

**Cross
in the
Mountains and Coast Lines**

Lenten
Prayer Service to
Renew Our Communities

Sponsored By:

*From the Catholic Committee of
Appalachia
Christians for the Mountains
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
West Virginia Council of Churches
And adapted by
Sacred Heart, Oakland CA*

Purpose Statement: We the parishioners of Sacred Heart Oakland are in solidarity with peoples around the world whose communities live with fear caused by the devastation due to fossil fuels, drought and rising sea levels and violence on our streets. We pray for renewal of both the human and ecological communities throughout the Bay Area and for collaborative ways to bring forth peace, mutual respect and harmony. We pray by raising the Cross of Christ to remind us that “the Earth does not belong to humans, humans being belongs to the earth.”

Opening Song:

*Open heart yet not defiled
May we too be meek and mild
As we walk your Holy Way.
Those with courage sees the stars,
Those who love, see the light,
No foes do they have to fight.*



1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

“For to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.”
(LSi# 8, Patriarch Bartholomew)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) Again the high priest asked him and said to him, "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?"

Then Jesus answered, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses?"

You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"
They all condemned him as deserving to die. (Mk
14:61-64)

All: Loving God, you taught love and offered
alternatives to oppressive laws. May we be faithful in
following your examples.

Song: *Jesus spoke up to the leaders,
Hearts were close and few did listen
Words of life we all can share.*



**2nd Station: JESUS TAKES UP
HIS CROSS**

Short-sighted societal greed
weighs heavily upon the people
and the land.

“When human beings fail to
find their true place in this
world, they misunderstand
themselves and end up acting

against themselves.” (LSi #115)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

(Leader) Pilate, the fifth Roman Governor of Judea said
to his subject, "Behold, your king!" They cried out,
"Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate

said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The religious leaders answered, "We have no king but Caesar. "Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. And so, they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself. (Jn 19:14-17)

All: Gracious God, remove from us tendencies to greed. Help us to live under no other sign of power than the sign of the cross and to take up the burdens others carry especially miners and their families.

***Song:** Jesus lived with all creation
Seas and winds they did obey him
Yet we turn away in shame.*



3rd Station: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

All manner of fossil fuel waste contaminates our streams and rivers. "The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth". (LSi #21). How much can it take?

**(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

(Leader) "If the institutions of world hate you, realize that they hated me first. If you belonged to the inner circle of power, the world institutions would love you; but because you do not belong to the centre of power, and I have chosen you from the fringes of the society and the world does not understand you and hates you because of that. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No servant is greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. (Jn 15:18-20)

All: Creator God, our journey as Christians began with the baptism of water. May we affirm the sacredness of water and the right of all people to feel secure in the safety of their drinking water.

Song: *Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She whose yes made him our Brother
Now the sword her heart has pierced.*



4th Station: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. (LSi #241)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. **(All)** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Aunt Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (Jn 19:25-27)

All: Creator God, Giver of all life, forgive us for the ways that our societal choices threaten the well-being of future generations.

***Song:** Simon pilgrim from Cyrene,
Forced to stop by Roman soldiers
Cross of Jesus he did bear.*



**5th Station: SIMON OF
CYRENE HELPS CARRY THE
CROSS**

People who speak out against environmental and racial injustice are often marginalized and seen as rocking the boat.

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) And when the Roman soldiers had mocked and humiliated Jesus, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

The soldiers then forced into service a pilgrim, Simon, from the city of Cyrene on the North Coast of Africa who was coming into Jerusalem with his sons Alexander and Rufus. Humiliating him in front of his sons, he too had to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to Golgotha/Place of the Skull. (Mk:20-22)

All: All Present God, give us strength to use our voices to speak out for Justice, Peace and the Care of our Common Home and “May our struggle and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.” (LSi#245)

***Song:** Brave and trembling came the woman,
None but she would “diss” the Romans,
Moved by love beyond her fear.*



**6th Station: VERONICA WIPES
THE FACE OF JESUS**

With the attitude of the Heart, we approach life with a serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what

comes next. (LSi#226) We are called to recognize and address the stains of abuse on the people and the land.

**(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

(Leader) “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?”

And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

All: Loving God, we commit ourselves to the practice of empathy, to be present to others in their pain, and to use our own resources to touch and heal.

***Song: Jesus fell upon the Earth
We too tire of the struggle.
But like dust, we rise above.***



7th Station: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Choosing to be a helpless victim, for two thousand years he has been asking us to be on the side of the oppressed, of those who are attacked, of the defeated, of the last, of the discarded. He

asks us to sow peace, never hatred, war or violence.

From the rubble of Mosul to that in Ukraine, the Pope's voice of peace and hope - Vatican News

**(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

(Leader) Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

(Isaiah 4-6)

All: You call us to conversion, many things much change, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common

origin, our mutual belonging and of a future to be shared with everyone. (LSi #202)

Song: *Women grieving, crying, reaching
For their children's lives their pleading
May their care bring forth new hope.*



**8th Station: JESUS CONSOLES
THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.**

Families and communities weep over the sickness, injury and death of loved ones who are caught in the lethal path of violence and environmental deterioration.

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children. (Lk 23:27-28)

All: God of mercy, "The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action,

here and now.” What kind of world do we want to leave our children? (LSi #161)

Song: *Jesus fell upon the ground
No more strength was to be found
Yet he carries all with Love.*



9 Station: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

The pace of consumption and waste has stretched our planets capacity.... We need to reflect upon those who will have to endure the dire consequences. (LSi #161)

**(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Leader) I am a traveler on Earth; may I know myself also as a spiritual being! My soul is consumed with an intense longing to be blessed and sustained by You, O Divine Lover! May I not be a bearer of disharmony, one who is arrogant and greedy; Teach me to stand firm when faced with injustice and oppression, to be fervent in my stance for truth. Even though fear surrounds me,

may my eye remain focused on You. For your Word do I delight; You are my councilor! (Psalm 119: 25-28)

All: The enemy is *hatred*. While some try to have enemies more than to be friends, while many seek their own profit at the expense of others, those who look at the stars of the promise, those who follow the ways of God, cannot be *against* someone, but *for* everyone. From the rubble of Mosul to that in Ukraine, the Pope's voice of peace and hope - Vatican News

Song: *Human flesh we all do bear
Dignity we all also share.
One in Body, One in Christ.*

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



10th Station: JESUS IS STRIPPED NAKED BEFORE THE WORLD.

Mountains are stripped of their beauty; waters are filled with our waste as communities are stripped of their dignity and identity.

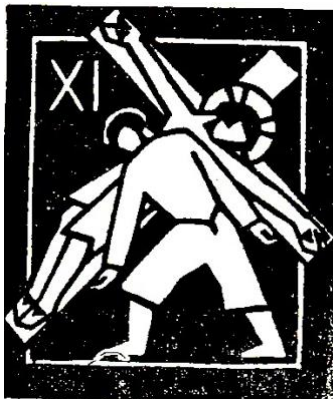
(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) The soldiers gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with bitter gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.

After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

All: God has written a precious book, “whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe. From-the human body-to the panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe... It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.” (LSi #85)

Song: *Hands that blessed and healed are pierced now
Pardon is the gift that's given
From the heart all mercy flows.*



11th Station: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

The loss of forests and wetlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future.

(LS#32)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

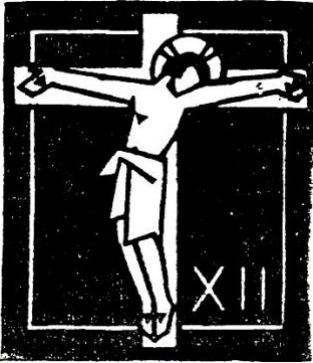
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
(Lk 23:32-24)

All: God of Justice, inspire us to bring about justice with courage and insight. For to call oneself a Christian means to belong to a God made Man, who allowed himself to be killed on the cross for love. Choosing to be a helpless victim, for two thousand years he has been asking us to be on the side of the oppressed, of those who are attacked, of the defeated, of the last, of the discarded. He asks us to sow peace, never hatred,

war, or violence. From the rubble of Mosul to that in Ukraine, the Pope's voice of peace and hope - Vatican News

Song: *Life is changed and never ended
Shared his breath and then did send us
Out to be his love for all.*



12th Station: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plants and animal species which will never see again, because they have been lost forever.
(LSi #33)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Lk 23:44-46)

All: 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.

Song: *Mothers hold their stricken children
Their deep love will change the story
Filled with grief and moved by love.*



**13th Station: JESUS BODY IS TAKEN
DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND
PLACE IN THE ARMS OF HIS
MOTHER.**

Just as Mary's heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. (LSi #241)

**(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.
(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.**

(Leader) But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one

soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: “Not a bone of it will be broken.” And again, another passage says: “They will look upon him whom they have pierced.” After this, Joseph of Arimathea, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.

(All) The image of Mary holding the lifeless battered body of Jesus is etched in our memories. We may have held onto our loved ones, and we see it in the nightly news. “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion, and concern for our fellow human beings.” (LSi #91) Mother of Mercy, teach us to love as you love.

Song: *In the tomb they place your body
Your great love would rise in triumph
New life risen, Gift to all.*



14th Station: JESUS BODY IS LAID IN THE TOMB

The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to

causes related to human and social degradation. (LSi #48)

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. Together they took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the traditional burial customs. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So, they laid Jesus there because of the traditional day preparation day for the feast; for the tomb was close by. (Jn 19:38-42)

All: We must regain the convictions that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. (LSi#229) Loving God, give peace, consolation,

and rest to those who have been afflicted by greed, violence, and war.

Song: *Love has conqueror sin and death
Love embraces and transforms
Love unites and makes us one.*



**15th Station: THE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationship, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with other and with all creation.

(Leader) We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

(All) Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader) When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb, they

saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. (Mk 16:1-6)

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and
was buried; he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right
hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen
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