



Stations of the Cross

by Scott Erickson



Let us contemplate a great mystery together.

Please enter in silence.

To honor the spirit of **Good Friday**, our worship gathering will focus on the hours leading up to and including Jesus's death.

To help us follow in Jesus's footsteps, we will meditate on the meaning of the Cross through *Scripture readings, prayers, responsive litanies, times of reflection, a homily, Taizé music, and visual artwork.*

The visual artwork depicting the **Stations of the Cross** was created by **Scott Erickson**

A Call to Worship

One: Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Many: **For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of the dry ground.**

One: He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

Many: **He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering
acquainted with sorrow.**

One: Surely he has born our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, cursed by God, and afflicted.

Many: **But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for
our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us
whole, and by his wounds we are healed.**

From Isaiah 53

Movement I. Prayer in the Shadows

Prayer

A Reading from Scripture **Matthew 26:36-46 (NLT)**

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!**”

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “**My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.**” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.

So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, “**Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!**”

A Time of Reflection **Stay with Me** – Taizé Community Choir

A Reading from Scripture **Mark 15:33-39 (NLT)**

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, “**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**” which means “**My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**”

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. “Wait!” he said. “Let’s see whether Elijah comes to take him down!”

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, “This man truly was the Son of God!”

A Responsive Reading

One: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

Many: **Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.**

One: But I am a worm and not a man. I am scorned and despised
by all!

Many: **Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake
their heads, saying, “Is this the one who relies on the
Lord? Then let the Lord save him!**

One: Do not stay so far from me, for my trouble is near, and no
one else can help me.

Many: **My enemies surround me like a herd of bulls. They’re like
lions with their mouths open, roaring and tearing at their
prey.**

One: My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang is
closing in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet.

Many: **I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and
gloat. They divide my garments among themselves and
throw dice for my clothes.**

From Psalm 22

A Homily on the Cross **T. C. Moore**

A Time of Reflection **Jesus, Remember Me** – Taizé

Stations of the Cross **Scott Erickson**

Movement III. Death in the Shadows

Prayer

A Responsive Reading

One: All you who pass this way.
Many: **Look and see the shadow of sin.**
One: All you who pass this way.
Many: **Look and see the weight of the world.**
One: All you who pass this way.
Many: **Look and see, the suffering of our Savior.**
One: All you who pass this way.
Many: **Look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ.**
One: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

By Erica L. Schemper

A Reading from Scripture

Luke 23:32-43 (NLT)

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. 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.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

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.**”

Movement II. Trial in the Shadows

Prayer

A Reading from Scripture

Mark 14:53-15:1 (NLT)

They took Jesus to the high priest’s home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest’s courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn’t find any. Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.’” But even then they didn’t get their stories straight!

Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?” But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Jesus said, “**I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, “Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?”

“Guilty!” they all cried. “He deserves to die!”

Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. “Prophesy to us,” they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.”

But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.

When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” But Peter denied it again.

A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.”

Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “**Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.**” And he broke down and wept.

A Responsive Reading

One: Judas, slave of violence, where are you?
Many: **I am here.**
One: Peter, slave of fear, where are you?
Many: **I am here.**

A Reading from Scripture

Luke 23:1-12 (NLT)

Then the entire council took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. They began to state their case: “This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king.”

So Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “**You have said it.**”

Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, “I find nothing wrong with this man!”

Then they became insistent. “But he is causing riots by his teaching wherever he goes—all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!”

“Oh, is he a Galilean?” Pilate asked. When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod’s jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.

Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer. Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations. Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.)

A Responsive Reading

One: Caiaphas, slave of hypocrisy, where are you?

Many: **I am here.**

One: Herod, slave of insecurity, where are you?

Many: **I am here.**

A Reading from Scripture

John 19:1-16 (NLT)

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.

Pilate went outside again and said to the people, “I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty.” Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, “Look, here is the man!”

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.”

The Jewish leaders replied, “By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. “Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?”

Then Jesus said, “**You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.**”

Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.” When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!”

“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.

A Responsive Reading

One: Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

Many: **I am here.**

One: Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

Many: **We are here.**

A Time of Reflection

All You Who Pass This Way – Songs of Taizé