



**CHRIST CHURCH
AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA
FOUNDED 1715, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Way of The Cross

A Form for Children



Christ Episcopal Church
320 Pollock Street
New Bern, NC 28563

Opening Devotions

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

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.*

V. We give thanks for the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. *We thank you, Lord Jesus*

Let us pray.

Help us, Lord God, to know your love as we walk the way of the cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(The procession goes to the First Station)

First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Death

After Jesus was arrested, he was taken to the governor, a man by the name of Pontius Pilate. There, Jesus' enemies made fun of him, dressed him in a purple robe and crown of thorns and said, "Hail, King of the Jews," and they beat him. The crowd cried, "Crucify him, crucify him." So Pilate gave Jesus to them to be crucified. They took Jesus and led him away.

(Pilgrims shall be given the opportunity to try the crown of thorns.)

Sometimes we are teased or made fun of or mistreated. Our friend Jesus understands.

- V. God did not spare his own Son:
But delivered him up for us all.
R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***



Let us Pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son suffered pain and was crucified: Help us, when we are teased or made fun of or mistreated to remember the cross; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. ***Amen.***

(Procession goes to the Second Station.)

Second Station

Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Jesus went out, carrying his own cross, to the place called "the place of the skull", which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Like a lamb, he was led to be killed and didn't make a sound. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

Sometimes we find it hard to obey. Our friend Jesus understands.

- V. The Lord has laid on him the wrongdoing of us all:
For our sin he was crucified.
R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***



Let us Pray. (Silence)

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

(Pilgrims will work together to carry a large wooden cross to the Third Station.)

Third Station

The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene

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. Jesus has said, "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."

Sometimes when we, like Simon, are asked to help, we don't want to do it. Our friend Jesus understands.

- V. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***



Let us Pray. (Silence)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be helped but to be a helper: Bless all who, following in his steps, help others; that we may offer love and care 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.***

(Pilgrims will continue to help one another carry the cross to the Fourth Station.)

Fourth Station

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who wailed and cried. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

(Pilgrims will share things that make them sad.)

Sometimes we feel sad when we see the suffering around us. Our friend Jesus understands.

- V. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***



Let us Pray. (Silence)

Teach your people, O Lord, to be sorry for their sins and to repent and change their way; that the results of sin may not be suffered by children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

(Procession goes to Fifth Station.)

Fifth Station

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

When they came to the place called The 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.

(Pilgrims will get to smell vinegar and take a strip of cloth.)

Sometimes we get thirsty and we need water to drink. Our friend Jesus understands.

V. They gave me gall to eat: And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***

Let us Pray. (Silence)

Lord God, whose blessed Son Jesus gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Help us to accept the sufferings of the present time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

(Procession goes to Sixth Station.)



Sixth Station

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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, the other on the left, and Jesus between them.

(Pilgrims are given nails to hold.)

Sometimes we forget how much is done for us. Our friend Jesus understands.

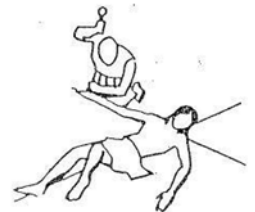
V. They pierce my hands and my feet: They stare and gloat over me.

R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***

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.***

(Procession goes to Seventh Station.)



Seventh Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

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.

(Pilgrims stand quietly as a bell is rung three times)

Sometimes we wonder what it must be like to die. Our friend Jesus understands.

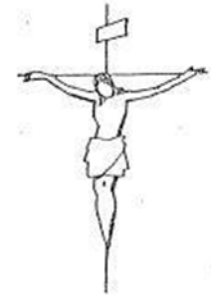
V. Christ for us was obedient unto death: Even death on a cross.

R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***

Let us Pray. (Silence)

O God, who gave your only Son to the death of the cross, help us to do your will that we may evermore live with Jesus in heaven; who lives and reigns now and for ever. ***Amen.***

(Procession goes to the Eighth Station.)



Eighth Station

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

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 clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had carved in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

Sometimes, we wonder if we can be like your disciple, like Joseph of Arimathea.

Our friend Jesus understands.

V. You will not leave us in the death: You will never leave us.

R. ***We thank you Lord Jesus.***

Let us Pray. (Silence)

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden: Grant that we who have been baptized may be his disciples now and forever in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***



Concerning the Service

The devotion known as “The Way of the Cross” is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord’s passion and death.

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 stations are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend. If desired, these six stations may be omitted.

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 sometimes associated a pictorial representation of the event being commemorated.

Adaptation based on The Way of the Cross, Book of Occasional Services, page 54ff, Lent 1990.

CONTACT US

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MISSION

The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to welcome and inspire all people to faith, hope and spiritual growth through worship, Christian fellowship, and service to one another and to the community beyond.