



**BY HIS WOUNDS  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
HEALED**

**1 PETER 2:24**



# Good Friday

## Stations of the Cross

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world. Stations of the Cross are a series of 14 images that depict the events of the Passion of Christ. This evening, we invite you to journey alongside Christ on his journey to death. Starting at image 1, we invite you to progress in chronological order through the stations (counterclockwise through the sanctuary). Within this booklet, you will find passages of Scripture that coordinate with each image. Upon each station, read the passage, and then take some time to "see the passage" through each work of art. Do not feel the need to rush, take your time. Allow God to speak to you through his Word audibly and visually. Following the 14<sup>th</sup> image, we invite you to be seated in the pews for a time of self-reflection, prayer, and communion.

**Breath Prayer:** Take a minute or two to center yourself by praying Psalm 46:10 as you breathe:

-breathe in:

**Be still**

-hold breath:

**And know**

-breathe out:

**That I am God.**

**Opening Prayer:** Ask that God would reveal himself in this time and in this place.

## **1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane** (Matthew 26:36-41)

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

## **2. Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested** (Mark 14: 43-46)

And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard." As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Rabbi!" he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss. Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

## **3. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin** (Luke 22: 66-71)

At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, "Tell us, are you the Messiah?" But he replied, "If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God's right hand. They all shouted, "So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?" And he replied, "You say that I am." "Why do we need other witnesses?" they said. "We ourselves heard him say it."

#### **4. Jesus is Denied by Peter** (Matthew 26: 69-75)

Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.” Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

#### **5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate** (Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “You have said it.” Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise. So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

#### **6. Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns** (John 19: 1-3)

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. “Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

## **7. Jesus Takes Up His Cross** (John 19: 6, 15-17)

When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” “Take him yourselves and crucify him,” Pilate said. “I find him not guilty.” “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back. Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*).

**\*As you pass to the 8<sup>th</sup> station, pick up the communion elements.**

## **8. Jesus is Helped by Simon to Carry His Cross** (Mark 15: 21)

A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)

## **9. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem** (Luke 23: 27-31)

A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

## **10. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross** (Luke 23: 33-34)

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

## **11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Repentant Thief** (Luke 23: 39-43)

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## **12. Jesus Entrusts Mary and John to Each Other** (John 19: 25-27)

Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

## **13. Jesus Dies on the Cross** (Luke 23: 44-46)

By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

## **14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb** (Matthew 27: 57-60)

As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left.

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**Response Instructions:** Following the 14<sup>th</sup> image, we invite you to be seated in the pews for a time of self-reflection, prayer, and communion.

**Breath Prayer:** Take a minute or two to center yourself by praying, again, Psalm 46:10 as you breathe:

-breathe in:

**Be still**

-hold breath:

**and know**

-breathe out:

**that I am God.**

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**Self-Reflection:** Consider the following questions in response to Christ's Passion.

1. What image stood out to you most? Why?
  2. Allow yourself to sit in the tension as Jesus did. What emotions are you experiencing?
  3. As Jesus bore his cross for us, what cross is it that you need to take up?
  4. What sins are Jesus bearing for you?
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**Prayer of Confession:** Confess to God the sins of your heart, if you do not know how or need some help, follow this guide to help you structure your conversation with God.

Address God:	"Forgiving God..."
Admit You Have Sinned:	"I have sinned against you through..."
Express Sorrow for Sin:	"I am sorry for what I have done..."
Thank God for Patience and Mercy:	"Thank you for being a God of patience..."
Pray for Help to Stand Against Sin:	"Help me, by your Spirit's power to resist..."
Conclusion:	"...through Jesus Christ, Amen."

**Assurance of Pardon:** Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

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**Communion:** “On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.”

*Take and eat the bread from the top layer of your cup.*

“In the same way, after supper He took the cup, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

*Take and drink from your cup.*

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**Benediction:** May you find in the cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven. And may the blessing of God go with you, now and forevermore. Amen.

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We invite you to join us Sunday morning at 10:30am to continue the story...