

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Station 14: Jesus is Placed in the Sepulchre – Carol Lukitsch

February 19, 2020 – April 3, 2020

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
1132 North Ivanhoe Street
Arlington, Virginia 22205

THE 'WAY OF THE CROSS' DEVOTION

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 14. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining six (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13) are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend. If desired, these six stations may be omitted.

The form which follows is appropriate either as a public service or as a private devotion, particularly on the Fridays of Lent, but it should not displace the Proper Liturgy of Good Friday.

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.

The hymn *Stabat Mater* ("At the cross her vigil keeping" Hymnal 1982, 158) has frequently been associated with this service, but is not an integral part of it. Selected stanzas of this hymn may appropriately be sung at the entrance of the ministers, and (after the opening devotions before the Altar) as the procession approaches the first station. In the form which follows, the *Trisagion* ("Holy God") is the chant recommended as the procession goes from station to station. Alternatively, the *Trisagion* may be used to conclude each station, and stanzas of appropriate hymns sung as the procession moves. It is appropriate that all present take part in the procession.

The presider at the service, whether clerical or lay, customarily leads the opening versicle at each station and reads the concluding Collect. The Readings (and the versicles which follow) are appropriately assigned to other persons.

~ Excerpted from *The Book of Occasional Services*, 2018

The Way of the Cross

A hymn or other song may be sung during the entrance of the ministers.

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)*

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord 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 Lord. *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)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon upon us.

*

To commit no crime and be condemned to death is a dark and terrible thing. Jesus's story is about a man who only wanted to heal the sick, help the poor, and teach the masses about love and kindness. To condemn a person to death for doing such things is to demonstrate a certain type of "darkness." It is that darkness that I want to share in my artwork.

I used watercolor in the background to give my piece a "dark and stormy day" effect. I made the crosses black to foreshadow the darkness that was coming. I placed white ropes around Jesus's wrists to symbolize his purity: It was his purity that bound him to death. I used ravens and skulls to further symbolize the end approaching.

Ravens and skulls traditionally symbolize transition and death. In some cultures, it is said that ravens help guide the spirits of the dead to the other side, leaving behind only our skulls and bones once our flesh rots away.

~ Artist Statement, Evy Wilkins

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*)

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

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

*

My literal interpretation of this Station is meant to convey the burden of the cross itself, as well as the suffering Jesus experienced, both emotionally and physically. As we think of Jesus's final steps on Earth, we can see his determination to bear what had been given to him; we can feel the heaviness of the cross; and we can imagine the pain that Jesus carried.

The "bareness" of my painting attempts to depict the agony and the darkness that came with Jesus's death.

~ Artist Statement, Cindy Warkentin

. . . Several years ago, while traveling on Good Friday . . . I stopped along the Norfolk Southern's Valley Line railroad tracks in Elkton, Virginia, . . . I was hoping for a train to appear but none did. Instead, a procession from a local church approached the grade crossing, presenting me with what I thought might be an interesting image of tracks, figures, and signal lines. Unexpectedly, a blue truck materialized, completing the image I captured.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Wil Harkins

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)

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

*

Those familiar with my work know that my focus is the natural world, although often a metaphor for how we experience life. So, when I approached the Stations of the Cross, I knew that naturalistic imagery would have to *embody* the idea.

I chose Station 3, the first fall. The way I interpret it, Jesus falls physically, not spiritually. To convey this, I contrast the corporeal with the spiritual by juxtaposing the bulky image of a turtle — a blurry shape — with a crisply painted dragonfly hovering above. I'd like to think that the dripping black lines suggest a bridge between the two.

~ Artist Statement, Suzanne Stryk

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, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

*

I wanted to portray Mary as an anguished mother comforting her tortured son before his death. Emotions were raw, and the pain was deep for both of them. And whether or not a meeting took place, this loving act is something Mary would have wanted to do

. . . as I worked with the swirling alcohol inks on paper, two large ovals started to take shape. Something, or someone, told me to go boldly, to try something new — big yet intimate. Two faces appeared after some initial swabs of acrylic paint. I just followed the images that arose from the paper, and the expressions that seemed to take shape out of nowhere, the anguished facial features, seemed to form on their own.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Elise Ritter

. . . Images of Mary, . . . are inspirational to me

My artwork is made up of a variety of found objects, what everyone else would consider trash. It is fulfilling and fun to turn objects that are useless, overlooked, and heading for a landfill into artwork that might be surprising, thought-provoking, and beautiful.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Lisa Harkins

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)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister 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.*

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Have mercy upon us.*

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Because my work is usually non-representational, I enjoyed the challenge of trying to convey the ideas of this Station abstractly. For me, the Station represents community and all of us banding together to help shoulder each other's burdens when called upon.

The circular patterns in my piece were created using an Indonesian *tjap* (pronounced CHOP), a stamp used in batik. This *tjap* was made by my son, an artist who lives in California (I love the familial association here). The circles within the circles of the *tjap* are meant to evoke community and family. The two squares of gold leaf represent Jesus and Simon, joined by the cross in the middle. The stained glass windows of a church, where the story of the Stations is often prayed, also are implied in the piece, as are the paving stones of the street that Jesus and Simon walked upon.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Angela White

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 before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

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The 6th Station of the Cross, I think, is all about compassion. I'd add that we can think of all the Stations of the Cross as giving us concepts for how to live our lives. To quote one reference: "What you have done to the least of my brethren, you have done to Me."

My work is a bit of digital alchemy, in which fractals and photography can ask us to do more for our brothers and sisters on this planet.

~ Artist Statement, Ann Tracy

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 ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
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Have mercy upon us.*

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More than 10 years ago, I became convinced that my time spent as an artist would be best used trying to paint the intersection of faith and life. I began to paint interpretations of Jesus's parables, a series on which I am still working. I have painted them in a contemporary idiom in an attempt to underline their continued relevance and truthfulness. I have only tried to be innovative in the way the stories are told, not in the stories themselves.

During this time, I also painted the Stations of the Cross. One of the preparatory drawings, for Station #7, Jesus Falls a Second Time, is included in this exhibit. Jesus falls three times during the Stations. I take it as a reminder of his humanity (which is the counterpoint to his divinity): Jesus doesn't just fall one time but three times; the important thing is not the falling but the rising again (a pre-figuring of his resurrection?). We identify with Jesus in his falling, as we are all brought down by suffering, loss, and sin but, like Jesus, find the strength through God's grace and forgiveness to get up again and continue on.

Excerpt, Artist Statement, James B. Janknegt

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 your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

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Creating with fabric engages my senses with texture and the play of pattern and color, whether in adapting traditional blocks or in designing original statements. Many of my quilts afford the opportunity to reflect on biblical themes, both to internalize them and to express them to others.

Participating in the "Art Stations of the Cross" exhibit gave just such an experience, as I pondered the unique scene on the "Via Dolorosa," or the "Way of Sorrows." The Gospel of Luke records the encounter of Jesus with the weeping women of Jerusalem, who represent their entire nation and all their descendants. Although they may recognize that unjust judgment has fallen on the innocent one, Jesus urges the women to weep and pray for deliverance from the judgment coming to those who refuse to see him for who he is. Am I able to see this vignette as both comfort and challenge, the proverbial double-edged sword? I am still pondering

~ Artist Statement, Terry Peckarsky

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, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
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Have mercy upon us.*

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My painting . . . depicts Jesus at the very end of his walk to the cross. . . I chose to paint Jesus naked to show how he must have appeared to the human world, completely stripped of everything he had. . . In those days, for a Jew to be exposed naked in public was the ultimate disgrace. The three crosses in the background tell of his impending death. He will soon be nailed to one of them and die as a criminal for the sins of the whole world.

The eerie yellow glow of the painting's atmosphere symbolizes the whole world given over to the taint of evil. The Roman guard looming over Jesus is the personification of that evil.

Working on this painting has made me think deeply about the very meaning of the cross. Even though he had asked his father in heaven to lift this horrible burden from him, Jesus carried out God's plan to the very end. I know that whatever I am asked to walk through, Jesus is there with me and understands my pain.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Kathleen Stark

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)*

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
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. . . . The piece I created for this exhibition combines contour drawing, which requires intentional observation of the lines and shadows of an object, with watercolor-style painting using acrylic inks.

In considering Art Station 10, I struggled with what to focus on. I don't usually do figurative pieces, so I looked at a large number of classic images of the 10th Station of the Cross. Originally, I was going to focus on the experience of nudity, of being a prisoner stripped, but instead ended up focusing on the act of stripping, of the person doing the stripping. It is my own hand that I depict in my work. As I was drawing it, the aggression of the act of stripping caught my attention. I thought about all the ways we sometimes humiliate and are cruel to those already faced with terrible life situations. And so I decided that focusing not on the cloth or the figure of Christ Himself but on the hand doing the stripping might be the best way to reflect that and connect the act back to the individual viewer.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Pauline Kusiak

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.

*

I use a symbolic visual language, exploring both the visible and invisible, creating a commentary on relationships and thoughts. As I work, the images can arrive unexpected, flowing from gathered memories. I build layers making connections, and a story comes forth and unfolds. The work evolves, and quite often by the time the painting is finished, it has a history of stories interwoven in the layers.

For the Stations of the Cross exhibition, I chose Station 11, where Jesus is nailed to the cross. While on a walk I once found a giant nail, probably for a railroad or an old building, yet for me, it was symbolic. I thought of the nail as my sin, and that no matter how colorful, or seemingly justifiable, a sin was a sin. I kept that nail. I also carved a nail in a linoleum block to print, which I keep in my studio; I used it for the nails in this painting.

To think of the pain and suffering of Christ being nailed to the cross is heart-wrenching. He gave his life in atonement for our sins. I cannot truly comprehend his sacrifice, although I gratefully accept his mercy.

~ Artist Statement, Robin Maria Pedrero

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, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son 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 him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

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

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In the past year, my work has shifted a great deal. My primary medium has always been photography, and since 2000 I have created and output my work digitally. I found myself missing making things by hand and rebelling against our frenzied digital world.

Essential to me now is integrating the various aspects of my life into my art. My interests and aesthetic tend toward quiet pursuits. I walk four-to-six miles most days, practice yoga, and meditate. On my walks, I pick up plant life to use in my cyanotypes, and I have started incorporating slow stitching into my work as a meditative practice.

I am attracted to the beauty found in imperfection, transience, the humble and the incomplete. In Japanese culture, this is an aesthetic known as wabi-sabi. . . .

My textile work encompasses many of my personal values. Most of the fabrics I use are recycled, hand-dyed using plant materials, and repurposed. My stitching is simple, imperfect, and meditative. Key to my process is a mindfulness of the pop and draw of the needle and thread, the intuitive movement of hands and heart.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Pamela H. Viola

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)*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length 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.*

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I am a contemporary abstract landscape painter working in acrylic. My art is rooted in real-life images and textures, with a modern abstraction, often in a limited color palette.

Much of my recent work is about evoking a sense of place. . . .

I also am working with the idea of layers and memory: how one memory leads to another, as well as how an image shifts, depending on how the light hits it, particularly when metallic paint is used. . . .

[. . . My] paintings' underlying thread in most instances is the environment and stewardship of Planet Earth. . . I paint abstracted scenes inspired by real-life beauty. . . .

I think life is all about moments—those moments when time stops, our individualities fall away, and we're reminded of how we're all connected, how we're all one. I think that art is a "way in." It is an equalizer, no matter where you come from, what language you speak. Now, more than ever, we must take a step back and recognize that interconnectedness.

~ Excerpt, Artist Statement, Anne Cherubim

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 Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever. *Amen.*

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The natural world, with its ongoing cycles, is the inspiration for the imagery that I use. My artwork stands at the intersection of life, death, and rebirth.

In *Sophia Icon*, the cross and the tomb merge into one entity. Simultaneously, we see the darkness, evil, and fear present in the aftermath of the crucifixion, alongside a dawning light and green energy, which emerge from the center, signaling the coming of new life.

We also see images of grieving women who have been absorbed into the suffering and pain that have taken place. They are in passage, as yet bereft and unaware of the coming mystery of the resurrection.

~ Artist Statement, Carol Lukitsch

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)*

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 forever. *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 forever and ever. *Amen.*

