

# GRACE CHURCH

## IN PROVIDENCE

*The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the Gospel through worship, proclamation, and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.*

### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



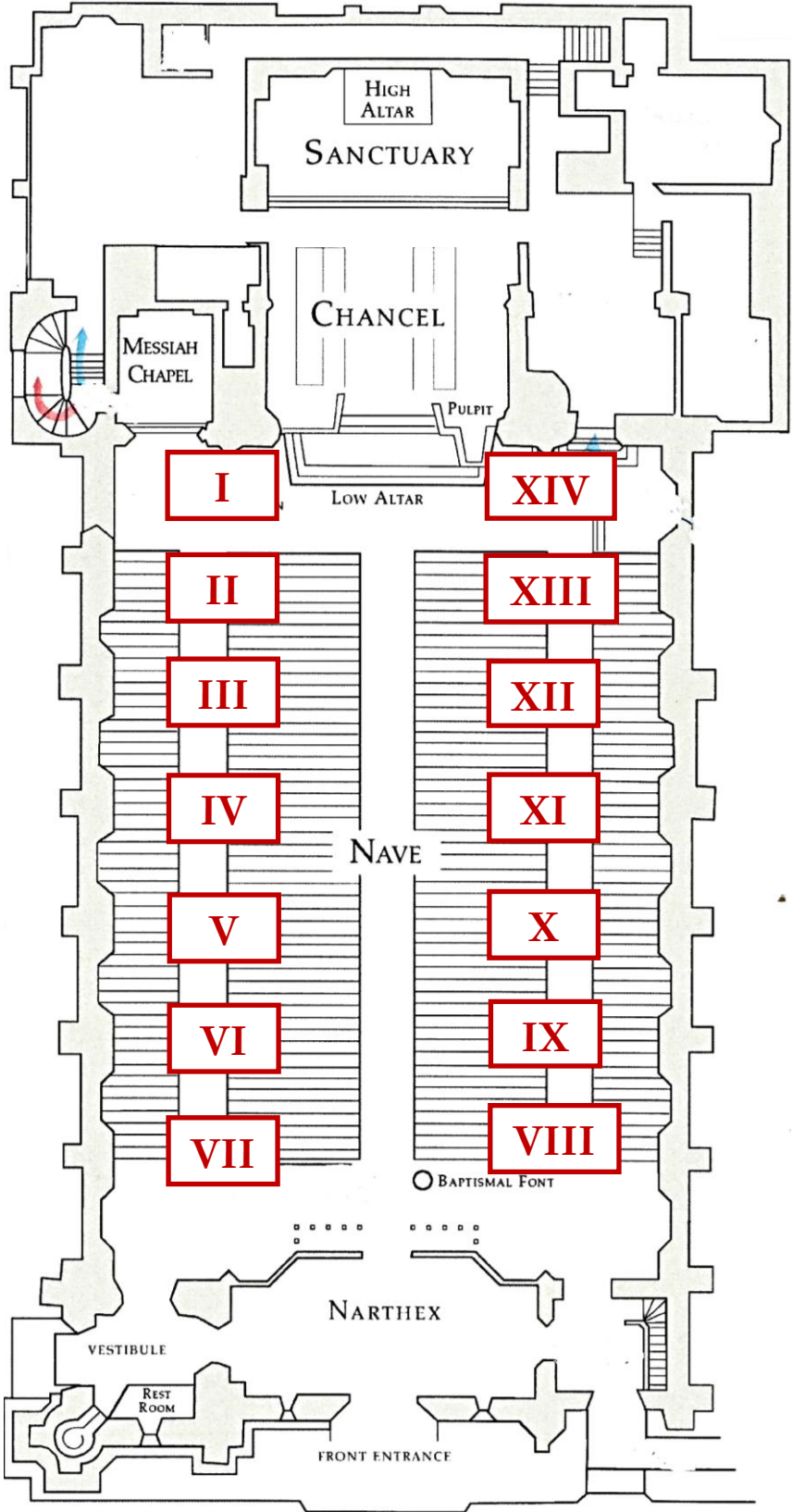
## GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

6:00 PM

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places (stations) in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. Traditionally, the stations are made before a series of plain wooden crosses placed along the walls of the church or in some other convenient place. With each cross there is a corresponding pictorial representation of the event being commemorated. The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining six (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13) are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend. The stations we are using here at Grace were painted by Gwyneth Leech of New York City as a commission from St. Paul's Church on the Green in Norwalk, CT. The artist has kindly given us permission to use images of her work for the season of Lent.

# LOCATIONS OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



## THE OPENING DEVOTIONS

*The service begins with all assembled at the front of the Church, near the foot of the Wooden Cross.*

*Officiant* In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

### THE LESSER LITANY

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Said by all*

**O**UR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Officiant* We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*People* **In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

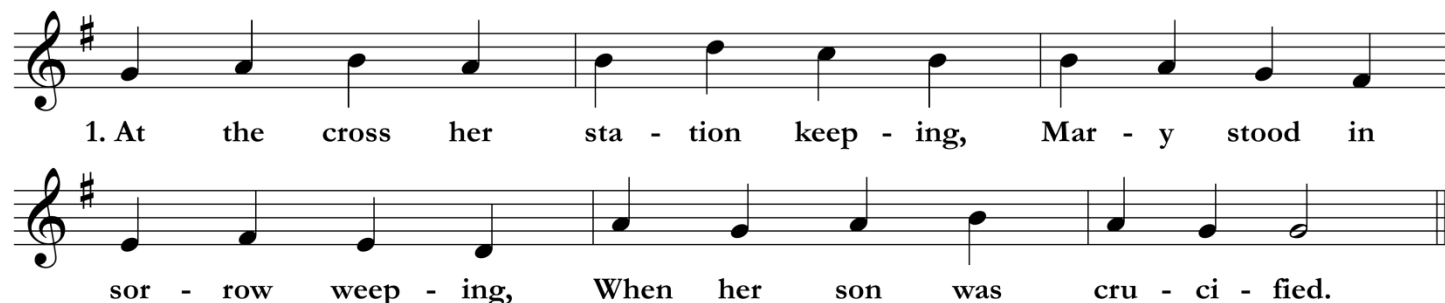
*A brief period of silence is kept.*

### THE COLLECT

**A**SSIST US MERCIFULLY WITH YOUR HELP, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The organ introduces the hymn. Then as the procession moves to the First Station, all sing,*

### HYMN IN PROCESSION



1. At the cross her station keep - ing, Mar - y stood in  
sor - row weep - ing, When her son was cru - ci - fied.

*Words: Latin, 13<sup>th</sup> century; ver. The Hymnal 1982*

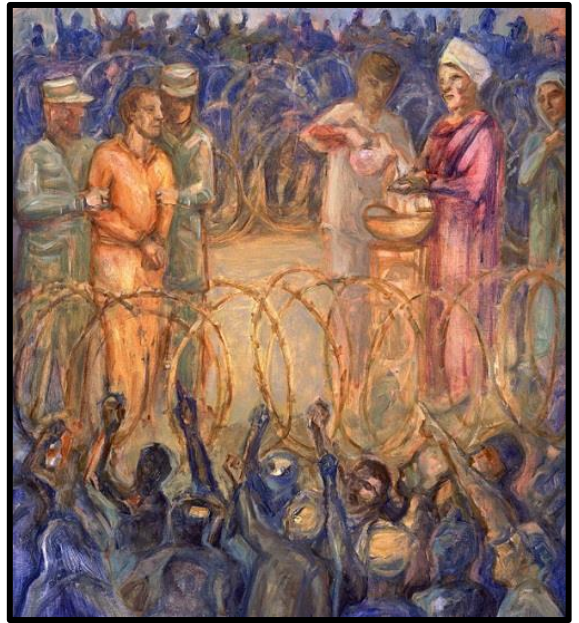
*Music: Stabat Mater dolorosa, melody from Maintzisch Gesangbuch, 1661*

## THE FIRST STATION

*Jesus is condemned to death*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:  
*People* **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

*Officiant*  
**A**S SOON AS IT WAS MORNING, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, *Gabbatha*. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.



*Officiant* God did not spare his own Son:  
*People* **But delivered him up for us all.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**A**Lmighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*  
**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Second Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

2. While she wait - ed in her an - guish, see - ing Christ in  
tor - ment lan - guish, Bit - ter sor - row pierced her heart.

## THE SECOND STATION

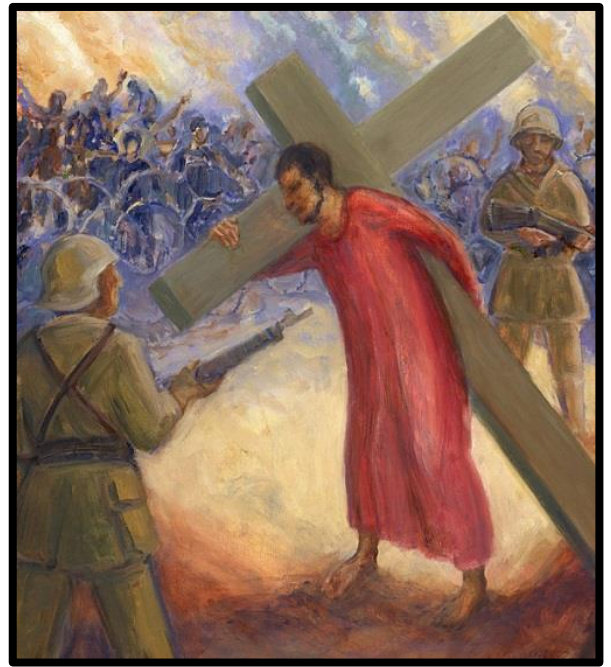
*Jesus takes up his Cross*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**J**ESUS WENT OUT, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, *Golgotha*. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.



*Officiant* The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

*People* **For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**A**Lmighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Third Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

3. With what pain and de - so - la - tion, with what no - ble  
re - sig - na - tion, Ma - ry watched her dy - ing Son.



## THE THIRD STATION

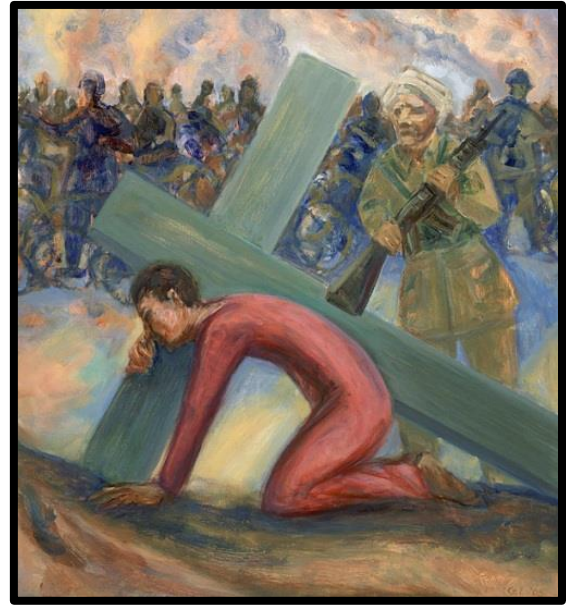
*Jesus falls the first time*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**C**HRIST JESUS, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.



*Officiant* Surely he has borne our griefs:

*People* **And carried our sorrows.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**O** GOD, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Fourth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

4. E - ver pa - tient in her year - ing, though her tear - filled  
eyes were burn - ing, Ma - ry gazed up - on her Son.

## THE FOURTH STATION

*Jesus meets his afflicted mother*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**T**O WHAT CAN I LIKEN YOU, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

*Officiant* A sword will pierce your own soul also:

*People* **And fill your heart with bitter pain.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**O** GOD, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

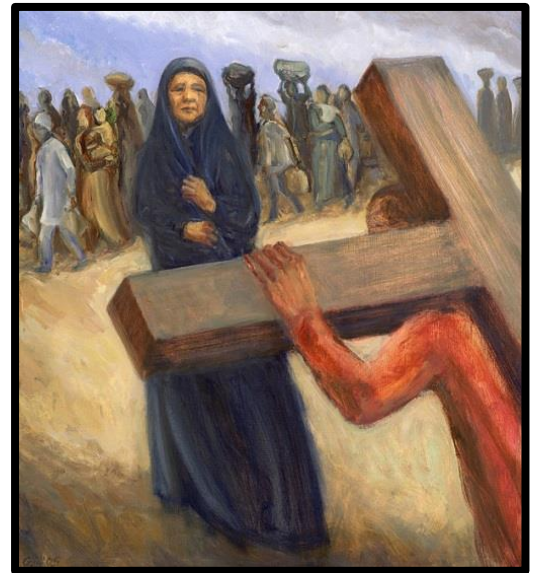
*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Fifth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

5. Who, that sor - row con - tem - plat - ing, on that pas - sion  
med - i - tat - ing, would not share the Vir - gin's grief?



## THE FIFTH STATION

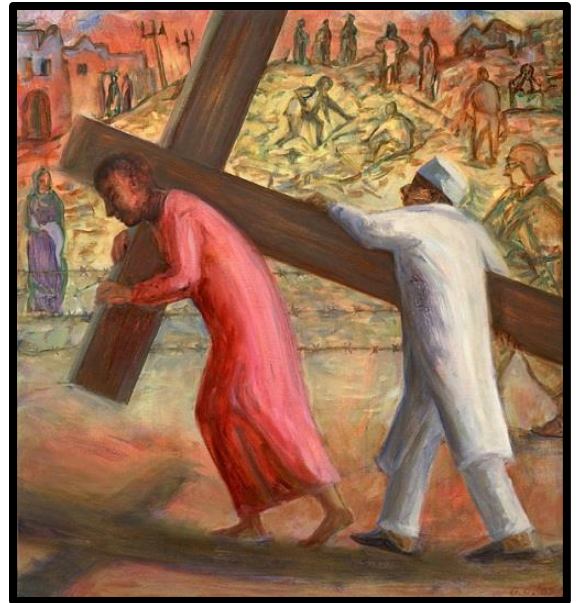
*The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**A**S THEY LED JESUS AWAY, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."



*Officiant* Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

*People* **Cannot be my disciple.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**H**EAVENLY FATHER, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Sixth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

6. Christ she saw, for our sal - va - tion, scourged with cru - el  
ac - clam - a - tion, bruised and beat - en by the rod.



## THE SIXTH STATION

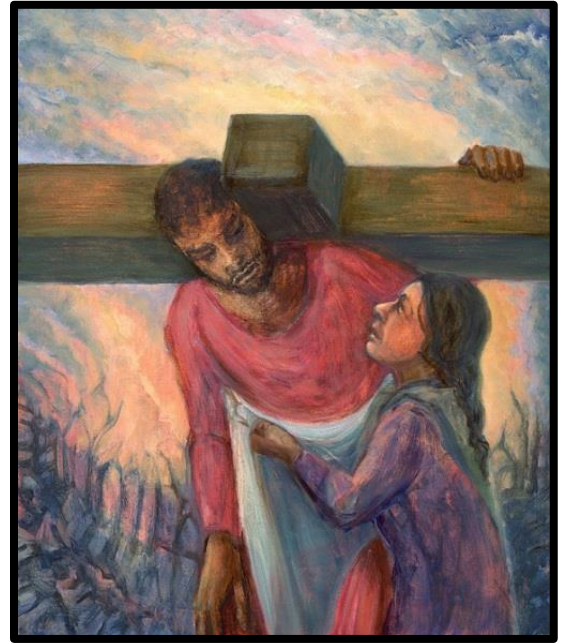
*A woman wipes the face of Jesus*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**W**E HAVE SEEN HIM without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.



*Officiant* Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

*People* **Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**O** GOD, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Seventh Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

7. Christ she saw with life - blood fail - ing, all her an - guish  
un - av - ail - ing, saw him breathe his ve - ry last.

## THE SEVENTH STATION

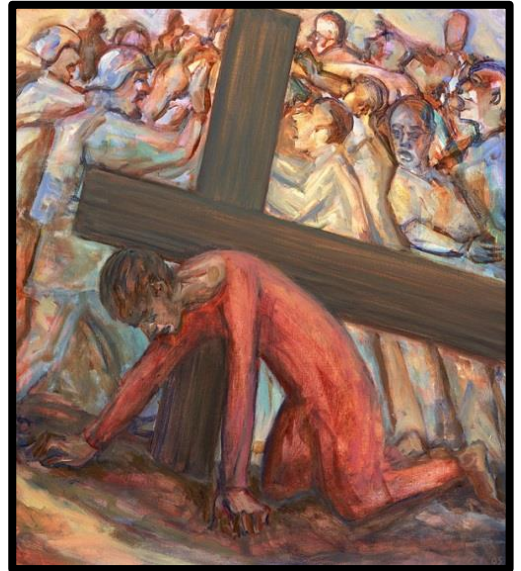
*Jesus falls a second time*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**S**URLEY, HE HAS BORNE OUR GRIEFS and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.



*Officiant* But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

*People* **Scorned by all and despised by the people.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**A**Lmighty and Ever-Living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession goes to the Eighth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

8. Ma - ry, fount of love's de - vo - tion, let me share with  
true e - mo - tion all the sor - row you en - dured.

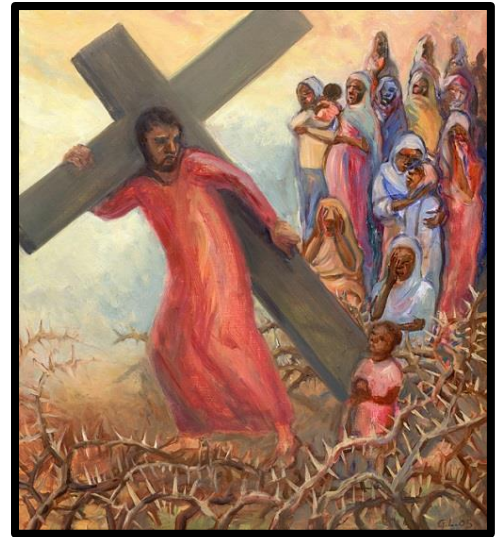


## THE EIGHTH STATION

*Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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



*Officiant*

**T**HERE FOLLOWED AFTER JESUS a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

*Officiant* Those who sowed with tears:

*People* **Will reap with songs of joy.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**T**EACH YOUR CHURCH, O LORD, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children’s children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Ninth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

9. Vir - gin, ev - er in - ter - ced - ing, hear me in my  
fer - vent plead - ing: Fire me with your love of Christ.



## THE NINTH STATION

*Jesus falls a third and final time*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**I** AM THE MAN WHO HAS SEEN affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. "Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!"

*Officiant* He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

*People* **And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

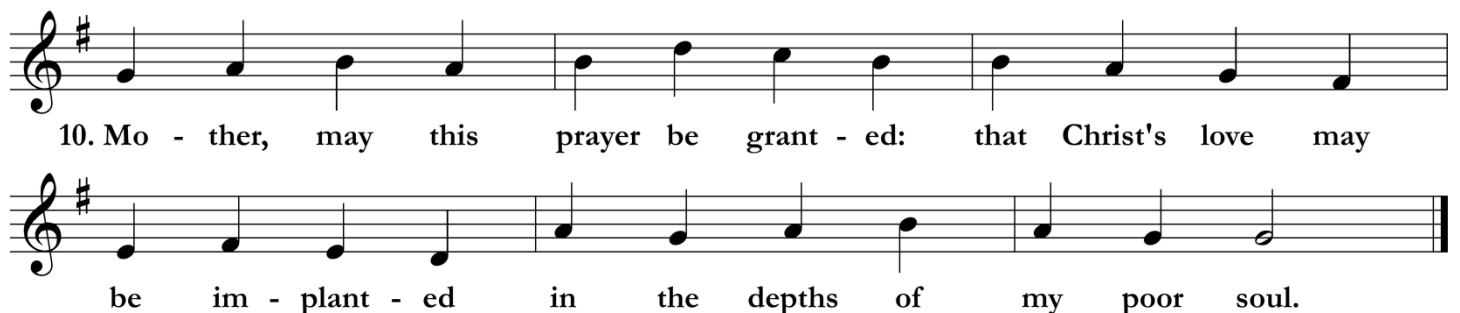
**O** GOD, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

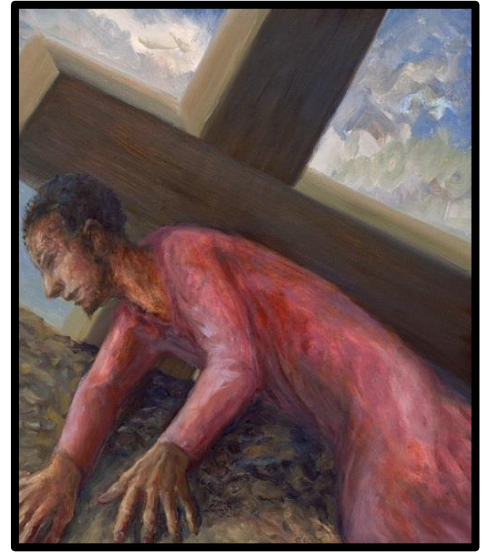
**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Tenth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION



10. Mo - ther, may this prayer be grant - ed: that Christ's love may  
be im - plant - ed in the depths of my poor soul.



## THE TENTH STATION

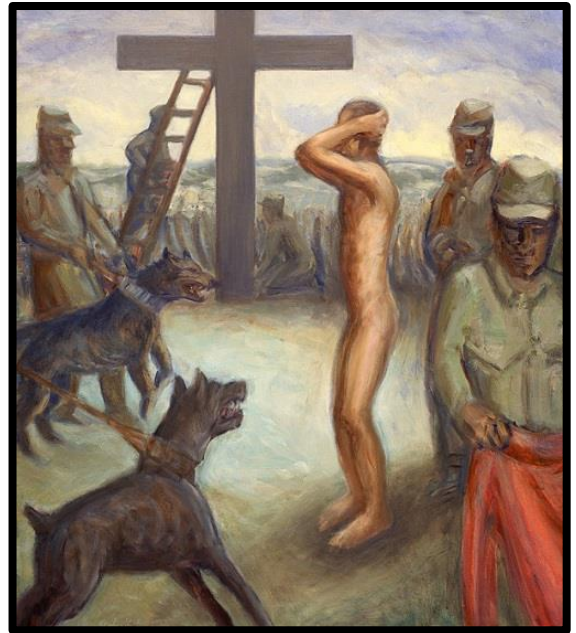
*Jesus is stripped of his garments*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**W**HEN THEY CAME TO A PLACE called *Golgotha* (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."



*Officiant* They gave me gall to eat:

*People* **And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

### THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**L**ORD GOD, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Eleventh Station, all sing,*

### HYMN IN PROCESSION

11. At the cross, your sor - row shar - ing, all your grief and  
tor - ment bear - ing, let me stand and mourn with you.



## THE ELEVENTH STATION

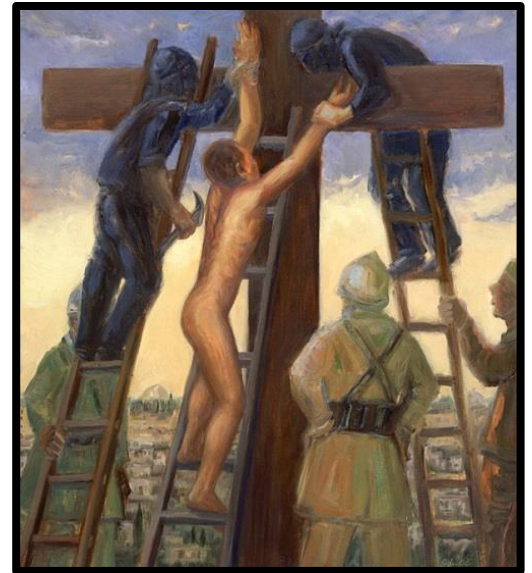
*Jesus is nailed to the Cross*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**W**HEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."



*Officiant* They pierce my hands and my feet:

*People* **They stare and gloat over me.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**L**ORD JESUS CHRIST, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Twelfth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

12. Fair - est maid of all cre - a - tion, queen of hope and  
con - sol - a - tion, let me feel your grief sub - lime.



## THE TWELFTH STATION

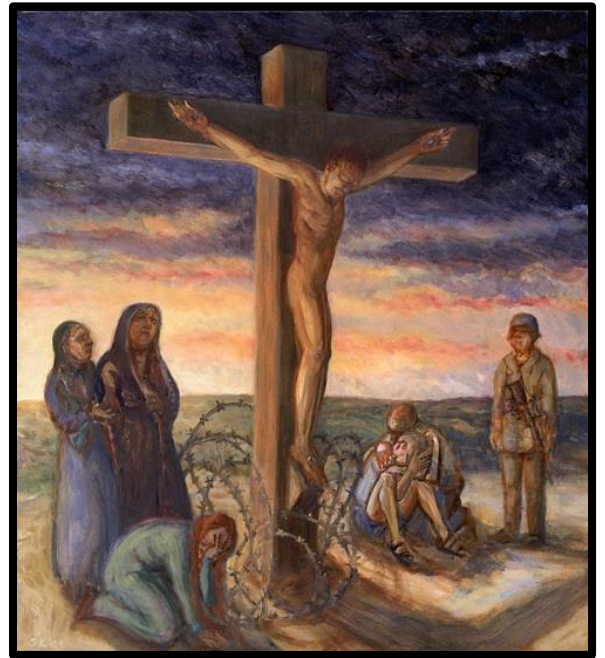
*Jesus dies on the Cross*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**W**HEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.



*Officiant* Christ for us became obedient unto death:

*People* **Even death on a cross.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept*

### THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**O** GOD, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Thirteenth Station, all sing,*

### HYMN IN PROCESSION



## THE THIRTEENTH STATION

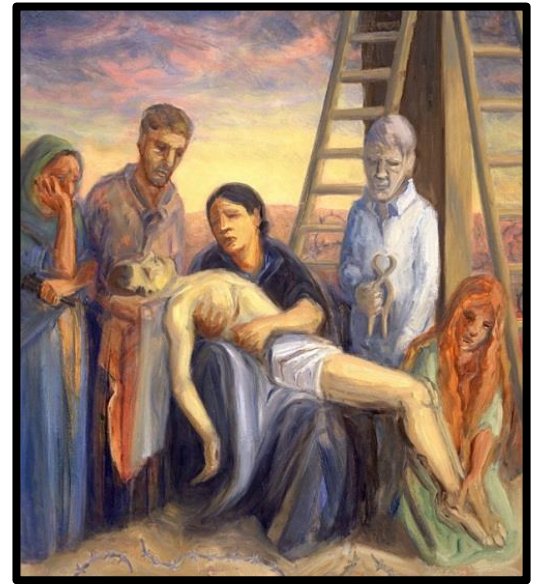
*The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**A**LL YOU WHO PASS BY, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. "Do not call me *Naomi* (which means Pleasant), call me *Mara* (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."



*Officiant* Her tears run down her cheeks:

*People* **And she has none to comfort her.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept*

## THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**L**ORD JESUS CHRIST, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession moves to the Fourteenth Station, all sing,*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

14. Sav - iour, when my life shall leave me, through your mo - ther's  
prayers re - ceive me with the fruits of vic - to - ry.





## THE FOURTEENTH STATION

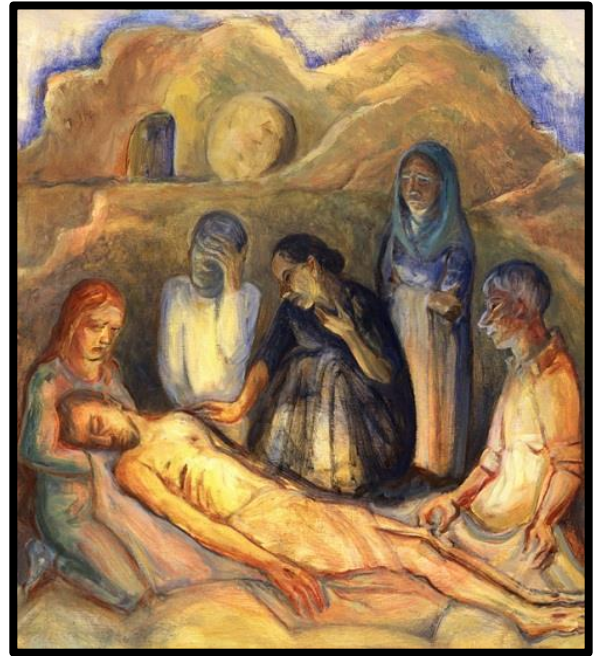
*Jesus is laid in the tomb*

*Officiant* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

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

*Officiant*

**W**HEN IT WAS EVENING, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.



*Officiant* You will not abandon me to the grave:

*People* **Nor let your Holy One see corruption.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

### THE COLLECT & TRISAGION

**O** GOD, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Officiant and People*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

*As the procession returns to the foot of the Wooden Cross, all sing,*

### HYMN IN PROCESSION

15. Let me to your love be tak - en, let my soul in  
death a - wak - en to the joys of Par - a - dise.

## THE CONCLUDING PRAYERS BEFORE THE CROSS

*Officiant* O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:  
*People* **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

*A brief period of silence is kept.*

### THE COLLECT

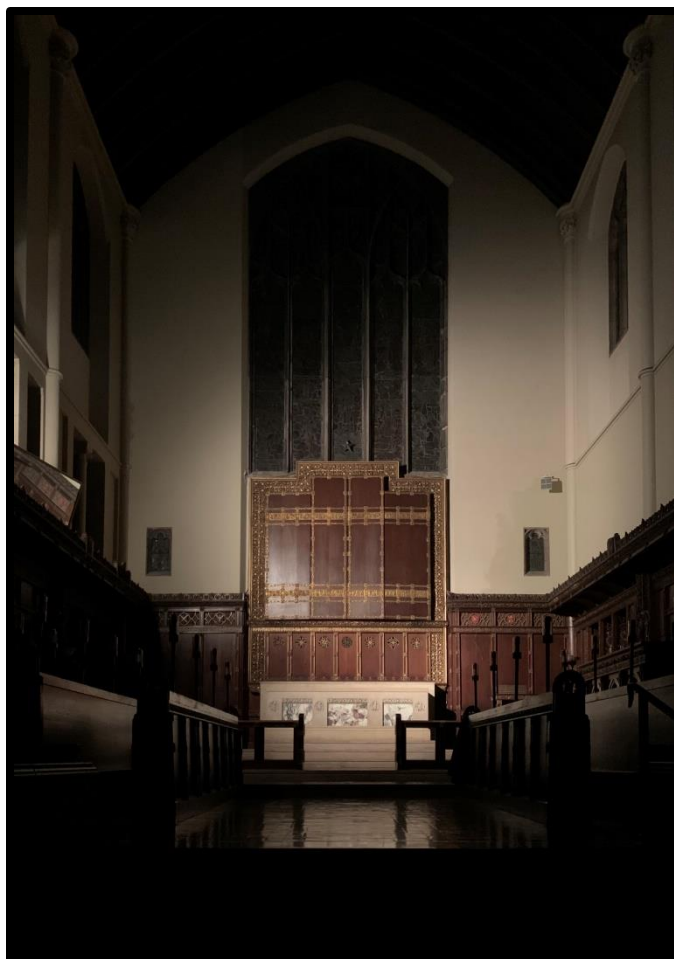
*Officiant* Let us pray.

**W**E THANK YOU, HEAVENLY FATHER, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE DOXOLOGY

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please join in singing the hymn on the following page.*



HYMN 474

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Rockingham, from *The Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1970; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807)

*All depart in silence.*

Cover art: *Jesus meets his Mother on the way to Calvary*, panel in the East Window above the High Altar at Grace Church.

## NOTES ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS COMMISSION

Gwyneth Leech (2005)

*Via Crucis* - The Way of the Cross. A Medieval pilgrimage through the streets of Jerusalem following Christ's walk from condemnation to crucifixion, death and burial. *Stations of the Cross* - a translation of the route into 14 painted or carved "stations" which are placed around a church or along a path and used for ritual pilgrimages of prayer and meditation during the season of Lent.

**Statement:** The commission to paint Stations of the Cross for Saint Paul's Church on-the-Green, Norwalk, CT has given me an extraordinary opportunity to explore crucifixion iconography in light of current events. The year since I began work in March 2004 has been dominated by conflict in the Middle East, especially the war in Iraq. The many photographs of the torture and humiliation of captives, whether by soldiers or by terrorists rendered the *Via Crucis* into a contemporary narrative. The paintings are also my response to the seeming deluge of images of grief in the press during this time. Gestures of mourning, sorrow and suffering from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Gaza Strip, Israel, Russia, Sudan, the United States and from around the Indian Ocean echo Medieval paintings of the crucifixion. As the number of dead from war and natural disaster has recently reached such incomprehensible magnitude, these paintings have become a way to focus on each individual lost, and a way to remember and feel for the family and friends left behind to grieve.

**Background:** In approaching the commission to paint 14 Stations of the Cross for Saint Paul's, I first looked at a variety of art historical sources: paintings, sculpture, murals, stained glass and tapestries. The most compelling images for me were those that set the crucifixion in a place and dress contemporary to the artist. In the background of many Flemish crucifixions, Jerusalem is imagined as a modern fortress city set in a Northern European landscape. In these and in Italian Medieval paintings the robes of the mourners and the soldiers at the foot of the cross are more contemporary than biblical. In studying these images I looked carefully at the depiction of grief and mourning which is such a significant part of the narrative. The gestures and expressions were strongly similar to those I was seeing in the press. I was startled by how similar these figures were, even in dress. A sampling of images in the months since I had started working on the commission came from Iraq, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Israel, and the Gaza Strip. I therefore decided to use these contemporary expressions of grief that came each day in the form of newspaper imagery, underlining the enduring message of the road to Calvary and the universal nature of its emotional force. Likewise, images of prisoner abuse gave me a new and potent understanding of the beating, stripping, humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus and I felt compelled to reference these images as well. I have blended these modern elements with traditional compositional forms, using the Gothic, European crucifixion as a starting point.

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

**Holy Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Great Vigil, Holy Baptism, & The First Eucharist of Easter

**8:00 PM**

**The Feast of the Resurrection: Easter Day, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Spoken Holy Eucharist

**8:00 AM**

Festal Choral Eucharist *with* Brass & Timpani

**10:00 AM**



**GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE**

300 Westminster Street • Providence • RI • 02903

401-331-3225 • [www.GraceChurchProvidence.org](http://www.GraceChurchProvidence.org)

*All music in the service leaflet is reprinted with permission under onelicense.net. License # A-722343*

