

The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is an interactive, meditative service. In it, we contemplate the sufferings of Jesus on our behalf. This version of the service comes from the 'Biblical Stations of the Cross' introduced by John Paul II. These stations are those of Church of the Redeemer, an Anglican (ACNA) congregation in Nashville, Tennessee.

Devotions Before the Altar

Officiant

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

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Officiant We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

People In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

People Amen.

The First Station

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

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

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

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Matthew 26:36-41)

Officiant God did not spare his own Son:

***People* But delivered him up for us all.**

(Romans 8:32)

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 Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Second Station

Jesus is Betrayed by Judas Iscariot

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

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

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

(Mark 14:43-46)

Officiant We all like sheep have gone astray,

People The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53:6)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Officiant and People

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

The Third Station

Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

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

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

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. ... Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him. (Mark 14:55-56, 60-65)

Officiant Everyone will hate you because of me,

***People* But those who stand firm to the end will be saved.**

(Mark 13:13)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, who sent your Son to defeat the powers of darkness on our behalf: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may fully proclaim your Gospel, use us in the cause of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Fourth Station
Jesus is Denied by Simon Peter

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

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

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

(Matthew 26:69-75)

Officiant He was despised and rejected by others,

***People* A man of suffering, and familiar with pain.**

(Isaiah 53:3)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Fifth Station

Jesus is Sentenced by Pontius Pilate

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

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

They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. ... "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

(Mark 15:1-5. 12-15)

Officiant He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

***People* And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So he opened not his mouth.**

(Isaiah 53:7)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Sixth Station
Jesus is Tormented by the Soldiers

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

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

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:27-31)

Officiant The punishment that brought us peace was on him,

***People* And by his wounds we are healed.**

(Isaiah 53:5)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of this present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Seventh Station
Jesus Carries His Cross

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

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

“Here is your king,” Pilate said. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). (John 19: 14-17)

Officiant Whoever wants to be my disciple

***People* Must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

(Mark 8:34)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Eighth Station
Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

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

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

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

Officiant As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

***People* By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.**

(John 13:34-35)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Ninth Station

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

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

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then 'they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23: 27-31)

Officiant Those who sow with tears:

***People* Will reap with songs of joy.**

(Psalm 126:5)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Tenth Station
Jesus is Crucified

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

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

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

(Matthew 27:33-37)

Officiant A pack of villains encircles me;

***People* They pierce my hands and my feet.**

(Psalm 22:16)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Eleventh Station
Jesus Promises Paradise to a Criminal

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

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

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ... One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(Luke 23:32- 33, 39-43)

Officiant All whom the Father gives me will come to me,

***People* And whoever comes to me I will never drive away.**

(John 6:37)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Twelfth Station

Jesus Unites His Mother and His Disciple

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

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

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home. (John 19: 25-27)

Officiant He is a sign that will be spoken against,

People And a sword will pierce your own soul. (Luke 2:34-35)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who foretold that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Officiant and People

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

The Thirteenth Station
Jesus Dies on the Cross

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

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

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23: 44-46)

Officiant He humbled himself and became obedient to death:

***People* Even death on a cross.**

(Philippians 2:8)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

The Fourteenth Station
Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

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

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

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. ... "Take a guard," Pilate ordered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

(Matthew 27: 57-60, 65)

Officiant You will not abandon me to the grave,

***People* Nor let your holy one see corruption.**

(Psalm 16:10)

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect peace in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Officiant and People

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

Concluding Prayers

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

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

Officiant Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

***People* Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***People* Amen.**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will mourn on account of him. Even so,

***People* Amen.**

(Revelation 1:5-7)

Officiant Go in Peace

***People* Thanks be to God.**

