



# Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

[www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org) 703.549.1980

## Good Friday

April 3, 2026 – Noon

Stations of the Cross



Connecting @ Grace

Address: 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305 ♦ Phone: 703.549.1980 ♦ Website: [www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa](https://www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa) ♦ Instagram: @graceepisalexva

YouTube: Search Grace Episcopal Alexandria, Virginia on Youtube.com

## WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at [welcome@gracealex.org](mailto:welcome@gracealex.org), so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing. Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



**Please silence your cell phones during worship.**

### Our Mission Statement

**To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God**

*through life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others*

### Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, and 9 am - 12 pm on Fridays.  
(Mother Anne is out of the office on Mondays & Mother Emma & Father Jon are out of the office on Fridays)

### Staff

**Betsy Bamford**

**Jane Avery**

*Nursery Workers (part-time)*

**The Rev. Emma Brice**

*Associate Rector & School Chaplain*

[emma.brice@gracealex.org](mailto:emma.brice@gracealex.org)

**Mary Cyrus**

*Financial Administrator (part-time)*

[financial.admin@gracealex.org](mailto:financial.admin@gracealex.org)

**Kevin Hamilton**

*Director of Operations and Communication*

[director.of.operations@gracealex.org](mailto:director.of.operations@gracealex.org)

**Josh Harrington**

*Interim Director of Music (part-time)*

[josh.harrington@gracealex.org](mailto:josh.harrington@gracealex.org)

**Pedro Hernández**

**Amorita Quintanilla**

*Sextons*

**Amanda Hungerford**

*Head of Grace Episcopal School*

[ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org)

**Ginny Leebrick**

*Interim Family Ministries Assistant*

[Ginny.leebrick@gracealex.org](mailto:Ginny.leebrick@gracealex.org)

**The Rev. Jon Scarffe**

*Interim Assistant Rector*

[jon.scarffe@gracealex.org](mailto:jon.scarffe@gracealex.org)

**The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner**

*Rector*

[anne.turner@gracealex.org](mailto:anne.turner@gracealex.org)

*25-26 Seminarians (Virginia Theological Seminary)*

Seth Wise Buck

The Rev. Gabriel (Gabe) Oakes

Miranda Peters

### IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (703) 261-9079**, and the priest on call will assist you.

### HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.

# MEDITATIONS ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## GOOD FRIDAY

NOON, APRIL 3, 2026

*The people stand.*

### OPENING DEVOTIONS

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

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant and People*

**Our 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.**

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

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

*Officiant* Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Assist 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 procession goes to the First Station.*

*It is customary to genuflect as each station is announced. You may bow instead.*

*Parishioners will read the meditation for each station.*

### 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.**

As 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.

*Versicle* God did not spare his own Son:

*Response* **But delivered him up for us all.**

### MEDITATION

One day, during a lecture about how the Catholic Church justified the crusades by decreeing that only some are neighbors, a student, seemingly offended, asked a question. He (rhetorically) asked our professor, "what would the early Christians do if a military force attacked them?" He... didn't get the answer he wanted. My professor said that rather, the early Christians would've done nothing.

They might've fled, but they certainly wouldn't have fought back. Their staunch nonviolence was grounded in their adherence to the commandments of love- to love God and your neighbor.

And their adherence to the commandments meant that they would be seen as enemies of the state by the Roman empire, because love went against the status quo. It was treasonous to disregard worshipping the Roman gods because it was seen as inviting curses to Rome. It was subversive to literally (not metaphorically) follow the Sermon on the Mount. It was provocative to disavow violence, even the socially "acceptable" kinds of it. It was considered unpatriotic to consider everyone- not just the people the state liked- as their neighbor- siblings in Christ, and to act on that.

Their commitment to love meant that Christians throughout history lost their jobs, status, wealth, families, friends, and at times, their lives. Actively loving the poor, the sick, the hungry, and the oppressed has always been unpopular, even in "Christian" societies. But, their faith in eternal life made the hard choice of love easier. Their love for God and their neighbor made the hard choice the correct choice. For Jesus specifically, his love for the world made the hard choice of accepting his sentence his only choice. In doing so, Christians traded their worldly lives to live holy ones- ones full of love instead of hate- and I hope we can have the faith to do so today.

- Annie Eason

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Almighty 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.**

**Holy God**

**Holy and Mighty,**

**Holy Immortal One,**

**Have mercy upon us.**

## 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.**

Jesus 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.

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

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

## MEDITATION

One of our favorite hymns is "Lift High The Cross." In fact, I have specified it as the recessional for my funerals. When we sing the hymn, we watch some strong, tall acolyte lead the procession with our beautiful cross lifted high before us.

Jesus' cross in this moment isn't polished brass on a pole! It is the original cross - two heavy wooden beams that He can barely lift and drag along the ground.

To us this represents the moment when He takes on all our sins and sorrows. Through Grace, and no action of our own, God grants us the absolution and remission of all our wrong doings – things done and things left undone – and grants us everlasting life.

Jesus lifts this heavy burden – the sin of the world – so that we can live to rejoice singing and lifting high the Cross for all to see.

– Jean Reed

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Almighty God, whose most dear 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.**

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

### 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.**

Christ 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.

*Versicle* Surely he has borne our griefs:

*Response* **And carried our sorrows.**

### MEDITATION

This station shows Jesus' humility and frailty as a human. He lived as a human, so he knows what it's like to be one of us.

He first falls at the very beginning of his journey. How many of us have fallen at the start of a work project, a personal undertaking, or our own faith journey? It would be so easy to just give up when we've just begun, but like Jesus, we have to get up and keep going. How many of us have carried a cross alone, not wanting to bother or burden anyone, and ended up collapsing under the weight of it?

Jesus shows his strength when he falls and must get up again, not once, but three times. We can call on his strength when we're feeling weak, alone, or helpless and we know, no matter how many times we have fallen, he will pick us up, again and again.

– Colleen McArdelle

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

#### 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.**

To 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.

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

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

#### MEDITATION

It's hard to follow Jesus in this city of narrow streets and too many gates. The crowds push past the condemned man without regard. But when a wail is heard echoing off the stones surrounding us, we stop. Mary his mother is before him, reaching out, not touching, as if her hands are holding his whole life up to this point.: her baby, a young boy, a dedicated student, a good friend, a teacher of scripture, a follower of the law and the prophets. She knew this pain would come, Simeon warned her when they presented Jesus in the temple, what we see on her face is that she does not yet know that this pain will end. It is truly a sword piercing her heart.

- Chrissie Crosby

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

#### 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.**

As 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."

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

*Response* **Cannot be my disciple.**

## MEDITATION

Follow me. Christ who has called us into His ministry says, "Follow me". So often we engage with the Christ who carries our burdens, and we try to make ourselves strong to help carry the burdens of others. We imitate the Christ who carries us. It is easy to forget that in this station, in this place of Christ's passion, it is Christ who is carried. I wonder what this means in my own life? I wonder about the holiness of allowing oneself to be weak. Christ was so beaten, so wounded that it became clear to those who were driving Him to the Hill of the Skull, that He would be unable to continue on without support. So Christ, fully God and fully human is carried by a stranger, a man who began his day as someone of little importance, carries the cross of Christ, and Jesus, in perfect weakness, with it. It was noble what Simon of Cyrene did that day, but Christ's weakness was holy. I wonder in our moments of vulnerability if we can remember the holiness of Christ's weakness and allow someone to help carry us.

- Seth Wise Buck

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Heavenly 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.**

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

## 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.**

We 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.

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

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

## MEDITATION

Somehow, a woman manages to interrupt the walk of soldiers and guards. She pushes past to reach out to Jesus, wiping his face of the accumulated dust, trauma, blood and pain.

She is brave, this unknown person. The imperial soldiers are not known to be sympathetic to those considered criminals. Because they had weapons and uniforms and the tacit approval of their ruling empire, they could have killed the woman for stepping out of line. Men are known to get drunk on that kind of power and do stupid things.

Tradition tells us that an image of the face of Jesus appeared on the cloth. Maybe that's why the woman is allowed to leave. Maybe that miracle touched the human hearts behind the masks of authority.

- Chrissie Crosby

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

#### 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.**

Surely 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.

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

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

#### MEDITATION

Many people in this country and around the world are falling under acute debt and it is the world's poorest countries who are struggling the most. Many are forced to spend more on paying rents to big banks, wealthy nations and global institutions than they spend on health, education or tackling the climate crisis. Let Jesus fall remind us of our call as the people of God, to speak out against structural injustice. In his falling let us remember that we are called to lift each other up so that all people can flourish and fulfill their potential.

- Father Jon Scarffe

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Almighty and everliving 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.**

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

#### 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.**

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of 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."

*Versicle* Those who sowed with tears:

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

#### MEDITATION

For our Palm Sunday Evensong, we, at Bruton Parish, sang Emanuele D'Astroga's Stabat Mater. It's a really pretty, baroque piece, and it's about how the author wants to grieve Jesus's death with Mary. Though, in rehearsal, while my section wasn't actively singing, I read D'Astroga's biography- which was behind the nice cover. He... definitely wasn't the best person ever. He had a temper, "married" a 15 year old girl when he was 40, had three kids with her, then left. His work might have proclaimed his Christianity, but his actions towards people like Jesus and Mary said otherwise.

When Jesus was talking to the crowd who bewailed him, he was talking to people like D'Astroga- people who knew who Jesus was, and sympathized with him, but didn't know who he represented. They didn't know that Christians like Joanna had an obligation to help all those vulnerable around them, even when it was inconvenient. They grieved for Jesus loudly, but when it came to grieving for the poor around them, they were silent. In contrast, the Christian women who followed him from Galilee- the women who funded his mission, helped the poor, and had the courage to show up even the disciples didn't- quietly watched.

Yet, Jesus tells them that they can change. They already did the first step by empathizing with a stranger, rather than listening to the propaganda that demonized him. But now, instead of idolizing him, they needed to instead worship him by repenting for their misdeeds, and by helping those who he represents.

He tells them to not be simply followers, but to be Christians- and to act on their faith. In this short moment, he teaches them about who he really is, what he stands for- and who they- and maybe we- can become.

- Annie Eason

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Teach 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.**

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

#### NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

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

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

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 the 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!"

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

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

## MEDITATION

We all have heard the saying, “A mighty cross to bear”, and that can reflect a mental or physical burden, or an unpleasant responsibility that one must endure. Indeed, Jesus endured the cross itself as he carried it to Golgotha, the sheer weight of it causing him to fall a total of three times. We too in our everyday lives, feel the immense weight of the cross, whether it is grief, hopelessness, embarrassment, fear, or above all, pain. And many times, we fall under that weight, just as Jesus did those three times, but what do we do to lift ourselves from this burden? While it may seem that our own “crosses” are insurmountable, we must remember that our Lord Christ took on the greatest burden, the most mighty of crosses, and fell under its powerful weight so that we could recognize His compassion and love for us. He took that momentous fall for us, so that we could have the hope and strength to rise.

- Jason Holleran

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

## 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.**

When 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.”

*Versicle* They gave me gall to eat:

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

## MEDITATION

When I think of this moment during our Lord’s passion, I recall a painting that I’ve seen and reflected on many times. It’s called the Crowning with Thorns by the Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch and shows four of Christ’s tormentors surrounding him, one placing the crown of thorns on Christ’s head. Another is placing his hands on Christ’s garments as to rip them off. And all the while, despite these acts of extreme cruelty, our Lord, unlike the tormentors who look on him with disdain and hate, looks at us with almost a look of calmness and serenity. It’s as if He is saying to us, “It’s okay,” Jesus is Practically inviting us to share in His passion with a sense of hope, despite the claustrophobic chaos surrounding Him. I feel that, while Christ’s outer dignity is stripped as his garments are removed, the inward calm and contemplation that he shows to us, the viewer, give us inner peace and hope during this and all the tribulations of His passion.

- Jason Holleran

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Lord 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.**

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

### **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.**

When 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, and the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

*Versicle* They pierce my hands and my feet:

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

### MEDITATION

As I reflected on this station, my friends were sheltering from military attack. They were seeking cover from death and injury.

Jesus, you had no cover. You were fully exposed. You were lying naked on this cross. You were being painfully attached to the instrument of your death.

Jesus, the Gospels tell us you had acceptance. You told your Heavenly Father that you accepted this cup. Did you also feel fear? Fear of death? Fear the greater suffering that was imminent? Relief that it was finally happening after this long, tortuous road? Did you feel hope? Anticipation of entering Paradise that day? Love? What were you feeling in this moment?

- Benjamin Kong

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Lord 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.**

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

### **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.**

When 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.

*People genuflect and hold a period of silence.*

*Versicle* Christ for us became obedient unto death:  
*Response* **Even on a cross.**

#### MEDITATION

We are all going to die someday, you and I and everyone we love, but I hope to God we don't die as Jesus died, in agony, tortured to death in front of his mom, through no fault of his own. Crucifixion was designed to make every breath an agony, and yet to last for hours. So how could Jesus use one of his last excruciatingly painful breaths to say: Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing?

I have a really hard time with this. I literally wouldn't wish Jesus' death on my worst enemy, but I can't imagine forgiving people while they were torturing me. How did he do that? Why did he make excuses for them? Roman soldiers crucified people in the lands they conquered all the time, so how could Jesus say they didn't know?

When I meditate on Jesus' cross, I see the human expression of the love of God, and I know that there is nothing I or anyone else can do to force God, who is love, to stop loving us, God's children. Jesus truly died for the love of every one of us, and used one of his last painful breaths to tell us so

- Anne Clift Boris

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

#### 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.**

All 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."

*Versicle* Her tears run down her cheeks:  
*Response* **And she has none to comfort her.**

## MEDITATION

What kind of mourning follows a day of torture and public death, especially for a mother, seeing her son treated so unfairly? What is hardest? Or is it all bound together in sharp edged pain, making each heartbeat jolt her awareness of the body she holds? How does she hold that grief? How do we?

Mary surely felt creation crack when Jesus died. She saw the sky darken as though the sun itself no longer wanted to give light. To have his body put into her arms gave her the chance to begin to accept the reality of what happened. The scars from his whipping, the wound from the spear, the blood still on his face, the dead weight she held. All of this was also partly her own body and blood.

Jesus gives his body and blood to us today to let us hold Mary's grief for her.

- Chrissie Crosby

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

Lord 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.**

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

## 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.**

When 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.

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

*Response* **Nor let your holy One see corruption.**

## MEDITATION

Jesus had to be buried in a hurry, since he died not long before the Sabbath began at sundown; but cemetery space near Jerusalem was expensive, since the Pharisees believed the resurrection would begin there. Who would agree to let their family tomb be opened so that a recently executed criminal could be buried with their ancestors?

All four gospels agree that Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy and well-connected man, offered his own newly carved tomb nearby, and took the risk of getting the body from Pilate. He could not have rolled the stone that normally sealed first-century tombs by himself, but according to the gospel of John, Nicodemus, who had earlier come to Jesus by night, helped with the burial. These are men who had been cautious about the possibility that Jesus might be the Messiah. Where did they get the courage to take this risk, when all hope that Jesus was the Messiah who would throw out the Romans was over?

I think when Jesus died they realized just how much they loved him. I know by experience when someone I love dies, I still love them. Death may end hope, but it cannot end love.

- Anne Clift Boris

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Silence*

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.**

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

*The people kneel.*

## CONCLUDING COLLECTS

*Celebrant*

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

Let us pray.  
(Silence)

We 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.

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.

*Silent prayer, music, and meditation will continue until the Solemn Liturgy of the  
Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ begins at 1:30 p.m.*

## SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Officiant

Mother Anne Turner

Usher & Lector

Bill Eckel

Acolyte

Ramee Gentry

Meditations

Annie Eason, Jean Reed, Colleen McArdelle, Chrissie Crosby,  
Seth Wise Buck, Father Jon Scarffe, Jason Holleran,

Benjamin Kong, Anne Clift Boris.

Altar Guild Crew Leader

Kristine Hesse

On Good Friday it is a tradition to proclaim the passion narrative so that Jesus Christ's love for all is made clear. Over time, this narrative has been used to promote anti-Judaism. The responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus Christ cannot be attributed, in either preaching or teaching, indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to or represented as rejected or cursed by God, as this claim cannot be found in Scripture. Christians must remember that Jesus, his mother Mary, and his early disciples were Jewish. We must affirm the long-standing teaching of the church that Jesus Christ entered into suffering and death by his own free will as a sign of God's saving and reconciling love to the world.

*-from the Diocese of Massachusetts*

Gifts are dedicated for the Presiding Bishop's Good Friday Offering, which supports the three dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Scan the QR code on the right for more information.



# 2026 Holy Week & Easter Sunday @ Grace

\* Nursery Care Provided

## Palm Sunday, March 29

7:30 am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 am - La Santa Eucaristía con Procesión (*in Spanish*)\*

9:00 am - Little Church with Eucharist\*

9:30 am - Palm Cross Activity for all ages\*

10:30 am - Festival Eucharist with Procession\*  
(*Livestreamed*)

5:00 pm - Contemplative Eucharist

## Maundy Thursday, April 2

12 Noon - Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Festival Eucharist  
with foot-washing and stripping of the altar  
(*Livestreamed*)

Prayer Watch follows until Midnight

## Good Friday, April 3

7:30 am - Liturgy of the Day (*Livestreamed*)

12:00 - 1:00 pm - Stations of the Cross (*Livestreamed*)

1:00 - 1:30 pm - Silence / Music (*Livestreamed*)

1:30 - 3:00 pm - Liturgy of the Day (*Livestreamed*)

5:30 pm - Children & Family Service

7:00 pm - Via Crucis (*in Spanish*)

## Monday in Holy Week, March 30

7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

## Tuesday in Holy Week, March 31

7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

## Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1

7:00 pm - Choral Tenebrae led by our choir and  
Josh Harrington, Interim Director of Music  
(*Livestreamed*)

## Holy Saturday, April 4

9:00 am - Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Day

## Easter Vigil with Bishop Boursakos Saturday, April 4

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil with Baptism &  
Confirmation/Reception\* (*Livestreamed*)  
*Agape potluck meal will follow in the Auditorium*

## Easter Sunday, April 5

7:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

8:45 am - La Santa Eucaristía (*in Spanish*)\*

9:00 am - Little Church with Eucharist\*

9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt\*

10:30 am - Festival Eucharist (*Livestreamed*)  
*Festive prelude starts at 10 AM*

No 5 pm Service on Easter Sunday

