

Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
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Fifth Sunday in Lent -Passion Sunday
SPECIAL HOME SERVICE AND PARISH
ANNOUNCEMENTS
March 29, 2020

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678. 0566. **Office Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at bsleczkowski@aol.com

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Continuing our Discipleship

**5th SUNDAY IN LENT MASS LITURGY
PASSION SUNDAY**

PENITENTIAL RITE

ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Daniel 12: 2-3

C: Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

R: But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

C: Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R: O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.
without end. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. *[pause briefly]*

Heavenly Father, Your Son has made the grave holy and a place of hope for Your people. May we who die in Him also rise in Him. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

So, prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord Yahweh says this: I am now going to open your graves; I shall raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am Yahweh, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people, and put my spirit in you, and you revive,

and I resettle you on your own soil. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken and done this -- declares the Lord Yahweh."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! R:

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word. I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. R:

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. R:

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sister

Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God. You, however, live not by your natural inclinations, but by the Spirit, since the Spirit of God has made a home in you. Indeed, anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But when Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin but the spirit is alive because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead has made his home in you, then he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Lenten Acclamations.

John 11: 25a, 26

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man named Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha, and he was ill.

It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death, but it is for God's glory so that through it the Son of God may be glorified. Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that he was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go back to Judaea. The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews were trying to stone you; are you going back there again?' Jesus replied: Are there not twelve hours in the day? No one who walks in the daytime stumbles, having the light of this world to see by; anyone who walks around at night stumbles, having no light as a guide. He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is at rest; I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is at rest he will be saved.' Jesus was speaking of the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep'; so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas -- known as the Twin -- said to the other disciples, 'Let us also go to die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, but even now I know that God will grant whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world. 'When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to

him Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him, she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who had come with her, Jesus was greatly distressed, and with a profound sigh he said 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man. Could he not have prevented this man's death?' Sighing again, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day since he died.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So, they took the stone away. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I myself knew that you hear me always, but I speak for the sake of all these who are standing around me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me. When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with strips of material, and a cloth over his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free. 'Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what he did, believed in him,

PASSION SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

Located at the end of the bulletin

NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by

the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary,
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSION

As the time of Christ's suffering and death draws nearer, let us ask the Father to lead us through the dark moments of the Passover of His Son to the glory of His Resurrection.

Our response is "Lord hear our prayer.

For our National Catholic Church, the she may be defended from the snares of her enemies through the Spirit of Christ who makes His home in her, let us pray to the Lord.

For all people of this world, that they may be gathered into the Father's kingdom through the prayers and sacrifices of Christians in every nation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the dying, that they may pass peacefully and confidently through the gates of death to meet Him who is the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn, that Christ who wept for Lazarus his friend may console them in their grief, let us pray to the Lord.

For the increase of sacred vocations, so that all parishes may be able to hear the Word of God and partake of the Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are suffering from all forms of illnesses. May the healing hand of the Lord be placed upon them all. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the faithful departed, that the Lord may unbind them and let them go free in the kingdom of his glory, especially members of families and parish, let us pray to the Lord.

Father hear the prayers of Your Church. Bring forth to resurrection the people who trust in Your promises. We ask this, through Christ our Lord.

OFFERTORY VERSE

Blessed and holy is the One who shares I the first resurrection. The second death has no power over these. (Revelations 20: 6a.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty, ever-living God receive this offering and lead our hearts back to You. Through the merits of this spotless Sacrifice may we receive the promise of eternal inheritance. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

COMMUNION VERSE

But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise; awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. (Isaiah 26: 19a)

PRAYER AFTER SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us pray. [*pause briefly*] **Lord of life and death,** You have redeemed us with the precious blood of Your Son.

Through this spiritual Eucharist we have received, keep us firm in the confession of His name so that we may gain eternal life as He promised. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, **Who** lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER IN TIME OF NATIONAL ANXIETY

Let us pray. I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of our people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANGELUS – ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary ...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This Week

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Holy Mass

Holy Mass

Passion Sunday

9:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Holy Mass

Palm Sunday

9:00 A.M.

There will be the blessings of palms during Holy Mass and the palms can be picked up in the vestibule after Mass for your convenience between 10 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.


Always check our website www.hfpncc.org or Holy Family National Catholic Facebook page for added information.

Homemade Chocolate Easter Eggs Still Available

Orders and purchases can be made after today's Mass and Palm Sunday Mass in the vestibule. There are various varieties of ½ lb. Milk Chocolate & Dark Chocolate Easter Eggs for sale. Price is \$10.00.

Fifth Sunday in Lent Word Search

A	M	A	R	T	A	H	R	A	M	LAZARUS
S	I	T	E	E	F	A	L	B	A	BETHANY
R	S	E	Y	A	H	A	E	L	B	SISTERS
E	Y	U	A	T	Z	T	N	M	Y	MARTHA
T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T	MARY
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E	OINTMENT
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B	FEET
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J	BROTHER
R	A	Z	A	L	A	Z	L	O	T	JUDAEA
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	R	TOMB
										STONE
										PRAYER



Tentative Holy Week Schedule

Not knowing when restrictions will be lifted, Holy Week celebrations will be cancelled or abbreviated. Please pass the information to family and friends. If you plan on attending any of these services, please keep a social distance from each other. The Church doors will be opened.

- *Blessing of Palms and Palm Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M. There will be no procession, but the blessed palms will be available in the Church Vestibule between 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.*
- *Holy Thursday will only have the Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist at 7:00 P.M. There will be no procession to the Altar of Repose, but the Sacrament will be placed on the side altar.*
- *There will be only one service on Good Friday, an abbreviated Mass of the Pre-Sanctified at Noon. The Church will be opened for individual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament between 1:00 P.M. till 3:00 P.M. There will be no Stations of the Cross at 3:00 P.M. nor Evening Vespers at 7:00 P.M.*
- *An abbreviated Holy Saturday Liturgy will take place at 11:00 A.M. Easter baskets will be blessed during the service.*
- *The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 8:30 A.M. There will be no procession and only one Mass will be celebrated.*

Parish Service Projects

There are three ongoing community service projects going on this Lenten Season: **Witness Bags** filled with toiletries by the Youth; **Food Drive**: “Roll Away the Stone of Hunger” by PNU Branch 132 and **Clothing Drive** headed by Dave Kost to be distributed to the homeless. Choose the one that interests you as we reach out into our communities as we feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Increasing our discipleship in response to the Covid 19 outbreak

1. Increased time in prayer and fasting
2. Sending cards and letters to those nursing homes that cannot have visitors
3. Calling to checking in and pray with family members, friends and neighbors
4. Going shopping for our older brothers and sisters and those in need
5. Sewing Masks for First Responders
6. Increase almsgiving with donations of Blood, money and food to local food pantries. (see our Spojnia Branch 132 “Roll Away the Stone of Hunger”)
7. Keeping Social Distancing to help stop the spread of this virus
8. Thinking of service and others before yourself – following the example of Jesus washing the feet of others (Think Youth Witness Bags and Dave Kost’s clothing drive)
9. Using online conferencing such as Zoom to have online worship and prayer with the faithful that allows their participation such as Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, Liturgy of the Hours and the Litany of the Passion.
10. Streaming various Holy Masses on Facebook and You Tube. PNCC Facebook where Prime Bishop Mikovsky will celebrate Mass or the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese Website where Bishop Mack will be celebrating Mass.

Passion Sunday Gospel Reflections

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A’s focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today’s Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John’s Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today’s reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the

conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

The Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

This same faith can be applied to our national insecurities concerning the Covid -19 pandemic. Too often fear and panic overtake our lives. This is where our Faith must become strong. We have a heavenly Father who loves us. He proved that love by sending His Son to us and taught us to be not afraid. Focusing on His word, a sense of relief will come to us. Even though these are serious times, following the recommendations given by our government, and the protection by our faith in our Creator, we will overcome and resume our normal lives. Each day we hear of more people contracting the disease and more deaths are announced, but the good news is that large survival rate is occurring. Let us pray that a cure becomes available in the near future and we make the survival rate 100%. Jesus taught us of the power of prayer. They can move mountains. We must believe in the power of prayer and remove the mountain of Covid-19. God bless you and keep you all safe.

Passion Sunday Lent 5

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial: Psalm 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45



Key Verse: “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die.”
John 11: 25a

Reading: Our first reading from Ezekiel speaks of the exile of the people to Babylon described in terms of death. And their return home is described in terms of resurrection and spiritual renewal. Paul writes to the Romans that it was the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Now the same Spirit lives in us. Therefore, we have no need to be afraid of death. By raising Lazarus from the dead, our Gospel shows the Jesus is Lord of life and death.

Reflecting: The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today’s readings. There is no more important part of our faith that the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very center and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death.

Praying: God our Father, You sent your only Son into our world, a world dominated by death, to plant within our hearts the hope of eternal life. Grant that one day we may see this hope fulfilled. We pray through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Station of the Cross-Lenten Home Devotion

Opening Prayer: God of power and mercy, in love you sent your Son that we might be cleansed of sin and live with you forever .Bless us as we gather to reflect on his suffering and death that we may learn from his example the way we should go. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

The First Station: Jesus is condemned to die.

Jesus stands in the most human of places. He has already experienced profound solidarity with so many on this earth, by being beaten and tortured. Now he is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death. His commitment to entering our lives completely begins its final steps. He has said "yes" to God and placed his life in God's hands. We follow him in this final surrender, and contemplate with reverence each place along the way, as he is broken and given for us.

The Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross.

Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. It represents the weight of all our crosses. What he must have felt as he first took it upon his shoulders! With each step he enters more deeply into our human experience. He walks in the path of human misery and suffering and experiences its crushing weight.

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time.

The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth! He lays on the ground and knows the experience of weakness beneath unfair burdens. He feels the powerlessness of wondering if he will ever be able to continue. He is pulled up and made to continue.

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother.

Jesus' path takes him to a powerful source of his strength to continue. All his life, his mother had taught him the meaning of the words, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord." Now they look into each other's eyes. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! Now, her grace-filled smile blesses his mission and stirs his heart to its depth. Love and trust in God bind them together.

The Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross.

Jesus even experiences our struggle to receive help. He is made to experience the poverty of not being able to carry his burden alone. He enters into the experience of all who must depend upon others to survive. He is deprived of the satisfaction of carrying this burden on his own.

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus.

Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experiences of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. He encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the vulgar spit and mocking blood from his face. On her veil, she discovers the image of his face - his gift to her. And, for us to contemplate forever.

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time.

Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground. In deep exhaustion he stares at the earth beneath him. "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." He has seen death before. Now he can feel the profound weakness of disability and disease and aging itself, there on his knees, under the weight of his cross.

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.

The women of Jerusalem, and their children, come out to comfort and thank him. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. He suffers, knowing he can't remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time.

This last fall is devastating. Jesus can barely proceed to the end. Summoning all this remaining strength, supported by his inner trust in God, Jesus collapses under the weight of the cross. His executioners look at him as a broken man, pathetic yet paying a price he deserves. They help him up so he can make it up the hill of crucifixion.

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped.

Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. Jesus is completely stripped of any pride. The wounds on his back are torn open again. He experiences the ultimate vulnerability of the defenseless. No shield or security protects him. As they stare at him, his eyes turn to heaven.

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to fix him on the cross. He is bleeding much more seriously now. As the cross is lifted up, the weight of his life hangs on those nails. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his ability to cling to life slips away.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on The Cross.

Between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath: "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken Down from The Cross.

What tender mourning! Jesus' lifeless body lays in his mother's arms. He has truly died. A profound sacrifice, complete.

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus Is Laid in The Tomb.

They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. In this final act of surrender, who would have imagined this tomb would soon be empty or that Jesus would show himself alive to his disciples, or that they would recognize him in the breaking of bread? Oh, that our hearts might burn within us, as we realize how he had to suffer and die so as to enter into his glory, for us.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to You. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in Your steps and so come to share Your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

