

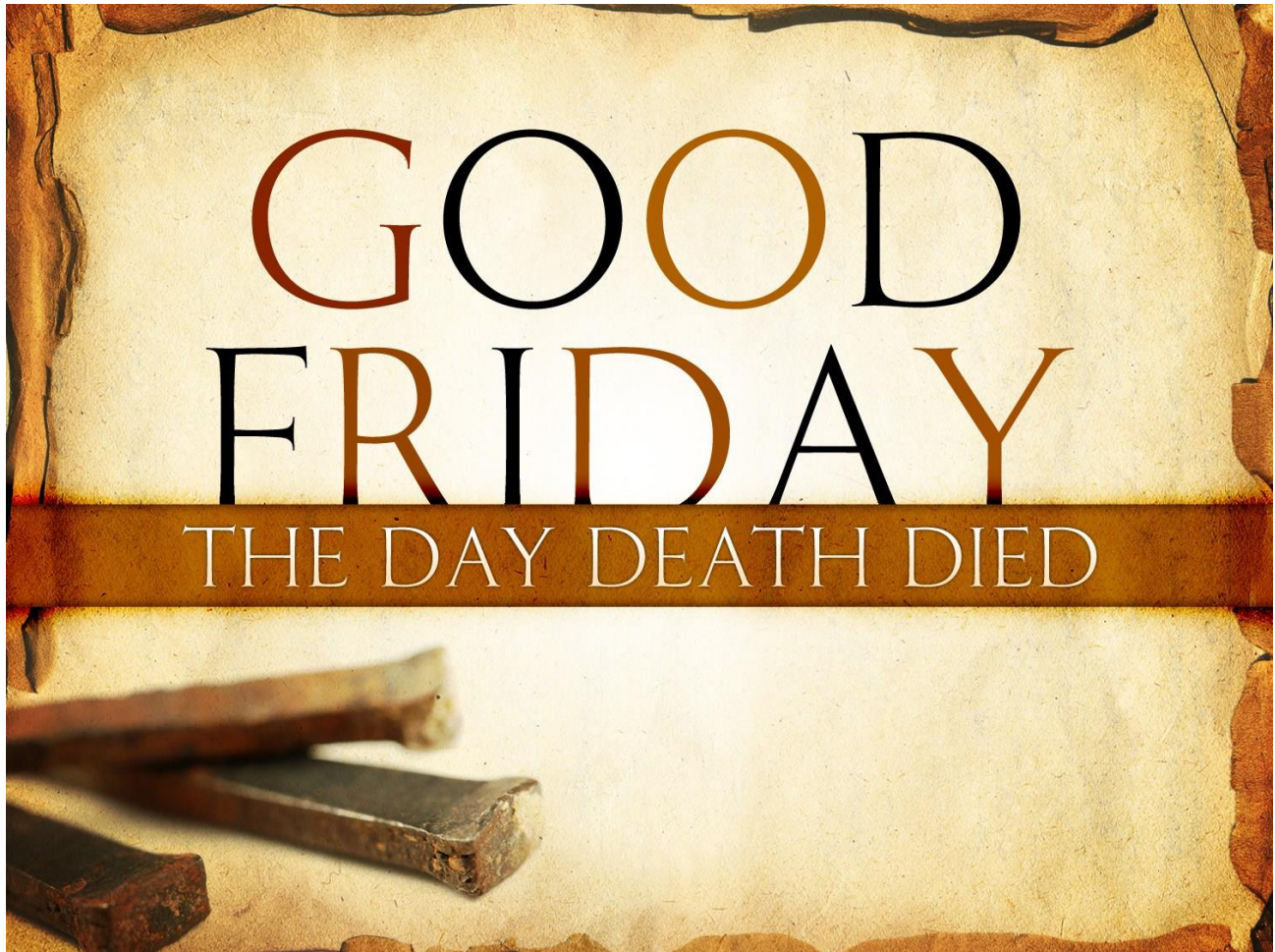
*Our ELCA, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and UCC
faith communities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers welcome you:*

Good Friday Community Worship

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 12:00 Noon on April 2, 2021

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.



Worship Leaders: **Pastor Julie Barger** of Calvary Lutheran Church & St Paul Lutheran Church; **Deacon Bob Beehner** of St Francis of Assisi Parish; **Pastor Rachel Hacker** of First Lutheran Church; **Kristine Jacobson** of First Lutheran Church; **Deacon Jerry Molitor** of St James Episcopal Church; **Pastor Diane Murray** of St James Episcopal Church; and **Pastor Matt Sauer** of Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry (First Presbyterian Church & Peace United Church of Christ).

Children's Message: **Brittany Punches** of Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry

Music provided by: **Julie Koenig & Kayla Koenig** of Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry (First Presbyterian Church & Peace United Church of Christ); **Alice Kosloski, Stephanie Bowman, & David Bowman** of First Lutheran Church; **Greg Pagel** of St Paul Lutheran Church; and **Tony Karl & Glenn Davidowich** of St James Episcopal Church.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One The Body of Christ scattered, we come to worship you.

All **We come, with the groans of our life and the whispers of hope in our hearts.**

One Apart, yet joined together, we come to remember you.

All **We come, trusting you have not forgotten us; that here, promises will be fulfilled.**

One United in the Holy Spirit, we come to have our hearts touched.

All **We come, knowing you hear our souls; we come, to praise you for your steadfast love.**

One On this day, God of all tears, you call us in the midst of our busy lives to look at the suffering and death of the One who came to carry the pain of the world into your heart.

All **Give us eyes to see your love this day.**

One On this day you would gather everyone to your side, Grace of Calvary, but we leave you to carry the cross alone. You came simply as love incarnate, but hate and bitterness were the gifts we offered to you. You poured out your love so our emptiness might be filled.

All **Give us ears to hear your pain this day.**

One On this day, you would pray for us, for we cannot find the words on our own, Shattered Spirit. Hear the cries of those in need. Listen to the lament of the lonely. Cradle the whispered hopes of children. Set free the dreams of prisoners and captives.

All **Give us hearts to pray with you this day.**

One God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our prayers to you in the name of the One who suffered and died for us this day and who teaches us to pray, saying,

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

♪ Christ Jesus, On Sunday, You Rode Into Town

Christ Jesus, on Sunday, you rode into town;
The crowds laid their coats and some palms on the ground.
They made you a welcome and called you their king,
But they did not know of the reign you would bring.

Christ Jesus, on Thursday, you readied a place;
You hosted a meal and you offered the grace.
You told your disciples, "Now eat of this bread,"
"Now drink of the cup of salvation," you said.

With basin and towel, with washing of feet,
You showed us where love and humility meet.
You loved till your love led to suffering and loss;
You knelt down to serve us, then hung on a cross.

On Friday, you died, and the next day was bleak.
O Christ, we remember your whole Holy Week.
We can't avoid suffering, or turn from what's true,
For out of your death, we find new life in you.

Words: ©2017 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *ST DENIO*, traditional Welsh hymn, 1839.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: OVERCOMING RACISM

- One* From the earliest days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death, and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus walked the earth. These sites become important holy connections with Jesus.
- One* Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the “way of the cross”, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The “stations”, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit these holy sites. In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating replicas of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem.
- One* The practice of the Stations of the Cross has evolved and adapted over time, remaining an expression of faith for many Christians to this day. It can be a powerful way to contemplate—and enter into—the mystery of Jesus's gift of himself to us. It takes reflection on the passion out of our heads and makes it an imaginative exercise. It involves our senses, experiences, and emotions.
- One* Today, we're using a form of the Stations with the theme “Overcoming Racism”. As we recall Jesus's journey to the cross, we connect that to some of the experiences of race, racism, and justice. People in our day still suffer unjustly simply because of the color of their skin or their national origin. Let us acknowledge the sin of racism and work to combat it in our social structures, our institutions, and our heart.
- One* Let us walk together the Way of the Cross.

THE FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death

- One* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
***All* Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
- One* *Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” They only shouted the louder, “Crucify him.” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. (Mark 15. 14-15)*

An innocent man is about to be killed, and the laws of the land will not protect him. A crowd has gathered—not to protest, but to cheer. Government leaders are indifferent, more concerned about politics than justice.

Racism leads to many forms of injustice: sometimes death, sometimes imprisonment, sometimes closed doors and lost opportunities. We may not be in a crowd cheering the evil deed, but are we indifferent? It is easy to remain silent even though we may have an opportunity to speak up. Do we object to an inappropriate “joke”? Do we advocate for justice when we have access to people in power? Do we work to open doors in the workplace? Will we be like Pilate and the crowd, or will we use our opportunities to create opportunities for others? Let us pray.

All Christ Jesus, you were a victim of injustice, condemned by those who had the power to save you and ignored by those who might have spoken up on your behalf. Help us to use the opportunities we have to speak out against the injustices around us, knowing that you desire justice for all. AMEN!

THE SECOND STATION: Jesus takes up his cross

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

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

One And carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19. 17)

Pilate could have taken a different approach. But when Jesus said to Pilate, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice,” Pilate replied dismissively, “What is truth?” In that retort, Pilate embodied the attitude that leads to so much discrimination and injustice in every age.

Too often, we do not want to know the truth. We dismiss the daily discrimination faced by people of color—the disparaging looks, the job interviews that never materialize, the apartments that are suddenly no longer available, the lower-quality educational opportunities, the disproportionate police stops, the discriminatory sentencing rates. We would rather think that our society is color-blind and that everyone has an equal chance. We would rather think that discrimination is merely an occasional aberration rather than a daily reality. The truth, however, is that racism is an endemic part of life in our culture. Let us pray.

All Jesus, help us to acknowledge the truth with honesty and courage. The injustices caused by racism are far too common and impose heavy crosses on our brothers and sisters. Help us to speak the truth about the magnitude of the injustices they face. AMEN!

THE THIRD STATION: Jesus falls for the first time

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

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

One Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53. 4a,7)

Jesus accepted his cross and carried it valiantly despite his weakened state. But he could not bear up under the load. He fell.

Racism imposes heavy burdens, too. African Americans must live with ugly taunts, nooses, and expressions of white supremacy. Jews face swastikas. Muslims encounter insults and rejection. Native Americans are derided for trying to preserve their cultures. Latinos are labeled with ugly slurs. Asians are reduced to one-dimensional stereotypes. Refugees and immigrants endure xenophobic rhetoric and constant suspicion. Those who are targets of racism often live with the persistent fear that hatred will explode – again – into stark violence against them.

Will we leave our brothers and sisters to bear the cross of racism alone? Or will we step out in solidarity and accompany them as they travel their own “way of the cross”? Let us pray.

All Lord Jesus Christ, the cross of injustice is heavy. Help us not to dismiss it as just “the way things are,” but rather to acknowledge the crosses others must bear because they are different, and to find ways to accompany them in their journey. AMEN!

THE FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his mother

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

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

One Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, “... you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” And his mother kept all these things in her heart. (Luke 2. 34-35,51)

Mary was cautioned from the beginning that the blessing of bearing Jesus would come with a cost. The joys and the sorrows were mingled in her unflinching heart.

A mother’s pain is no different in communities of color today. When her child suffers, she suffers. When her child is deprived of opportunity, she aches. When her child is beaten, she nurses the wounds. And when her child is murdered, she identifies the body at the morgue.

But the pain often begins long before then. African American mothers launch their teenagers toward independence with “the Talk” about how to survive a traffic stop. Undocumented immigrant mothers go to work every day with contingency plans for who will care for their children if they are detained or deported.

Jesus looked into the eyes of his mother and felt her pain. Will we be like him and stand with the mothers who store up so much grief and anxiety in their tender hearts? Let us pray.

All Dear Jesus, although at this time you could not relieve your mother's fears, you did acknowledge her pain. Help us to stand with anxious and grieving mothers and work to end the injustices that besiege them. AMEN!

THE FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

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

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

One They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, . . . to carry his cross. (Mark 15.21)

Simon of Cyrene did not volunteer to help Jesus. But his very presence meant that Jesus was not totally alone. He had at least one person by his side as he struggled to drag his cross up the hill.

What could be lonelier than facing racism on your own? It is bad enough that some people experience injustices inflicted on them, that they hear insults hurled at them. How much more isolating would it be, if they were led to believe that the whole population shared this hatred.

Although Simon did not have a choice but to help carry Jesus's cross, we do. We can overlook a racist comment, or we can challenge it and explain why. We can keep our distance, or we can reach out to connect with someone who has been pushed to the peripheries of our society. We can stay in our own lanes, or we can work to lift our society to a higher place. Let us pray.

All Holy God, you have arranged the universe so that one person's action can help ease the burden of another. Embolden us to reach out and to speak out, to make others' crosses easier to bear. AMEN!

THE SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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

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

One He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men... and we held him in no esteem. (Isaiah 53.2b-3)

Crowned with thorns and then struck repeatedly on the head with a reed, covered with blood, sweat, and dust, Jesus's face on that day would have been difficult to behold. Many would have turned away. Yet Veronica pushed forward and offered Jesus her veil to wipe his face. When he returned it to her, the image of his face was miraculously imprinted on the cloth. Veronica's act of love and charity was beautiful, and she is forever remembered for it.

How do you react when you see someone who is suffering unjustly? The human tendency is to avoid eye contact, to walk quickly away. In short, we do not get involved. This allows the injustice to continue.

Yet Veronica did get involved. She saw the suffering of another person and reached out to help – at the risk of drawing attention to herself. Let us pray.

All Jesus, so many of our brothers and sisters suffer daily from the injustice of racism. Give us the gift of courage to be like Veronica and reach out to those whom society has rejected and show them love. AMEN!

THE SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls for the second time

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

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

One Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. (Luke 10. 30-33)

Jesus fell a second time under the weight of the cross. He suffered immensely for his willingness to identify with our humanity. Undoubtedly, some who saw him were quick to look down on him unsympathetically, as being a criminal.

One of the signs of prejudice is to separate ourselves from those we deem unworthy or inferior. Applying such biased thinking to whole groups, is a signal that racism has infected our thinking – like the hostility between Samaritans and the Jews in Jesus’s parable of the Good Samaritan. As soon as we start mentally separating people based on racial or ethnic stereotypes, we judge falsely and break the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us pray.

All Creator God, it is easy to fall into the trap of biased thinking without even being aware of it. Help us to accept all people as individuals with unique dignity, and not to divide them up based on their membership in some favored or disfavored group.. AMEN!

THE EIGHTH STATION: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

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

One A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23. 27-28)

The women of Jerusalem were able to see beyond themselves and grieve the injustice done to Jesus.

When we see injustices caused by racism, how do we react? Do we care? Do we weep? For those most at risk, racism is a daily source of anxiety and anguish. For others, it takes an intentional decision to care. The women of Jerusalem made Jesus's cause their own. Will we show the same concern?

The next time a person of color is killed – like Trayvon, Breonna, Eric, Michael, George, Laquan, Tamir, Walter, Alton, Philando, Magdiel, or Hector– will we join the affected communities in saying that these lives are intrinsically valuable? When the next synagogue or mosque is attacked, will we speak out? Will we insist that the racism that affects anyone is a concern for all? Or will we ignore it when it has not happened in our community? For whom shall we weep? Let us pray.

All Jesus, you call us to speak out against all injustice, not just the injustices that hurt our own communities. Help us to develop hearts that beat with genuine compassion when anyone's community suffers injustice. AMEN!

THE NINTH STATION: Jesus falls for the third time

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

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

One *"You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them. Woe to you!" (Luke 11. 46b-47a)*

Jesus is weighed down by the weight of the cross, as though bearing the sins of the whole world.

Racism is a cross most often borne by people of color, but it is not just an individual burden. It has community-wide impacts. Our nation's social structures and political institutions maintain policies and practices that magnify the sufferings of communities of color. As a result, systemic racism persists.

Tragedies such as the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, usually fall most heavily on minority communities. Toxic waste sites and industrial facilities that pollute the water and air are more likely to be located near communities of color. Low-income people of color are hit hardest by hurricanes like Katrina and Harvey and find it hardest to recover. Children of color suffer lead poisoning disproportionately. Differences in the distribution of educational resources disadvantage African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Our social structures have allowed patterns of systemic racism to persist. We must work to change these patterns. Let us pray.

All Loving God, the call to change social and economic structures that perpetuate racism can be uncomfortable. Help us to acknowledge the roots of racial injustice and work to change them. AMEN!

THE TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

One *They stripped off his clothes.... (Matthew 27. 28)*

Part of the humiliation of crucifixion was that the prisoner was stripped naked, left totally exposed. This was done in an attempt to deny the condemned person's dignity.

Racism also attempts to strip others of their dignity. While our human dignity is an indelible gift from God, racist attitudes and actions undermine the human dignity of the oppressor as well as the oppressed. Our nation's history is tarnished by the enslavement of African Americans, Jim Crow laws, mistreatment of Native Americans, Chinese exclusion laws, Japanese internment camps, and anti-Hispanic discrimination. These patterns of racism flourished in part because "good" people too often remained silent.

If racism flourishes, we are all implicated – especially in a democracy. We are called to transform our society with God's love. Yet our society still allows some to be stripped of their dignity. As members of the Body of Christ, our dignity is intertwined with theirs. How can we not stand humiliated before the cross, knowing that we have failed to adequately protect the dignity of all our brothers and sisters? Let us pray.

All **Jesus, in becoming human you ratified the dignity of all humanity. Help us see every person's dignity as important as our own and create social structures that promote dignity for all. AMEN!**

THE ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is crucified

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

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

One *But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. (Isaiah 53. 5)*

Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross so that we might be healed of all that separates us from God and each other. Each person must turn away from habits and patterns of sin in order to be transformed.

It is easy to recognize an individual sin of racism when someone violates justice or fails to extend the love of Christ to others. But even people who want to live justly cannot escape the taint of racism. When our social structures uphold injustice and perpetuate the effects of racism, we all become, "accomplices in racism." This complicity may not be intentional. Nevertheless, the structures of sin in our own society unfairly deprive some of their basic human rights. When we fail to speak out against these structures and reform them, our complicity cannot be ignored.

Christ died on the cross for the sins of the world. Just as our sinful acts must be forgiven at the cross, so too our failures to act when it was our duty to act must be forgiven at the cross. Racism and the structures of systemic racism that still bedevil us must be confessed and transformed by our loving Savior. Let us pray.

All Savior, forgive us for the sins we have committed and also for the sins of omission that allow injustice to persist. Help us to stand up to the structures of sin and become accomplices in the work of justice. AMEN!

THE TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the cross

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

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

One *Jesus cried out in a loud voice... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"... Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15. 34,37,39)*

Jesus expressed the feeling of abandonment often experienced by those who are unjustly treated. The centurion recognized the injustice that had taken place and testified to the truth.

We are called to be united with those who suffer injustice. Their pain should be our pain. Like that centurion, we should be the ones affirming the worth of those rejected by others. Are we willing to acknowledge injustice and see others in a new way, to connect with them and testify to their pain?

An examination of conscience might help: Am I taking time to learn the stories of past oppression? Am I actively seeking to listen to the cries of our brothers and sisters who experience racism and rejection today? Am I working to change unjust policies? Do I need to root out attitudes in myself that devalue or cast suspicion on others? Am I taking intentional steps to welcome the stranger, socialize with people from other communities, and learn about people from other cultures, races, and backgrounds? Let us pray.

All Jesus, Son of God, when no one else cares, you care. You call us to care as well. Lead us to an ever-deeper conversion that bears fruit in true solidarity with those who suffer from racism. AMEN!

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken down from the cross

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

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

One *Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb. (Mark 15. 43,46a)*

In order to claim Jesus's body and give him a proper burial, Joseph of Arimathea sacrificed his own comfort and safety and risked angering the powers of his day. We need to dismantle the structures of racist sin in our day, and we may need to risk our own comfort and safety to do so.

The roots of racism have extended deeply into the soil of our society. Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality – economic and social – that we still see all around us. Working to change economic and social policies is not easy. Like Joseph of Arimathea, we will need courage. But we cannot remain silent. We must engage with others in respectful conversations and take action to reform structures that perpetuate injustice. Let us pray.

All Lamb of God, the structures of your day were indifferent to the demands of justice. Give us the courage to transform our institutions so that the work of racial justice may bear fruit. AMEN!

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

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

One Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matthew 27. 59-60)

When the stone was rolled across the entrance to the tomb, marking with finality the apparent end of Jesus's life, all seemed lost. The hope of the world was gone. But the tomb was not the end of the story.

Racism, in all its ugly forms, is also not the end of the story. Jesus makes all things new. He can transform our hearts, and he can help us transform our social structures and institutions to remove the scourge of racism.

Before God we are one human race, and God desires that we dwell in harmony with one another. The prophet Micah offers inspiration: "You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God". This is our task. Empowered by God's Spirit, we must humbly but fearlessly engage in the work of racial justice. Let us pray.

All Jesus Christ, inspire us with new approaches to the ancient problem of racism. We are your hands and feet. Guide us as we welcome those who are marginalized and as we work for racial justice. AMEN!

♪ What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOOD FRIDAY HOPES

♪ What Wondrous Love Is This

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Words: American folk hymn, c 1811. Tune: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

One Confident of the hope received by the death of Christ, we bring our hearts—broken, stained with sin, filled with failings—to the One who sprinkles them with grace, cleansing them with the waters of life.

All Like little children who can wander off in a crowded store, we have lost our way, God of this grim day. We betray you when we do not befriend the poor; we deny you when we are afraid to speak up for the voiceless; we turn our backs on you when we do not do good for others; we crucify you when we harm our family and friends. At the foot of the cross, we stand with all who have forgotten you and forsaken the way which you offer to us. Forgive us, Lamb of God, and fill us with the mercy, the hope, the grace you poured out for us, as you gave your life for the sins of the world.

One We will now observe several minutes of personal reflection and repentance.
Several minutes of personal reflection and repentance

REMEMBERING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One Christ has lifted our suffering onto his shoulders, carrying all our hurts and rejections into God's heart. There, God casts them away into the sea of forgetfulness, so that we may be restored to hope and live as new people.

All Fed with grace and carried in God's arms, we know that we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. AMEN!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

One The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

One In your homes, alone or with others, think about the blessings of grace, hope, and kindness which have come your way in these days. Reflect on how, even while distancing ourselves from others, we can still reach out to them to show God's love and presence in their lives. Today we invite you to give a special offering in support of local shelters Hope House and The Haven. Either make your donations directly to these organizations or make a designated gift through your congregation in the usual way. Let us pray.

All With you as our shepherd and by sharing our gifts, we can indeed anoint others with grace, prepare feasts for the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love those we consider to be our enemies. Bless these gifts, and use our lives for others, we pray. AMEN!

♪ When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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

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

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

CLOSING PRAYER

One Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray.

All Loving God, you call us from every race and ethnicity to be one human family. Our nation has fallen far short of that goal. Too many of our brothers and sisters are ignored, ostracized, mistreated, and even killed because of the evil of racism. Too often, our own ways of thinking are infected by the messages of exclusion and marginalization around us.

Transform our hearts, renew our minds, and inspire our actions to effectively address and overcome racism in our day. Help us form new relationships, transform social structures, and reform public policies to establish justice for all.

Strengthen us in this work, that the day will come when all of us will be able to approach you as one people, equal in our dignity, magnificent in our variety, and joyful in our unity, so that this world may be all that you intend it to be. **AMEN!**

One Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray for the Body of Christ throughout the world... we pray for all nations and peoples of the earth... we pray for all who are afflicted in body or mind... we pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ... we pray for all those who have died... and we pray for you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls. 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 forever.

All **AMEN!**

♪ God, May Your Justice Roll Down

God, may your justice roll down like the waters you send here,
And may your righteousness flow like a stream without end here!
Praying this prayer, many have struggled and dared,
All for the world you intend here.

Christ, we give thanks for past saints who renewed education,
Freed the oppressed, brought your healing and fought segregation.
Savior and Lord, great were the risks they endured,
Bearing your hope and salvation.

We as your church now remember these stories of others
And pray your Spirit will send us, as your sons and daughters.
Show us the way we, too, can serve you each day
Till justice rolls down like waters.

BLESSING

One May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships: so that you may live deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells.

All AMEN!

One May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people: so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

All AMEN!

One May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war: so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

All AMEN!

One May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world and in your neighborhood: so that you will courageously move outside your comfort zone, empowered by Jesus Christ to accomplish God's purposes.

All AMEN!

Four And the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and forever more.

All AMEN!



Thank you for worshiping with us today. May your day be blessed!

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