

# The Way of the Cross

## A Meditation for Palm Sunday Evening

### 6.30 pm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### The Gathering

##### Hymn

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

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the cross of Christ my God;  
the very things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

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

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all!

##### Greeting & Introduction

##### Collect

*All respond:*

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

#### The Stations

*We move in procession to the first station.*

*All come as close as possible to the station, moving into the nearby pews.*

*At each station there is:*

- A short reading and meditation
- A time of silence
- A prayer

*concluding with*

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

**First Station:** *Jesus is condemned to death*

**Second Station:** *Jesus takes up his cross*

*Between every two stations we sing one verse of My Song is Love Unknown:*

My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

**Third Station:** *Jesus falls for the first time*

**Fourth Station:** *Jesus meets his mother*

He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow:  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O, my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

**Fifth Station:** *Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross*

**Sixth Station:** *Veronica offers her veil to Jesus*

Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

**Seventh Station:** *Jesus falls for the second time*

**Eighth Station:** *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
Themselves displease and 'gainst him rise.

**Ninth Station:** *Jesus falls for the third time*

**Tenth Station:** *Jesus is stripped*

They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

**Eleventh Station:** *Jesus is nailed to the cross*

**Twelfth Station:** *Jesus dies on the cross*

In life no house, no home,  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;  
But mine the tomb wherein he lay.

**Thirteenth Station:** *Jesus is taken down from the cross*

**Fourteenth Station:** *Jesus is laid in the tomb*

Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

*After the last station all return to their seats.*

## **The Conclusion**

*Silence is kept.*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom  
in the words our Saviour taught us.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Collect**

*All stand to sing:*

### **Hymn**

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head  
With thorns was pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my head  
That I may think for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O shed thy blessing on my hands  
That they may work for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my feet  
That they may follow thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart  
With spear was pierced for me;  
O pour thy Spirit in my heart  
That I may live for thee.

### **Responsory**

*All remain standing and say:*

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

Christ was manifested in the body,  
vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
glorified in high heaven.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.  
**Amen.**