

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



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The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross follow the path that Jesus was forced to take from Pilate's Judgment Hall to Calvary, and that his disciples continued, taking his lifeless body from there to the tomb. Moving from station to station, following the events in the words of scripture and letting the prayers draw us into the narrative, we are given the opportunity to understand something of Christ's passion and our involvement in it. The movement and the events are the heart of this devotion. Many different prayers and readings have been developed for this devotion. It can be said as a private form of prayer or, particularly on Fridays in Lent, as a public liturgy.

At each station, after the officiant names the station, the versicle and response is said. In many places, it is said kneeling. Then a passage of scripture, either recounting the event or reflecting on its meaning is read. After a period of silence, another versicle and response are said, followed by a collect. As the procession moves to the next station, a portion of the hymn ***Stabat Mater*** or some other hymn may be sung.

Private Prayers in Preparation

O MERCIFUL SAVIOR, grant that while we follow your blessed footsteps along the Way of Sorrow, our hearts may be so touched with true contrition that you may turn our weeping into gladness by giving us forgiveness of all our sins. *Amen.*

GRANT, O LORD, that as we seek forgiveness from you, so we may be ready to hear your call to take up our cross and to share in your suffering by acts of service and in patience of life. *Amen.*

LET US NEVER, O LORD, like Judas, betray you; or like Peter, disown you; or like Pilate, condemn you at the noise and clamor of the mob; make us fear your judgment only. *Amen.*

LET OUR PRAYER AND MEDITATION be for our good; accept it as a token of our repentance for sins and negligence of which we are guilty [particularly...] and as an act of intercession for all in any need [remembering especially...]. Bring us who follow the path of your cross to the joy of your resurrection and grant that we who have sought to know you here may stand before your glorious presence in eternity. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

A Litany of Penitence

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

God the Father,
 have mercy upon us.
God the Son,
 have mercy upon us.
God the Holy Spirit,
 have mercy upon us
Holy Trinity, one God
 have mercy upon us.

Jesus, who came to seek and save those that were lost,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, eating with sinners and tax collectors,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, demanding that only those without sin can cast stones,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, promising the kingdom to the penitent thief,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, restoring Peter after his denials,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, living to make intercession for us,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, who died and rose again that we not be condemned,
 teach me to repent of my sins.
Jesus, before whose judgment seat we will stand,
 teach me to repent of my sins.

From all evil,
 deliver us, O Lord.

From all sin,
 deliver us, O Lord.

From dying: suddenly and unprepared;
 deliver us, O Lord.

From all presumption on your mercy,
 deliver us, O Lord.

By thy birth among us,
 deliver us, O Lord.

By thy baptism and forty-day fast,
 deliver us, O Lord.

By thy victory over temptation,
 deliver us, O Lord.

By thy teaching and mighty works,
 deliver us, O Lord.

By thy passion, death, and burial,
 deliver us O Lord.

By thy Resurrection and Ascension,
 deliver us, O Lord.

In all time of our prosperity and in all time of our tribulation,
 deliver us, O Lord.

In the hour of death, and in the Day of Judgment,
 deliver us, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and give us grace that we may come to a true repentance and amendment of life,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That judging ourselves, we may escape thy judgment and refrain from judging others,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That we may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance,

hear our prayer, O Lord

That all bitterness and anger be put away from us,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That we may not be puffed up in pride or weighed down in despair,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That in temptation, we may have wisdom and courage to seek the right path,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That we may work out our salvation with fear and trembling,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

That in forgiveness, we may find a new life now and hope for eternity,

hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

spare us, Good Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

spare us, Good Lord.

Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, *grant us thy peace.*

O Lord, hear our prayer,

and let our cry come unto thee.

At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.

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.*

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet
he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that
is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that
before its shearers is silent, so he did not
open his mouth. By a perversion of justice
he was taken away, although he had done
no violence, and there was no deceit in his
mouth.

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

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, though you were condemned to suffer and die, all judgment has been placed in your hand. Grant that we may be saved from all false judgments against our neighbor, and at the last may stand before you, forgiven by your great mercy, for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Through her soul of joy bereaved,
bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
now at length the sword hath passed.

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.*

The soldiers began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

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

Let us pray.

Grant us patience, O Lord, to follow the road you have taken. Let our confidence not rest in our own understanding but in your guiding hand; let our desires not be for our own comfort, but for the joy of your kingdom; for your cross is our hope and our joy now and unto the day of eternity. *Amen.*

O that blessed one, grief-laden,
blessed mother, blessed Maiden,
mother of th' all-holy One;

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.*

Jesus answered them; "The hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly,
I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into
the earth and dies, it remains just a single
grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Surely he has borne our infirmities:
And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray.

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.*

O that silent, ceaseless mourning,
O those dim eyes, never turning
from that wondrous, suffering Son.

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.*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my
sorrow: For these things I weep; my eyes
flow with tears; for a comforter is far from
me, one to revive my courage: My eyes are
spent with weeping; my stomach churns, my
heart is wrung within me; my children are
desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.

Great as the sea is your grief:
Who shall heal you?

Let us pray.

:

Lord Jesus Christ, whose Blessed Mother watched your passion and death in deep sorrow, comfort, we pray you, all those who must stand helpless while those they love suffer. Hear the cry of all victims of terror and abuse, give hope and solace to those who are bereaved. Grant that we may use such strength as we have to comfort, support, and protect all who grieve or are in need, for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.*

Who, on Christ's dear mother gazing,
in her trouble so amazing,
born of woman, would not weep?

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.*

The soldiers led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passerby, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:
*By which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.*

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, by whose condemnation we are acquitted, in whose death we have life, and whose cross is our hope, keep us mindful of your boundless love and when we are called, like Simon, to bear the cross, make us to rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for your sake and unite what we offer with your perfect sacrifice, through the merits of your eternal redemption. *Amen.*

For his people's sins, in anguish,
there she saw the victim languish,
bleed in torments, bleed and die:

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.*

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are

looking for the city that is to come.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

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

Let us pray.

Lord, teach us to see your face and to find its imprint in all acts of mercy and compassion, and in all for whom you died; by your Holy Spirit, change us, and conform us to your own image, that through our lives, your light may shine in this dark world, for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Saw the Lord's anointed taken,

saw her child in death forsaken,
heard his last expiring cry.

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.***

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. We proclaim Christ crucified, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Let us pray.

Lord, we fall again and again: seek us out and recall us to yourself; in your strength let us stand and in our paths let us walk secure, for your passion and death are our forgiveness, our salvation and our life. *Amen.*

Jesus, may her deep devotion
stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind;

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.*

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen

when it is dry?"

The elders of the daughters of Zion have thrown dust upon their heads:
The young girls of Jerusalem bowed their heads to the ground.

Let us pray.

Lord, grant us to mourn with those who mourn, and to repent of all cruelty and disregard of which we are guilty; in danger, be our confidence that we may stand and accomplish your loving purposes, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

That my heart fresh ardor gaining,
and a purer love attaining,

may with thee acceptance find.

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.*

Those who were my enemies without cause
have hunted me like a bird; they flung me
alive into a pit and hurled stones on me;
water closed over my head; I said, "I am
lost." I called on your name, O LORD, from
the depths of the pit. Out of the depths I cry
to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:
*And like a sheep that before its shearers is
silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, save us from all false pride and keep us from despair, that in strength, or weakness, we may face the difficulties and challenges of our lives, seeking to serve you and to accomplish your will. We ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

In the passion of my Maker,
be my sinful soul partaker,
may I bear with her my part;

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.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

They gave me gall to eat:
And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar

to drink

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you stood before all the world, with no one beside you and nothing to protect you, exposed to ridicule and grievously wounded: make us strong in the face of suffering, strip from us all false pride, and for your sake, who suffered such cruelty, make us abhor all injustice and violence. *Amen.*

Of his passion bear the token,
in a spirit bowed and broken
bear his death within my heart.

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 that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." One of the criminals who was hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has

done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

They pierce my hands and my feet:

And have numbered all my bones.

Let us pray.

Bring us to stand close enough to your cross, O Lord, that we hear your voice, and in your promise of forgiveness and welcome, let us rest our hope for this life and for the life to come. *Amen.*

May his wounds both wound and heal me,
he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me,

be his cross my hope and stay.

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.*

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah" At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth

shook, and the rocks were split.

(Kneel for silence and for the prayer that follows)

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

Let us pray.

By your death, O Lord, we are given life; grant that we may receive this great gift with awe and humility, and let our lives be no longer our own, but yours, now and to the day of eternity. *Amen.*

May he, when the mountains quiver,

from that flame which burns for ever
shield me on the judgment day.

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.*

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can heal you?

Zion spreads forth her hands:
And there is none to comfort her.

Let us pray.

For the sake of your Blessed Mother, who was stricken with grief: be comfort and strength, Gracious Lord, to all who are bereaved; be light and hope to the dying and, by your own merits and through the prayers of all the saints, bring us all through life's sorrows to the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Jesus, may thy cross defend me,
and thy saving death befriend me,
cherished by thy deathless grace;

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.*

My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws
near to Sheol. I am counted among those
who go down to the Pit; I am like those who
have no help, like those forsaken among the
dead; like the slain that lie in the grave. You
have caused friend and neighbor to shun
me, and my companions are in darkness.

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

Let us pray.

Lord Christ, as your body was laid in a tomb, you descended into hell, to break its
ancient doors and free those held in its grasp; give to us, and all the faithful
departed release from sin and the torment of separation from you, for you are
mighty to save, now and for ever. *Amen.*

When to dust my dust returneth,
grant a soul that to thee yearneth
in thy paradise a place.

Final Prayers

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who, of your tender love toward humankind, has sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully , grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May the glorious passion of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩ bring us to the joys of paradise. *Amen.*

The order for the Stations of the Cross in this booklet is taken from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (Revised edition, 2014).