

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke.
(Luke 9:22-24)



The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected, and to be raised up on the third day. If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, will save it.

Lord Jesus, help us to be open to your closeness and presence as we begin this journey to Calvary with you. Help us to find in your Passion and Death the strength we need to take up our crosses and follow you.

First Station: Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

Pilate, the Roman ruler, said to Jesus: "Are you a king?" "My kingdom is not of this world," he answered. To the people of Jerusalem Pilate said: "What shall I do with your king?" "Crucify him," they said, "we have no king but Caesar."

So Pilate gave orders for him to be crucified.

Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through your eyes, not the eyes of a Pontius Pilate.

*Judge of all He stands convicted,
Of the sin that we've committed.
All for love He bears our guilt.*

Second Station: Jesus Accepts His Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

The soldiers who had beaten him, made him carry a huge cross through the streets. The crowds laughed at him. They kicked, pushed and insulted him.

Lord Jesus, you embraced your cross to redeem the world. Help me to embrace the crosses in my life - the hardships, struggles, disappointments, pain. Only recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.

*Now the cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
Symbol of our victory.*

Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

He came to a bend in the road, and fell in the dirt. The cross fell on top of him, so they kicked him. He got up, shattered with weariness, and loneliness.

A week ago, they called him "Son of David," welcoming him as a Messiah. Now the same people cursed him and humiliated him.

Lord Jesus, you know how often I fall trying to follow you. Yet you are always there to lift me up. Help me to always trust in your loving care for me.

*For the sins of His own nation,
Jesus walked in desolation,
'Til He fell upon His knees.*

Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION :

His mother:

**She was standing there at the corner of
the path, waiting and wanting to see him.
Jesus, covered in blood and sweat,
carrying his cross, saw her.**

His eyes said: "This is my hour."

**And she remembered the days in Galilee,
when water became wine.**

**His heart and her heart were near
breaking.**

Lord Jesus, your mother Mary's grief was surpassed by her love for you. So often you come to me in others and their love gives me new life. Help me to see how often you love me through the people in my life.

*Can the human heart refrain,
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold.*

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

Simon was a countryman from North Africa, and the soldiers knew it. They grabbed him and made him join Jesus. "Carry that cross - this man will never make it on his own."

The long climb began up hill, Simon helping Jesus.

Lord Jesus, sometimes I am indifferent to the needs of others in my life. I even neglect those whom I love. Help me to see that loving others is the surest way to find you in my life.

*Simon bears with hesitation,
Glorious sign of our salvation,
That which we should bear with joy.*

Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

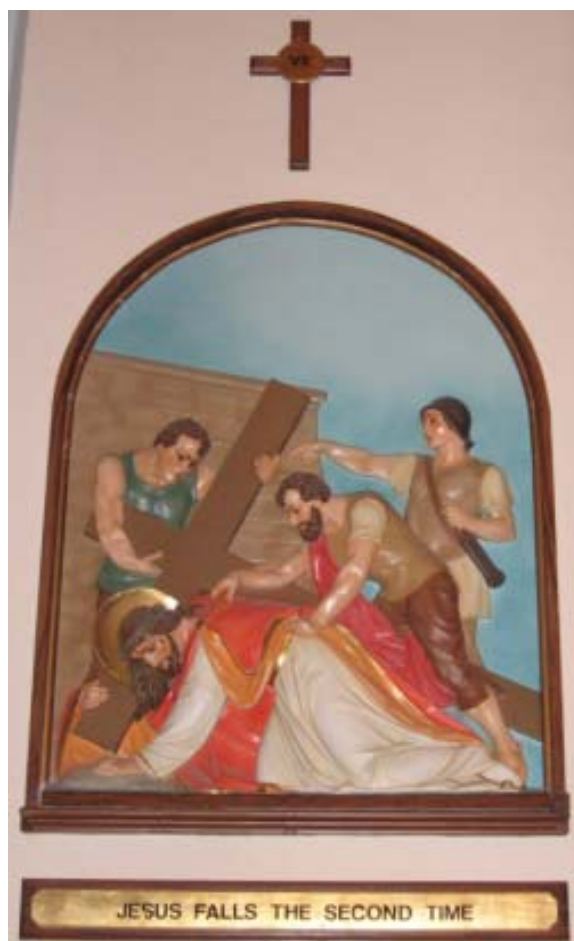
MEDITATION:

They say she was a gentle lady, and her house looked on the street. She saw him: the face of all kindness, torn by blood, suffering and nearing death. She soaked a towel in cold water, rushed downstairs - through the mob - and bathed his face.

Lord Jesus, at times I am afraid to reach out to others. I do nothing when I should act, I say nothing when I should speak out. Give me a deeper and more courageous faith. Help me to trust that you are with me.

*With the cloth she wipes His face,
Tears of pain she can't erase,
From the face of love on earth.*

Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

He falls again. The soldiers become afraid that he will not reach the top of the hill: Simon helps, the woman helped, but he still falls.

And some of the crowd wonder, will Jesus do one of his miracles and show he is the Son of God?

Lord Jesus, failure and disappointment sometimes lead me to despair. I hide behind my pride and self-pity, withdrawing from you and others. Give me the hope I need and help me never to be afraid to begin again.

*Jesus falls upon the ground,
Struggles forth without a sound,
To continue on His way.*

Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

At the gate stood women, waiting to see if an Imperial pardon would come, or waiting for the miracle. It was his last chance to show he was a king, to be true to his word. They burst into wailing as he dragged his shattered body, with his last strength, through the gate. And no pardon came, no miracle happened. Then he taught them how to weep, to weep for those unwept for, for their children – who as grown men and women – would face Jerusalem’s destruction, to weep for the things of God.

Lord Jesus, your great compassion for others overwhelms me. I feel petty and selfish when I think of you and the way you love. Help me to pour out my love, that you might fill me with your love.

*Like the women at His passion,
Loving hearts within us fashion,
That we might share others’ pain.*

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**Near the hill, he fell for the last time.
At the beginning, Satan tempted Jesus
three times in the desert.
Now, Jesus falls the third time,
and evil seems to have conquered.**

Lord Jesus, your failing strength makes me
see how helpless I am. Without you, I can
do nothing. Help me to rely on your
strength, to see how much I need you.

*Pain in head and back He bore,
Near to death, He fell once more,
Yet obedient to God's will.*

Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

He stood tall on the top of the hill, the angry and anxious crowd looking up at him, as they stripped off his clothing, exposing his bleeding, battered body. He was a humble man and had often said, "Tell of my miracles to no one." Once before on a mountain, he had shone as the sun, with clothes as white as snow, revealing his glory to his friends. Now, all the world sees him in anguish and humiliation.

Lord Jesus, seeing you so cruelly humiliated makes me realize how I cling to my accomplishments, my possessions, my way. Help me to let go of those things in my life that prevent me from growing closer to you and others.

*Garments stripped, He stands alone,
Soldiers mock, no mercy shown,
To the Son of God that day.*

Eleventh Station: Jesus is Crucified



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

They hammered nails into the wood through his hands and his feet. Helpless, he was hoisted, a shame and mockery of a man, pinned to his instrument of death. As grown men do when the pain is past bearing, he must have cried in his heart. They had won. Destroyed, rejected, broken, his very person seemed to have been shattered. No one would follow his teaching, or believe anything he had said any more.

His mother, Mary, with Magdalen and John, stood by. They believed in him as the beloved Son of God, along with millions of others of all times and nations.

Lord Jesus, I can never doubt your great love for me when I see you crucified. Help me to see your cross as the great sign of your love for me.

*Arms spread wide our pain embracing,
Stain of blood our sin erasing,
Though nailed fast, His hands still heal.*

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**The crowd sat and watched and waited.
Even the soldiers thought about miracles.
When he spoke, they waited, thinking he
was calling the prophet Elijah to come
and rescue him. He was calling on his
Father, because in death he felt alone, lost
from the sight and feel of all.**

**“My God, my God, Why have you
abandoned me?”**

**“Into your hands, Father, I commend my
spirit.”**

**Suddenly, the crowd was seized with
confusion, the earth rocked, the sky was
black, the Temple shuddered. The pagan
soldier yelled out, “Truly, this was the
Son of God!”**

Lord Jesus, your broken and lifeless body
calls me to deeper faith. You chose death,
even death on a cross. Help me to see my
crosses as ways of loving you.

*Word of Life, of death defiant,
Bowed His head – the world is silent;
Through His death came life anew.*

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

They took him down. As his body lay in Mary's lap, she remembered the words of her son about the bread, "This is my body, broken for you," and over the wine, "This is my blood, shed for you." As all mothers do when they mourn a dead child, she remembered that little baby in Bethlehem, when shepherds and kings worshipped him, and the other days, when, as a man, the world had followed him.

Lord Jesus, seeing your body taken from the cross reminds me how fearful I am of letting go of my own life. I am frightened when I think of being unimportant, useless, helpless. Help me to place my life in your hands.

*Earth's sky black in midst of day,
In His Mother's arms He lay,
Now at length His suffering passed.*

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

As the sun was setting over the city, they wrapped his body in linen and hurried to the rock-hewn tomb in the garden.

They marked the place, to return after the Sabbath.

Soldiers nearby marked it too, to guard against his followers.

His enemies marked it also because they were angry still, for he died under the sign "The King of the Jews," as if the words were on the lips of heaven. Yet God said,

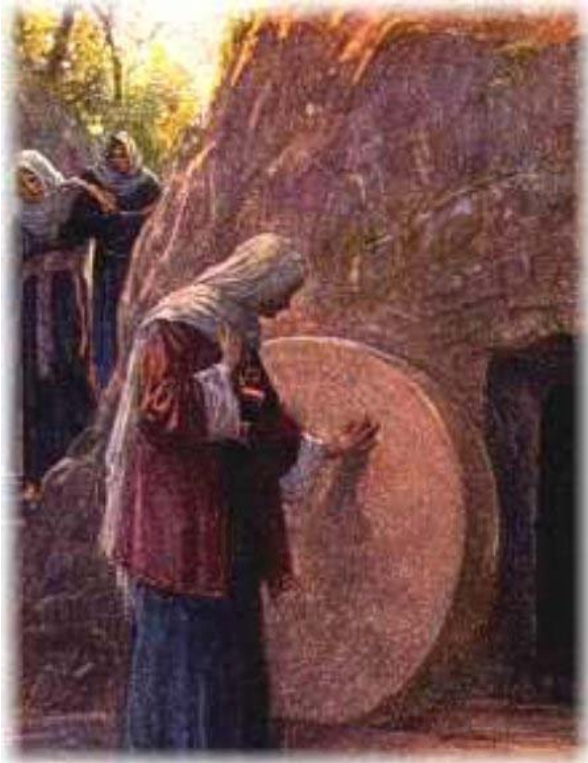
"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Lord Jesus, when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. Even though you sometimes seem distant or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and loving presence.

*Hidden from the sight of heaven,
Earth's dark womb receives our victim,
Now we wait for Him to rise.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke.
(Luke 24:1-8)**



On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. But, on entering, they discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, "Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful people and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?"

And they remembered his words.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk with you each day, even to Calvary. The sorrows and joys, the pains and healings, the failures and triumphs of our lives are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead us to closeness with you. Give us faith and trust to walk with you always.

Amen.