

The Stations of the Cross

Good Friday Service

April 2, 2021 12:00 & 7:00



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom with the words our Lord Jesus taught us...

C: 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.

P: We find our glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: In whom is our salvation, life and resurrection

P: Let us pray... O Lord God of our salvation, mercifully assist us that we may enter with joy unto the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST STATION

✠ *Jesus is condemned to death* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: Now at the feast Pilate used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again:

C: Crucify him. -Matthew 27:15-23

P: Pilate said to them, "Why what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

C: Crucify him.

P: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

P: Let us pray... 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.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE SECOND STATION

✠ *Jesus carries his cross* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: Then the soldiers led him away inside the Governor's palace and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed Jesus in a purple cloak; and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. -Matt 27:27-31

C: And they led him out to crucify him.

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

C: For the transgression of all people was he stricken.

P: Let us pray... 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; in the name of he who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE THIRD STATION

✠ *Jesus falls the first time* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: 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.

P: Surely he has borne our griefs; -Philippians 2:5-11

C: And carried our sorrows.

P: Let us pray... 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.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE FOURTH STATION

✠ ***Jesus meets his Mother*** ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: Meanwhile, standing near 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 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 19:25-27

P: Let us pray... O blessed Lord Jesus, at your Passion a sword of sorrow pierced the heart of your mother, as Simon had foretold. Grant as we look back on her sorrows with compassion that we might receive the healing fruits of your suffering. **Amen**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE FIFTH STATION

✠ ***Jesus' cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene*** ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. -Mark 15:21

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life would lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Mark 8:34-35

P: Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me,

C: Cannot be my disciple.

P: 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.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE SIXTH STATION

✠ *Jesus falls a second time* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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

-Isaiah 53:4-6

P: Let us pray... Lord Jesus Christ, you shared in our weakness and accepted our guilt. Grant us the favor of rejoicing over our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, your strength dwelling in us may be shown to others. **Amen.**

*At this time, we invite you to enter the **prayer labyrinth**. As you enter the labyrinth, follow the path noticing the rocks on the ground painted by the high school youth - depictions of where they feel liberated and set free. On your way into the labyrinth, reflect on the verse, "Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases." Once you reach the firepit, turn around to walk the same path leaving the labyrinth. As you walk, reflect on the verse from Isaiah, "by his bruises we are healed."*

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE SEVENTH STATION

✠ *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: 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."
-Luke 23:27-28

P: Those who sowed with tears:

C: Will reap with songs of joy.

P: 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.

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE EIGHTH STATION

✠ *Jesus is stripped of his garments and nailed to the cross* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him to drink, mingled 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."
-Matthew 27:34-35

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. the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."
-John 19:17-20

C: When I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

P: And they pierce my hands and my feet.

C: They stare and they gloat over me.

P: Father forgive them;

C: For they know not what they do.

P: Let us pray... Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms in love on the hard wood of the cross so that everyone might come into the reach of your saving embrace. Clothe us in your Spirit so 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 holy name. **Amen.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE NINTH STATION

✠ *Jesus dies on the cross* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." And then, crying with aloud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

C: "Truly this was the Son of God!"

-Mark 15:33-39

P: For us and our sins, Christ became obedient unto death.

C: Even death on a cross.

P: Let us pray... O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death on 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.**

Chanting as moving: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

THE TENTH STATION

✠ *Jesus' body is taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb* ✠

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

C: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

P: When it was evening, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body- Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which

no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. Luke 23:50-56

P: You will not abandon me to the grave

C: **Nor let your holy One see corruption.**

C: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

P: We have followed our Lord through the journey of his Passion and death.

C: **May our action be pleasing in your sight, O God.**

C: 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. By his eternal love he may raise us to eternal joys. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Chanting: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

✠ ✠ ✠ An explanation of the images used in today's service ✠ ✠ ✠

The images used in today's service are expressions of the traditional "Stations of the Cross" interpreted through the eyes of "liberation theology" in Latin America, placed within a more contemporary context by Argentinean Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel. The term Liberation Theology was coined by Peruvian Catholic priest, Gustavo Gutierrez in the early 1970s. It was conceived in the Latin American context as a moral call of Christianity to address the poverty and social injustice in the region, often deemed the most unequal in the world. This approach to theology emphasizes the relationship between the Christian mission, social responsibility, and activism, promoting *action from the perspective of the oppressed* and the cultivation of moral imagination among its practitioners. (Claudia Ordóñez).

Liberation Theology is known for the notion of "a preferential option for the poor." It has come into practice not only in the church, but even into fields such as healthcare and education both in Latin America and in the US.

For further reflection on Esquivel's work and Liberation theology, go to blogs.elca.org and search "The Latin American Way of the Cross" by Kate Lawler-Wunsch and David Wunsch.