

Stations of the Cross

Opening Prayer

God of power and mercy,
in love you sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with you forever.
Bless us as we gather to reflect
on his suffering and death
that we may learn from his example
the way we should go.
We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

⁷ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ² They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"

²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
[Matthew 27.1-2,22-24,26]

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

LET US PRAY

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 the Way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

SECOND STATION: Jesus takes up the Cross

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. [Matthew 27.27-31]

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

LET US PRAY

O God, who by the passion of thy blessed Son didst make an instrument of shameful death to be unto us the means of life: Grant us to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

THIRD STATION: Jesus falls for the first time

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

¹⁴ My transgressions were bound into a yoke;
by his hand they were fastened together;
they weigh on my neck,
sapping my strength;
the Lord handed me over
to those whom I cannot withstand.

¹⁶ For these things I weep;
my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me,
one to revive my courage;
my children are desolate,
for the enemy has prevailed.

¹⁷ Zion stretches out her hands,
but there is no one to comfort her;
the Lord has commanded against Jacob
that his neighbors should become his foes;
Jerusalem has become
a filthy thing among them. [Lamentations 1.14,16-17]

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

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, who hast given thy Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his mother

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

¹³ 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?

¹⁵ All who pass along the way
clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads
at daughter Jerusalem;
“Is this the city that was called
the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?”

¹⁸ Cry aloud to the Lord!
O wall of daughter Zion!
Let tears stream down like a torrent
day and night!
Give yourself no rest,
your eyes no respite!

[Lamentations 2.13,15,18]

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

LET US PRAY

O God, the King of Saints, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear; for the Blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all thy other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the Cross

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." [Luke 23.26; Matthew 16.24; Matthew 11.29,30]

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

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption; Give us courage, we beseech thee, to take up our cross and follow him, even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the sweat from Jesus' face

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

⁴⁸ My eyes flow with rivers of tears
because of the destruction of my people.

⁴⁹ My eyes will flow without ceasing,
without respite,

⁵⁰ until the Lord from heaven
looks down and sees. [Lamentations 3.48-50]

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

LET US PRAY

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days: that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Church catholic; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls for the second time

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

- ³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
- ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all. [Isaiah 53.3-6]

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

LET US PRAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death: Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; for thy tender mercies' sake. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. [Luke 23.27-28]

Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” [Acts 21.13]

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

LET US PRAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls for the third time

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? [Psalm 22.1]

¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold

your mercy from me;

let your steadfast love and your faithfulness

keep me safe forever.

¹² For evils have encompassed me

without number;

my iniquities have overtaken me,

until I cannot see;

they are more than the hairs of my head,

and my heart fails me.

¹³ Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;

O Lord, make haste to help me. [Psalm 40.11-13]

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

LET US PRAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy precious death and passion; Grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots." [John 19.23-24]

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

LET US PRAY

O Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame; Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read,

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”.

²⁵ Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. [John 19.16-19,25]

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

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the Cross, that he might draw the whole world unto himself; Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land[p] until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ 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?" ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" [Matthew 27.45-46,50,54]

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

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. [John 19.38-40]

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

LET US PRAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind might be reconciled to thee; Mercifully grant that we who have been offered the gift of your Son's death may accept the same, and thus be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the Tomb

Leader: We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee:

All: Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. [John 19.41-42]

⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment. [Luke 23.55-56]

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

LET US PRAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy passion, cross, and death between thy judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory. Amen.

Jesu, may thy Cross defend me,
And thy saving death befriend me,
Cherished by thy deathless grace:
When to dust my dust returneth,
Grant a soul that to thee yearneth
In thy Paradise a place.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

All: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee.

Concluding Collect

All: Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may come to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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