



† The Way of the Cross in Our Country & Across the World †

***Bold print = All.** The Way of the Cross starts at the altar.

In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sanctifier. **Amen.**

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Let us pray together:

**O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;**

May we work with you to establish your new order of justice peace and love;

Give us what we need for growth,

And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.

Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil,

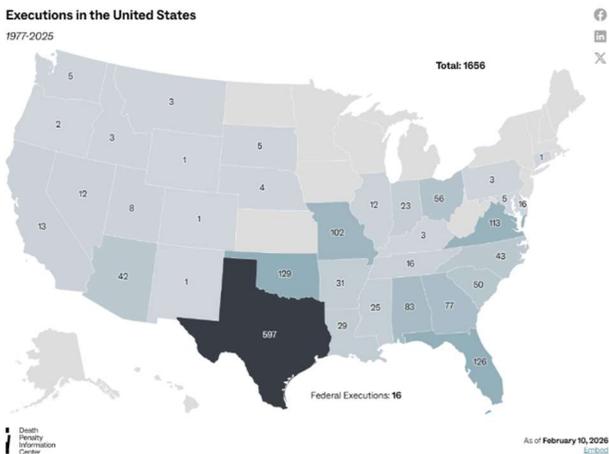
For all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen. [Bill Wallace, Aotearoa/New Zealand]

We will glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ our Savior:

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

Let us pray (*pause*). Assist us mercifully with your help, O 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 Savior. **Amen.**

You may have noticed that St. Mark's stations are a bit different from typical Stations of the Cross. The images they display are from the civil war in Syria (2011-2024). While the war is 'over' the situation remains volatile with ongoing clashes between various factions, including the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and remnants of the Assad regime. The humanitarian crisis continues, with millions displaced and reliant on aid.



1. First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

In 2025, 47 people were executed in the United States. While there were no executions in the state of California in 2025, since 1977, 13 people have been executed in our state. The map to the left shows the number of executed individuals across the US between 1977-2025.

California currently has 580 people on death row, the highest number in the nation. Also of note is that for every 8.2 people executed in the United States in the modern era of the death penalty, one person on death

row has been exonerated. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]
(Map & Info Source: <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/executions>)

For Reflection: Who are the condemned in our own backyard? How do you stand up for them? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): All-powerful and eternal God, for proclaiming the truth, your Heir Jesus Christ, is condemned to death by crucifixion. Stir up your love in our hearts so that we might be ever faithful to all that You have told us and fear nothing more than the loss of your friendship through sin. **Amen.**

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



2. Second Station: Jesus carries his cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Sudanese civil war between the Sudanese Army and paramilitary forces has displaced 8.1 million people since the violence erupted in 2023. Displaced women and children are especially vulnerable to hunger, sexual and domestic violence. Jesus, who willingly took up the Cross for humanity's sake, also commanded us to take up our own crosses and follow him. Let us reflect on Jesus' command and this second station. [SILENCE] (Photo Credit: Zohra Bensemra/Reuters)

For Reflection: What cross have you been carrying lately? What crosses do you see others bear? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): God our Creator, your Heir, Jesus Christ, still carries the Cross in his persecuted siblings throughout the world. Make us feel the needs of all persons so that we might as readily help them as we would help Jesus. **Amen.**

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



3. Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

In 2025, the Regional Task Force on Homelessness reported a 7 percent year-over-year decrease in homelessness in San Diego County. While this is good news, it is important to remember that there are still 9,905 unhoused individuals in our county, and that this number is by all accounts an undercount as it excludes all those who couch-surf, double up in small apartments, sleep in their vehicles or live in other makeshift and temporary conditions. Pictured are nine unhoused San Diegans whose story was told in a *Voice of San Diego* 2023 article. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE] (Photo Credit: Ariana Dreshler—Voice of San Diego)

For Reflection: How/where have you fallen short lately (especially in relation to others)? What crushing burdens do people close to you face? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): O God, to free us from sin and weakness our Savior, Jesus Christ, embraced his passion and crucifixion. Strengthen us to our baptismal resolutions by which we renounced sin and Satan, so that through the passion of this life's sufferings we might rise to a new life of joyful service free of all selfishness. **Amen.**

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



(Photo Credit: Israeli army via AP)

4. Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Freed hostages Fernando Simon Marman and Luis Har, hug relatives at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, in 2024, after being rescued from captivity in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian officials said that the Israeli raid to free the hostages killed dozens of people in southern Gaza. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

For Reflection: How do you comfort others? What have you learned from your mother (or others) about comforting those who hurt and about making sacrifices for others? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): O blessed Savior, at your passion a sword of sorrow pierced the loving heart of your mother as Simeon had foretold. Grant that we who look back on her sorrows with compassion might receive the healing fruits of your sufferings. **Amen.**

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



5. Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Due to the Minnesota ICE surge in late 2025, *Iglesia Dios Habla Hoy* in Minneapolis has been a hub for delivering groceries to primarily Latino families afraid to leave their homes. During a six-week period the church delivered more than 12,000 boxes

of groceries. Pictured is a box of groceries for one family outside their apartment door.

Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE] (Photo Credit: Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

For Reflection: Who have been your 'Simons' in your life? How have you been 'Simon' to someone recently? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Jesus our Teacher, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt. **Amen.**

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



6. Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, in November 2023. Medical attention is given to wounded children in Gaza following Israeli bombardments. As conflicts continue to escalate worldwide, the dangers facing humanitarian workers have intensified. 383 humanitarian workers were killed in 2024. The United Nation’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that these workers act “courageously and selflessly in places like Gaza, Sudan, Lebanon, Ukraine and other conflicts.”

Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

(Photo Credit: Samar Abu Elouf for The New York Times)

For Reflection: What holds you back from reaching out to others in need? How have you welcomed the stranger?
[Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Give us, we beg You, the courage and dedication to sacrifice and suffer with those who are in need, the least of your people. **Amen.**

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



7. Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

On February 5, 2026, fifty-three migrants, including two babies, died after a rubber boat carrying 55 people capsized off the coast of Libya. One of the survivors is the mother whose babies died. This disaster brings the total number of migrants reported dead or missing on the central Mediterranean route – which is the world’s deadliest – to at least 484 so far in 2026, according to the International Organization for Migration’s Missing Migrants Project. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE].

(Photo Credits: Francisco Seco)

For Reflection: How is your level of perseverance? What can you do (or do you do) to help keep others in need going? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Christ our Redeemer, You shared in our weaknesses. Grant us the favor of maturing from our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all others. **Amen.**

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



8. Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Olena Didukh hugs a photograph of her husband at his funeral in 2023 in Lviv, Ukraine. Her friend tries to console her. According to a February 2026 statement by Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, 55,000

Ukrainian soldiers have died during the war and a large number of people are missing. This means that Ukraine is now a country with tens of thousands of war widows. (Photo Credit: Brendan Hoffman for The New York Times)

Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

For Reflection: Who has noticed when you were ‘broken’ in life? How do you react to the brokenness of others? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Beloved Jesus, with tears of pity the women of Jerusalem responded to You, broken, bruised, and beaten, on the road to Calvary. Deepen our faith, we beg You, so that we may see You in our siblings, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference. **Amen.**

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



9. Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

On February 15, 2026 eleven people were killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza. The Palestinian Red Crescent said a strike on a tent encampment in northern Gaza killed at least six people, while another strike in the south of

the strip killed five. The Israel Defense Forces said it had struck terror targets in response to ceasefire violations by Hamas, and that militants had been killed after emerging from a tunnel into the area of the strip controlled by the Israeli military. Both Israel and Hamas have accused each other of near-daily violations of the ceasefire agreement since it took effect on October 10, 2025. (Photo Credit: Samar Abu Elouf for The New York Times)

Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

For Reflection: When/where have you seen the face of Christ in the weak & downtrodden? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Almighty and eternal God, You permitted Jesus to be weakened, crushed, and profaned so that your Heir might rise from the dead freed from the ravages of sin. Help us to accept our weaknesses and failings as forerunners of our glorious resurrection in union with your Heir, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

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



10. Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Intisar Muhana, 97—a Palestinian woman—sits in front of the rubble of her house in Gaza City in 2023. Her home was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike. In 1948 Muhana was forced to flee her village during the *Nakba*, Arabic for “catastrophe” and referring to the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. According to the UN, at least 90 per cent of the population of Gaza — 1.9 million civilians — have been forcibly displaced amid current Israel's military operations. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

(Photo Credit: REUTERS/Arafat Barbakh)

For Reflection: How have you experienced/witnessed disempowerment and displacement in your life and the lives of others? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Jesus our Savior, stripped of everything, You stood exposed to the jeers and contempt of the people whom You loved. Clothe us with genuine love of others, so that nothing we suffer may ever fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness. **Amen.**

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



11. Eleventh Station: The Crucifixion, Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

On January 7, 2026 Renée Good, a mother, wife and poet was shot and killed by an ICE agent in Minneapolis. Good served on the board of her son's school. By way of that school, she learned about monitoring and potentially disrupting ICE operations—efforts described by several legal experts as nonviolent civil disobedience tactics practiced at US protests for generations. Federal officials have claimed without providing evidence that Good was engaging in “domestic terrorism.” Good's wife, Becca Good, said that the couple had “stopped to support our neighbors,” adding, “We had whistles. They had guns.” Let us reflect on this station.

[SILENCE]

(Photo Credit: Kansas City Star)

For Reflection: What are your thoughts on redemptive suffering? Which human behaviors of callousness and cruelty in City Heights need to be called out and changed? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Jesus Christ, You have told us that we too must accept crucifixion if we are to accept resurrection with You. Help us to rejoice in the sufferings that come with the fulfillment of our daily duties, seeing in them the royal road of the cross to resurrection. **Amen.**

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



12. Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025. Some of those who died in detention had arrived in the US recently, seeking asylum. Others had arrived years ago, some as young children. Some had been apprehended on criminal charges or had served time for convictions; others had been picked up in indiscriminate ICE raids. They died of seizure, heart failure, stroke, respiratory failure, tuberculosis or suicide. In some cases, their families and lawyers allege, they died of neglect, after repeatedly trying and failing to get medical care. Pictured are Chaofeng Ge, age 32 who died by suicide and Ismael Ayala Uribe, age 39 who fell ill, was transported to a hospital where he died.



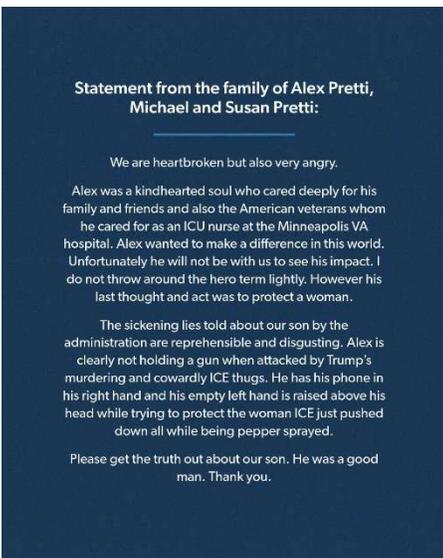
Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

(Photo Credits: The Guardian)

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then, bowing his head, he died. (Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30b) [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Heir 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 Christ 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.



13. Thirteenth Station: The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

“We are heartbroken but also very angry,” so begins a statement of Micheal and Susan Pretti after their son, Alex Pretti was killed by ICE in Minneapolis on January 27, 2026. While the White House accused Pretti of “domestic terrorism,” videos show that Mr. Pretti was holding a phone, rather than his gun, and that an agent took the weapon from his body just before he was shot. The Pretti family asks to “Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man.” Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]

For Reflection: Do you recognize God’s presence in grief? How do you respond to and deal with your own grief and that of others? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Beloved Savior, You returned to the Creator all that had been given You, so that God might

restore all to You a hundred-fold in the glorious resurrection. Help us, to give generously of ourselves in all that we do for You, so that like You we might be made perfect in a new resurrection. **Amen.**

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



14. Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The current unrest in Iran, which began on December 28, 2025, is driven by widespread dissatisfaction with the government's handling of economic issues, including a severe currency collapse and soaring inflation. The unrest is marked by the government's violent crackdown which has resulted in thousands of deaths, by some estimates up to 30,000, and widespread repression. The photo is a still from a video showing bodies lying inside the Kahrizak forensic medical center in Tehran, with what appear to be relatives searching for loved ones. Let us reflect on this station. [SILENCE]
(Photo Credit: UGC/AFP/Getty Images)

For Reflection: How can you/we bring life in the midst of death? What should we do for those who currently cannot bury/honor their dead? [Sustained Silence]

Let us pray (*pause*): Almighty and eternal God, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You restored to us the Savior we thought defeated and conquered. Help us, we beg You, so to empty ourselves of self concern that we might see your hand in every failure and your victory in every defeat. These things we ask in the name of your Heir, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

[Closing Prayers before the altar. Alternate between Officiant & All]

*I will exalt you, O God,
because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.*

**O my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**
*You brought me up, O God, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.*

**Sing to God, you servants of God
and give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.**

*For divine wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
divine favor for a lifetime.*

**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

(Ps 30:1-6)

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

Prayer Sources used with adaptations:
The Book of Occasional Services 2003. A New Zealand Book of Prayer. The Stations of the Cross from The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Way of the Cross, Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church.
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