Twelfth Station **Katherine**

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus hung there. A couple of hours passed as he gasped for each new breath, numb, naked, bloody. The crowds looked on – isn't this the prophet? The wonderworker? The man who called disciples and gathered crowds?

He touched the sick and healed them; nails now fix his hands to a cross. His lips spoke challenge or comfort; they now groan and thirst. His eyes looked out with love; they now sag and flutter. He cast out demons; now the demons seem to have their way with him.

He opens his eyes and sees his mother and his beloved disciple. He manages a last word of comfort: "Take care of each other."

In his last, dying breaths, he gives himself back to his Father: "It's over; into your hands I entrust my spirit.

Most of us don't end our days with such drama. We've done our job; we've lived our festive days and ordinary times.

Reflection Questions: What is the mission the Father has entrusted to you? Can you echo Jesus' words, "It's done"?

Leader: We pray…
All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe…

Fourteenth Station **Katherine**

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The lifeless body of Jesus now rests in the tomb. At the time, it must have seemed the end of a vision, of a dream, of hope. We, too, have often had to lay our dreams to rest. We have buried family members, friends, classmates, and loved ones. Unfulfilled expectations of success and unrealized accomplishments have left us asking where we went wrong. The current state of our country or Church can also resemble a tomb, with all confidence shattered. Yet, unlike those around Jesus, we know the tomb leads to something greater—to a transformation and a resurrection.

Help us, Jesus, to understand the significance of your time in the tomb, and to appreciate the sacrifice you made, which led us to the resurrection. Help us, as well, to unite our sacrifices to yours, with the understanding that in the end, as in the words of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Reflection Questions: When have you experienced a loss that seemed like an end? How might this time have been a preparation for something new?

Leader: We pray…
All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe…