

Praying the Stations of the Cross



Opening Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ,
take me along that holy way
you once took to your death,
Take my mind, my memory,
above all my reluctant heart,
and let me see what once you did
for love of me and all the world.**

The First Station: Jesus Condemned



Pilate brought
Jesus outside
and said to the
people, "Look
at your king!"

At this they
shouted,
"Away with
him! Crucify
him!"

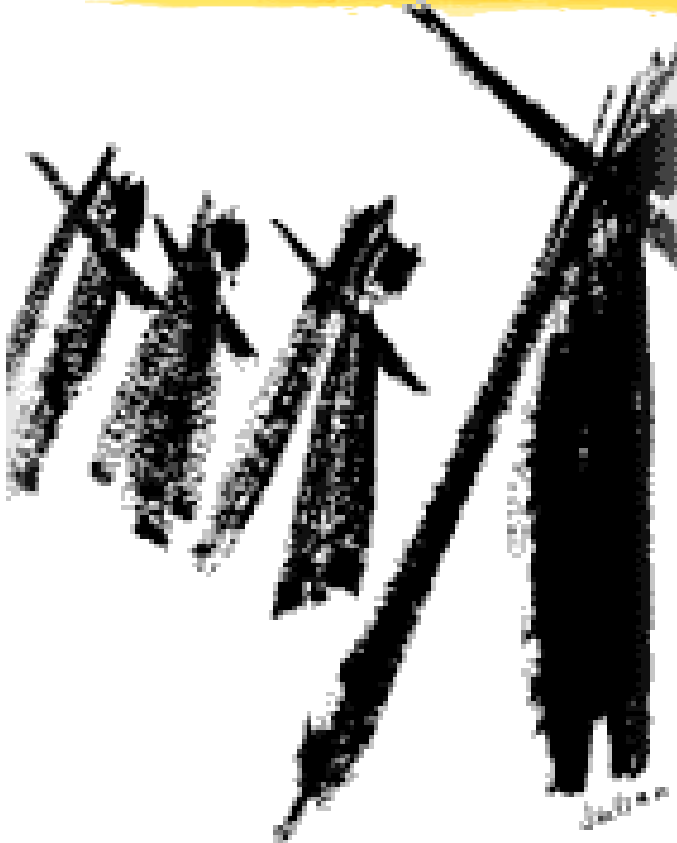
Then Pilate
handed Jesus
over to be
crucified.

"Behold your
king," says
Pilate.

"Away with
him," the
people
shout.

And they
sent you to
your death.
Lord Jesus,
Word made
flesh,
Light for our
dark world,
God come to
save us,
may we
never send
you away.

The Second Station: Jesus carries his cross



Jesus was led
away,
and
carrying
the Cross
by himself,
went out to
what is
called
the Place
of the
Skull,
Golgotha.

You were led to
Calvary, Lord,
carrying the
cross by
yourself.
Yet was the
cross only
yours,
or was it also
mine you bore?
By your holy
cross, O Jesus,
make me strong
and able
to take up the
cross I must
bear.

The Third Station: Jesus falls



Jesus emptied
himself,
and took the
form of a
slave,
being born in
the likeness of
men.
He humbled
himself,
to death and a
Cross.

How strange to
see you fall
as anyone
does who
cannot go
on.
And yet you
rise again
to take the
few steps
more you
can.
By your first
fall, O Jesus,
give your
risen grace
to those who
fall and
cannot rise.

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother



Simeon said to
Mary his
mother:
"This child is
destined to be
the downfall and
the rise of many
in Israel, a sign
that will be
opposed. And
you yourself
shall be pierced
with a sword, so
that the
thoughts of
many hearts will
be laid bare."

O Mother of my
Saviour,
you stand beside
your Son.
With love beyond all
telling,
you share his grief
as one.
How shall I know
your sorrow,
your tears beyond
compare?
Deep in my heart
stand watching,
and call my
memory there.

The Fifth Station: Simon helps carry the cross



A man named Simon of Cyrene, was coming in from the fields, and they pressed him into service to carry the Cross.

Simon, coming in from the fields, was pressed to carry your cross. Did he come to know you, Lord, walking by your side? By your meeting with the Cyrenean, may we find you in the stranger, and in the needy we meet.

The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes Jesus' face



He who welcomes
you welcomes
me; and he
who welcomes
me, welcomes
him who sent
me. And I
promise that
whoever gives
a cup of cold
water will not
want for a
reward.

A woman named
Veronica
kindly washed
your face with a
towel.
Such a simple
thing!
A towel, a cup
of water, a
loving word.
By your
meeting with
Veronica, Lord,
help us value
such small
things,
so great when
given in your
name.

The Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time



But I am a worm
and no man; the
scorn of all,
despised by the
people. All who
see me scoff at
me.

Can God fall, a
mighty God,
whose hands
uphold all that
is?

By your second
fall, O Lord,
remember how
weak we are,
remember our
helplessness,
remember our
human frailty,
and come to our
assistance.

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women



A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him.

Women wept as you passed and you said, "Weep not for me but for your children." Keep the grace of this meeting alive in our hearts, Lord. Keep us concerned for humanity's children.

The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time



I am like water
poured out;
all my bones are
racked.
You have brought
me down to the
dust of death.

Like water
poured out,
your strength
is gone.
You fall as if to
the dust of
death.
By your third
fall, O Lord,
give us
courage before
our trials
and patience to
go on.
Help us in our
need.

The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped



They stripped off his
clothes
and began to mock
him saying:
"All hail, king of the
Jews!"

They divided
your garments
and cast lots
for your
clothes.
Stripped of all
dignity,
you had
nothing of your
own.
By your
despoilment, O
Lord,
clothe us in
your mercy
which is rich
beyond words.

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross



After carrying his
Cross, Jesus came
to the
Place of the Skull (in
Hebrew, Golgotha).
There they crucified
him and two others
with him.

Nailed to the
cross,
you know how
many feel
who, bound by
circumstance,
year by year
get nowhere.
By your riven
hands and feet,
Lord,
help those fixed
to a cross
by long illness
or misfortune.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies



Jesus said, "I
thirst!"
and they gave him
wine.
"It is finished!" he
cried,
and gave up his
spirit.

Once the prophet
said:
"Who can believe
our report?"
God's Servant,
crushed in
sorrow,
pierced for our
offenses!
Shall we not
stand watching,
Lord,
mourning the
sins you bear,
rejoicing in the
pardon you
bestow?

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross



When the soldiers came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side, and blood and water flowed out.

Resting in your mother's arms when taken from the cross, you died trusting a Father's care, faithful unto death. By your holy death, O Lord, give us an unfailing trust in God, commend us to your Father's hands.

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is buried



Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus, and wrapped it in perfumed oils. Then he buried Jesus in a tomb close at hand.

You were buried in a garden tomb, like a seed fallen into the ground, waiting to rise again. Lord, help us rise again after dying with you. May all who have fallen asleep rise again.

Christ rises



On the third day
he rose again.

Suddenly, without
warning,
Jesus stood before
them and said, "Peace!
Do not be afraid!
Go and carry the news
to the others
that they are to go to
Galilee
where they will see
me." Mt 28