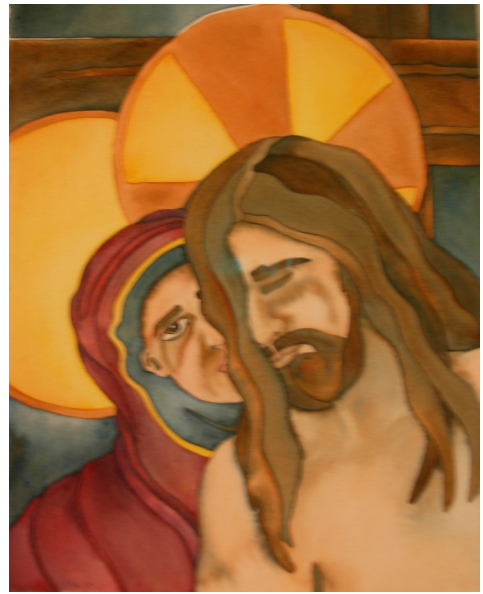
V. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can heal you? All who pass along the way clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their heads at daughter Jerusalem; "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?" Cry aloud to the Lord! O wall of daughter Zion! Let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite!
Lamentations 2:13,15,18

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

O Jesus, how painful it was for you to meet your afflicted Mother and how painful it was for her to meet you, her beloved Son, laden with the Cross and going to die for our sins. Give us grace that, like Mary, we too may follow on the way of the Cross with single minded devotion and faithfulness. **Amen.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us



The Thirteenth Station **Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross**

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

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear and at once there came out blood and water. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced." After this, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body.

John 19:31; 33-34; 36-37; 38

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

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..**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us



The Twelfth Station **Jesus Dies on the Cross**

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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 from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." And a bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *John 18:25; 26-30*

Kneel in Silence

V. Her tears run down her cheeks

R. And she has none to comfort her.

O God, who for our redemption didst give your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection has 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.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: this man they compelled to carry his cross. *Matthew 27:32*

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. *Matthew 16:24-25*

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

R. Cannot be my disciple.

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.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

He had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 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.

Isaiah 53:2-3

V. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

R. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Eleventh Station

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

And 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 when they had crucified him they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and the elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he can not save himself. He trusts in God; let God deliver him."

Matthew 27:33-34; 35; 36-37; 39-41; 42; 43

V. They pierce my hands and my feet:

R. They stare and gloat over me.

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

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Tenth Station

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; thou dost lay me in the dust of death. A company of evildoers encircle me; they divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.

Psalm 22:14, 15, 16, 18

And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him.

Luke 23:34, 35, 36

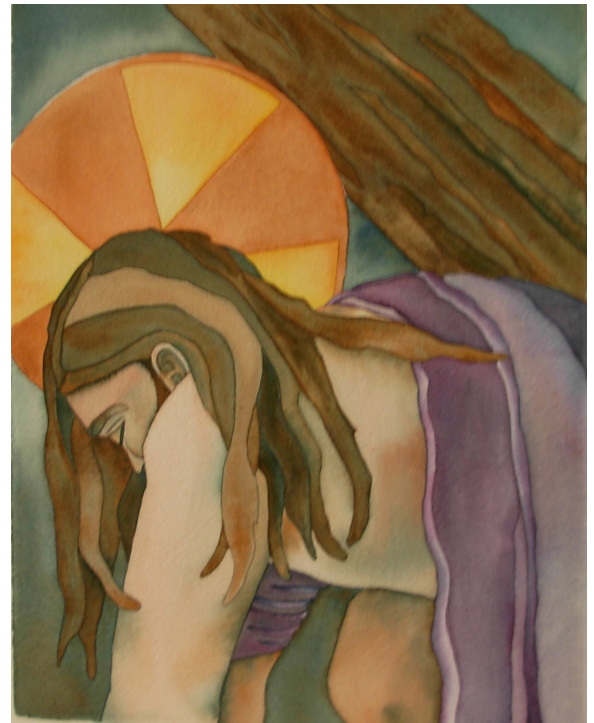
V. They gave me gall to eat:

R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

O Jesus, you endured this public humiliation for our shameful deeds. Strip us, we pray you, of all false shame, conceit and pride and enable us to humble ourselves voluntarily in this life that we may escape everlasting shame in the world to come. **Amen.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Seventh Station

Jesus Falls for the Second Time

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Behold, O Lord, for I am in distress, my soul is in tumult, my heart is wrung within me. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief. I am a man who has seen affliction under the rod of the Lord's wrath; he has driven and brought me to darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. He has filled me with bitterness, he has sated me with wormwood. (Lamentations 1;20; 2:11; 3:1-2,15)

V. But as for me, I am a worm and no man;

R. Scorned by all and despised by the people.

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 for ever and ever.

Amen.

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Eighth Station

The Women of Jerusalem Mourn For Our Lord

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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." "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord."

Luke 23:27-28; Acts 21:13

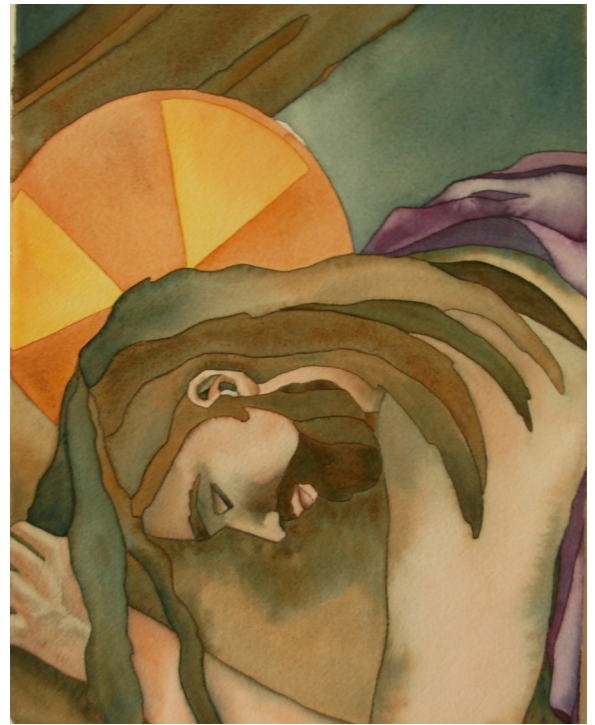
V. Those who sowed with tears:

R. Will reap with songs of joy.

Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; 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.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**



The Ninth Station

Jesus Falls for the Third Time

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

R. For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever. For evils have encompassed me without number; my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalms 22:1; Psalm 40:11-13

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.

O Jesus, grant that we who are incessantly afflicted by the weight of our sins may not be crushed by it but may be delivered from our sins and strengthened in holiness by your blessed Cross and Passion. **Amen.**

V. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**R. Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy upon us**