

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



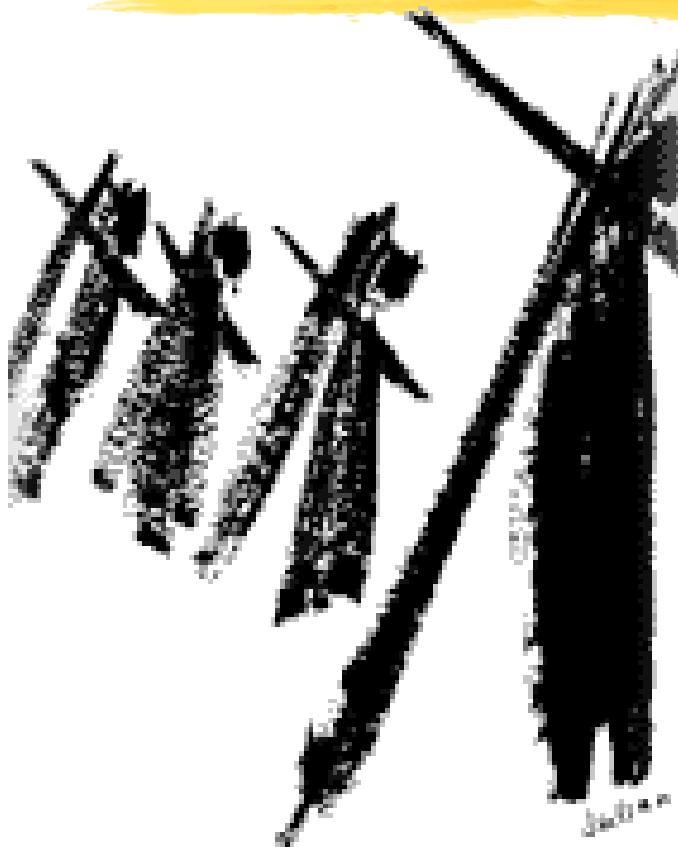
Pilate brought Jesus outside and said to the people, "Look at your king!"

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 Arimethea 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