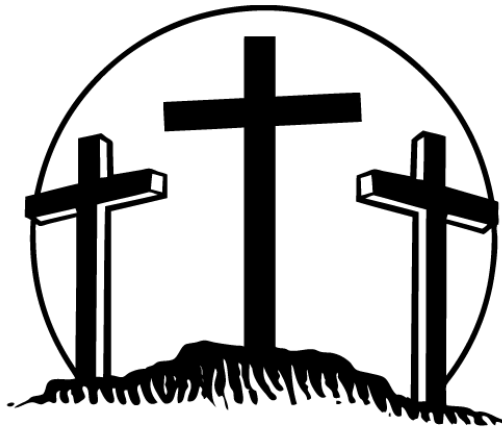


Welcome to
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



**Good Friday
Self-Guided
Way of the Cross**
April 3, 2026 † 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different life styles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

Today's Sanctuary Light is given to the glory of God by:

None

If you would like to donate for the Lent Sanctuary Light, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Notes: Station images for this liturgy and bulletin are photos of the Stations on the Campo Santo path at the Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst (ECCO).

Collects have been adapted to reflect language more appropriate for all ages. The Collects for the Opening and Stations 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10-14: Copyright E. J. García 2024. The Collect for Station 12 remains as written in the *Book of Occasional Services*. The remaining collects were adapted by The Rev. Betsy McElroy.

The Way of the Cross

This devotion of the Way of the Cross is the local custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem also known as the Via Dolorosa: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death.

We have adapted the following path to reach a wider audience of pilgrims in our context through language and by incorporating sensorial experiences to deepen the meaning of Jesus's final moments.

Today, we invite you to become a pilgrim, walking the Way of the Cross with us and with Jesus to a holy and sacred place.

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.

Presider 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 will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

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

Let us pray. (Silence)

Dear God, help us now as we walk your steps to the cross in our words, our hearts, and our imaginations. Help us as we contemplate these mighty acts, with which you have given us life and eternal life. **Amen.**

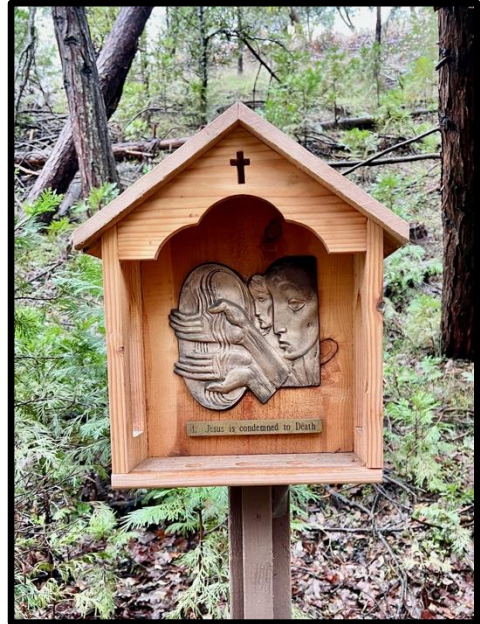
The procession goes to the First Station.

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.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.



V. God did not spare his own Son:
R. But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Loving God, before your Child went up to joy, he suffered pain; before he entered into glory, he was crucified. In your mercy, grant that as we pick up our crosses and follow him, we will find this way is actually the way of life, and the way of peace. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. ***Amen.***

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

Second Station

Jesus takes up his Cross

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

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.



V. The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
R. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Jesus, you chose to take this cross and suffering upon you, and as you did you redeemed all creation. Give us courage to take up our crosses and follow you, who live and reign for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

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

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.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.



V. Surely he has borne our griefs:
R. And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Jesus, by walking with us, you know that there are dangers around us and sometimes we cannot stand up straight. Give us strength and protection to support us when we face danger and help us through all temptations. We ask this in your name, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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

Fourth Station

Jesus meets his afflicted mother

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

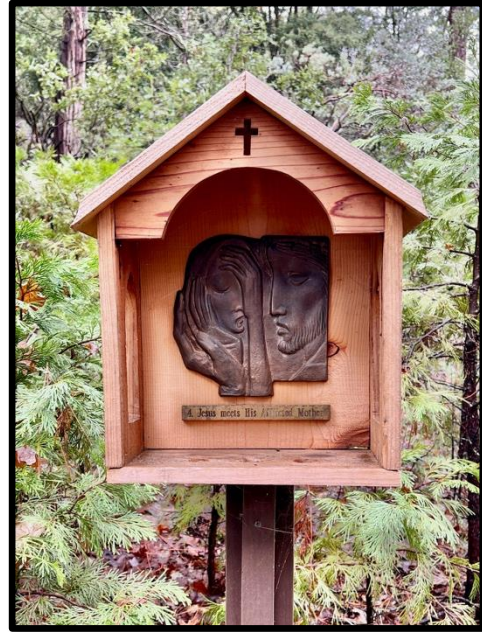
To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

V. A sword will pierce your own soul also:
R. And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, you knew the pain and grief the Blessed Virgin Mary would experience in watching your Son suffer. Grant that your Church, who shares this grief, will be made worthy to share in Christ's resurrection, who lives and reigns forever and ever. ***Amen.***

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



Fifth Station

The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

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. “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.”

V. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

R. Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Holy God, you sent your Word to serve others: Bless everyone who serves others, and give them wisdom, patience, and courage, so that they can do their work in Your name to serve the suffering, the friendless, and all in need. We ask this for the love of Jesus. *Amen.*

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



Sixth Station

A woman wipes the face of Jesus

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

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.



V. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

R. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, who, in the death and resurrection of your Son, revealed your glory upon the holy mountain: Give us, as we receive by faith the light of Christ, the strength to carry our cross, and be changed in to Christ's likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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

Seventh Station

Jesus falls a second time

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

Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

V. But as for me, I am a worm and no man:
R. Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for all humans, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be like one of us and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us an example of humbleness: Grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

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



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.

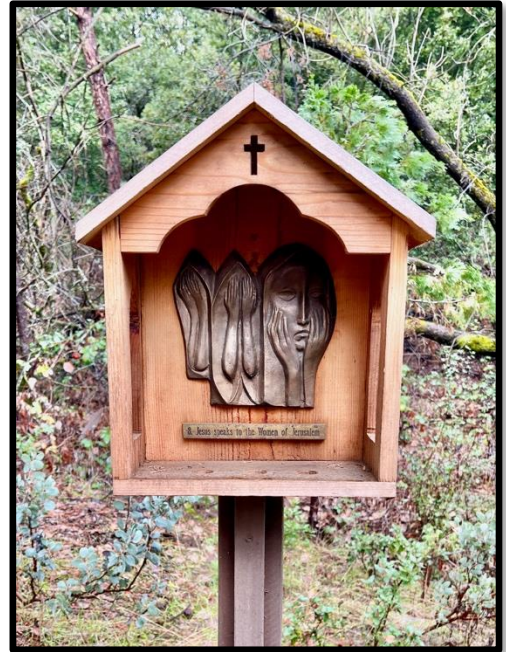
There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

V. Those who sowed with tears:
R. Will reap with songs of joy.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Teach all of us in your Church, O Lord, to know when we have sinned, and then to turn away from that sin and turn our backs on it. If you will give us your grace, we can walk away and protect our children and our children’s children from our own mistakes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

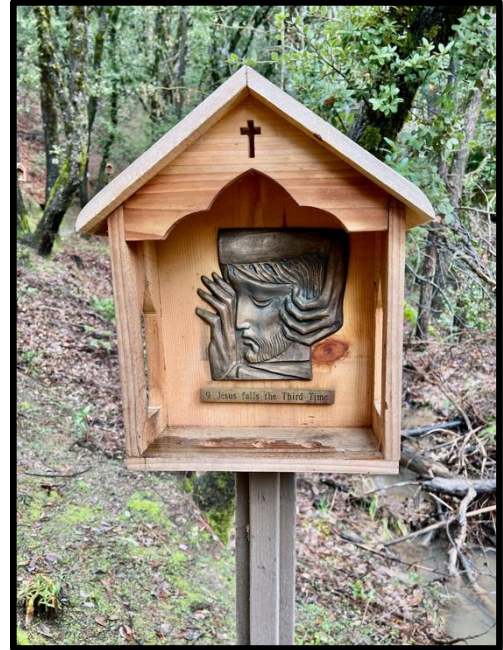


Ninth Station

Jesus falls a third time

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

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. “Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!”



V. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

R. And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, in Christ's death and resurrection, you made Jesus to be an example of how death can be to us a way to life: Grant us the ability to see this Truth in the cross of Christ, that we may continue to follow in the way of the cross for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

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

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.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a 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. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

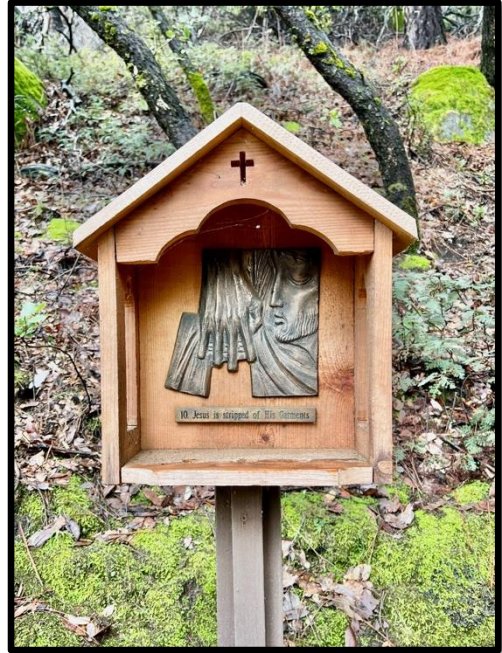
V. They gave me gall to eat:

R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Holy God, you do not wish for anyone to suffer; but when suffering comes, you are with us in the midst of it. When we cannot escape cruel words and harmful acts, we know you are there with us. Help us remember Jesus, and bring something good out of evil. In your Holy Name we pray, ***Amen.***

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



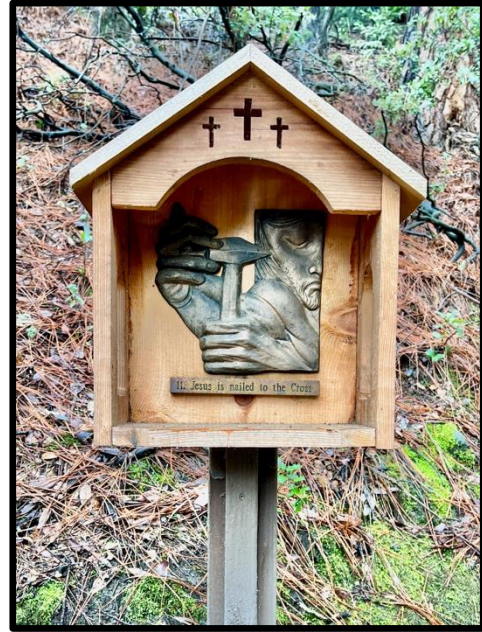
Eleventh Station

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.

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. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

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



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.***

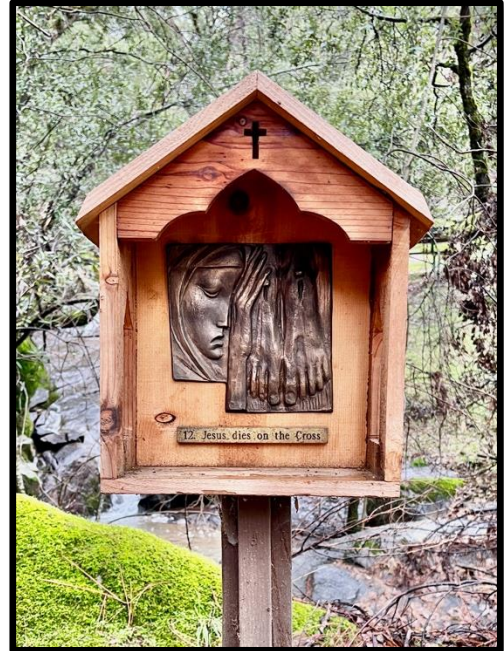
***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

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.

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.



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

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, in Jesus' death and resurrection, you delivered us from the power of our enemy. Help us to shed off all our sins like broken chains, that we may forever live with Jesus in the joy of his resurrection, the One who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

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

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.

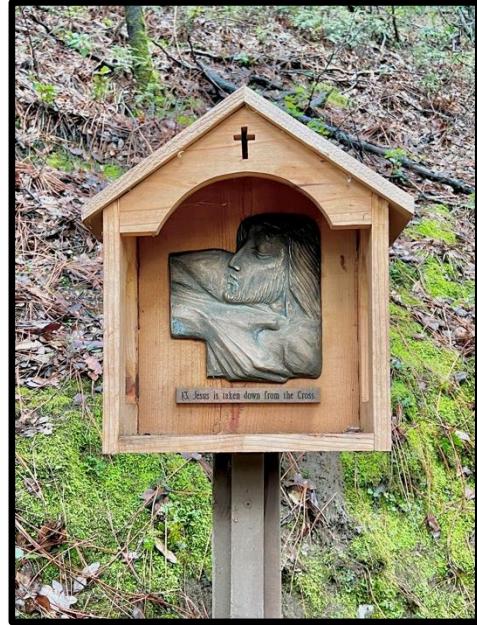
All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

V. Her tears run down her cheeks:
R. And she has none to comfort her.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Sweet Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of Death. Help us to follow in faith where you have led the way, so that in the end we can fall asleep peacefully in you, and wake up in your likeness, for your tender mercies' sake. ***Amen.***

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

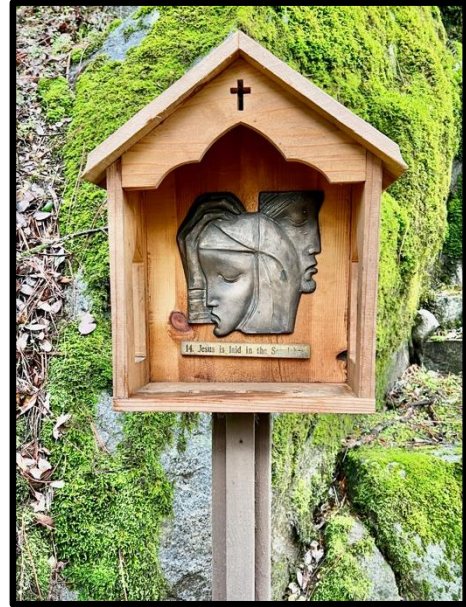


Fourteenth Station

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.

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



V. You will not abandon me to the grave:
R. Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, your blessed Child was laid in a tomb in a garden. Since we have been buried with him in the waters of baptism, may we find our perfect rest in Your eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

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

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Celebrant: We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Holy Week - March 29 - April 5, 2026

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

This Good Friday, you will have three different opportunities to worship, reflect, and engage with Jesus's final day and his death upon the cross. You are welcome to engage in one or all four.

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Self Guided Stations of the Cross.

During this time, you are welcome to come into the main church for a self guided pilgrimage through the Way of the Cross. Bulletins will be provided on the main usher table.

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Contemplative Veneration of the Cross.

In front of the main altar, we will have a cross with votive candles for lighting. Two praying desks (prie dieus) will be set up for kneeling. You are also welcome to sit in the pews in silence. All forms of veneration are welcomed and encouraged as you are comfortable (kissing, touching, holding, etc.).

12 Noon Ecumenical Good Friday service at First United Methodist Church, 200 W Oak St, Lodi, CA 95240. This is a joint service between First United Methodist Church, United Congregational Christian Church of Lodi, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lodi, and us. All are welcome. This service will be live-streamed on YouTube@Lodi First Church.

4:00 pm Family Stations of the Cross. We welcome all ages to join us in a family friendly and interactive pilgrimage through the Way of the Cross.

Saturday, April 4

7:00 pm

Easter Vigil

Historic Chapel & Church

Sunday, April 5

9:30 am

Easter Sunday

Holy Eucharist, Reception & Children's Egg Hunt

Monday, April 6 - Office Closed

Tuesday, April 7 - Rev. Betsy Day Off

Wednesday, April 8

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Church

Easter Sunday Simple Potluck Coffee Hour – On Sunday, April 5th, please join us for a Potluck style coffee hour. Bring your favorite simple food to share. Debby Weberski and Katie Howard have agreed to set up and facilitate the potluck. We need 2 people willing to clean up after. Please see Penny in the office if you are able to help out. Thank you.

Join us every Wednesday at 12 Noon for Noon-Day Prayer in the Chapel.

Scribble Page

2026 Vestry Members - Beth Elwood, Senior Warden; Eric Goossens, Junior Warden; Rosemary Cress, David Diekman, Phyllis Duarte, Robert Elliott, Bob Gorczyca, Katie Howard, Christina Soria & Dani Wilson