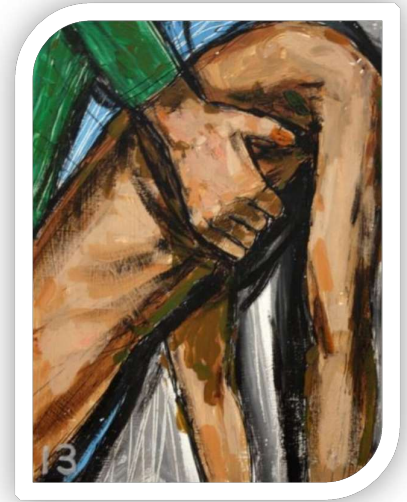


13: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

We Remember the Cross of Jesus:

Now Mary takes the broken body of her Son in her arms. In her grief, she remembers the words of her son, over the bread, 'this is my body, broken, for you,' and over the wine, 'this is my blood poured out for you.' She remembers that little baby in Bethlehem worshipped by shepherds and kings. She remembers the days when the crowds followed him and she is full of sorrow.



Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world*

We Name the Crosses of Today: Mary's grief is our grief too. As Mary cradles the lifeless body of her son and offers him back to the Father, she stands with all parents who have held their children close to them in death: those lost through accidents or acts of violence, those who have died by suicide, those who died suddenly or after illness. Mary grieves with all who sorrow for loved ones: parents, siblings, family members, friends.

We Pray: Help us Lord to accept the partings that must come. Help us to offer our loved ones back to you as Mary offered her son. Faced with the silence of death, let us not despair but find hope. May the finality of death not oppress us. Help us to trust in you, the Lord of the living and the dead.

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father.....*

Sung Response: *Were you there when Mary held her son?*