

Stations of the Cross Holy week Compline Address- Wednesday

Setting the Scene: You may like to light a candle or play some quiet reflective music or hold a cross.

Tonight we are going to reflect on the second station of the cross

You are invited to walk with Jesus on this sorrowful journey. To listen, to see, to feel the enormity of Christ's passion.

3rd Station. Jesus falls for the first time

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.⁵ 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:4-7).

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. Luke 23:26

Moment of Silence

Pause for Reflection

Although Jesus' stumbling with the weight of the cross on his beaten body is not recorded in the gospels, that Simon was asked to carry Jesus' cross implies that this is so.

What would it have meant to be Simon to have shared some of Christ's burden then? And in today's circumstances?

Compline Night Prayer

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord: **Who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

The following or another hymn may be sung

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me...

Henry Francis Lyte

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 139

1. O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; • you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place • and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, • but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before • and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, • so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? • Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; • if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning • and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, • your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me • and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; • darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; • you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; • marvelous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you, • when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; • already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned • when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! • How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, • and at the end, I am still in your presence.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

Responses

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth. **I commend my spirit.**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings. Amen

The Nunc dimittis

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦ your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦ which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦ and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep; **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus, **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning, **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,

that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace. Amen