

The Way of the Cross

Opening Devotions

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant and People

Our Father ...

but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

V. God forbid that I should glory:

R. Save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The procession goes to the First Station.



At the cross her Station keeping
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Where he hung, the dying Lord.

For her soul of joy bereavèd,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.

First Station

Jesus is condemned to death

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

V. God spared not his own Son:

R. But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Who, on Christ's dear mother gazing
Pierced by anguish so amazing,
Born of woman, would not weep?

Second Station

Jesus takes up his Cross

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

V. The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all:

R. For the transgression of his people was he stricken.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Grant us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Who, on Christ's dear mother thinking
Such a cup of sorrow drinking,
Would not share her sorrows deep?

Third Station

Jesus falls the first time

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

V. Surely he hath borne our griefs:

R. And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who knowest 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 to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



For her people's sins chastisèd,
She beheld her Son despisèd,
Scourged, and crowned with thorns entwined.

Fourth Station

Jesus meets his afflicted mother

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin; who can restore you? Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

V. A sword shall pierce through thine own soul also:

R. That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Saw him then from judgment taken
And in death by all forsaken,
Till his spirit he resigned.

Fifth Station

The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

V. Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me:

R. Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



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

Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

V. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts:

R. Show us the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who before the passion of thine only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us thy servants, that in faith beholding the light of his countenance, we may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



That my heart fresh ardor gaining
And a purer love attaining,
May with thee acceptance find.

Seventh Station

Jesus falls a second time

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

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

R. A very scorn of men, and the outcast of my people.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 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; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*



True repentance, Jesus win me:
Savior, print thy wounds within me,
Brand them on my stubborn heart.

Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

V. They that sow in tears:

R. Shall reap in joy.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest 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.



As thou bought'st, through tribulation,
In thy Passion, my salvation,
Let me bear therein my part.

Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

V. They gave me gall to eat:

R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord our 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 thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Jesus, great beyond all other
Turn not from me, heavenly brother,
Let me too bewail thy pain.

Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

V. I, if I be lifted up:

R. Will draw all men unto me.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honor of thy Name. *Amen.*



Let my soul, thy death declaring
Thy unsparing Passion sharing,
Count thy bruises one by one.

Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the Cross

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished!” And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

All genuflect for a space. The Our Father and Hail Mary may be said silently.

V. Christ for our sake became obedient unto death:

R. Even the death of the cross.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily from sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Let thy stripes and scourging smite me
At thy Holy Cross requite me,
Let thy blood refresh me there.

Thirteenth Station

The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

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

Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

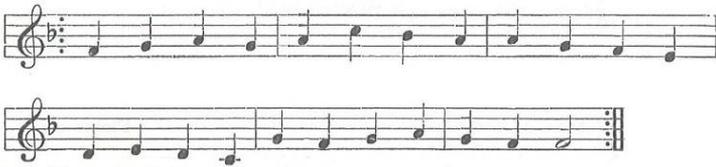
All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. "Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

V. Her tears are on her cheeks:

R. She hath none to comfort her.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death hast taken 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.*



O how sad and sore distressed
Now was she, that mother blessed,
Of the sole begotten One.

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:

Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Let us pray. (Silence)

We thank thee, heavenly Father, for that thou hast delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of thy Son; and we pray that, as by his death he hath recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Adapted from The Book of Occasional Services © 1995 by the Church Pension Fund.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722555.*