

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:

Again the high priest began to ask him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said to him, "I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." But the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" And they all condemned him as liable to death.

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:

And Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your king!" But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then Pilate handed him over to the soldiers to be crucified. And so they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself.

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:

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love what is its own. Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

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 :

Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus, his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

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:

And when they mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him, and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning 'the place of the skull.'

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,
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MEDITATION:

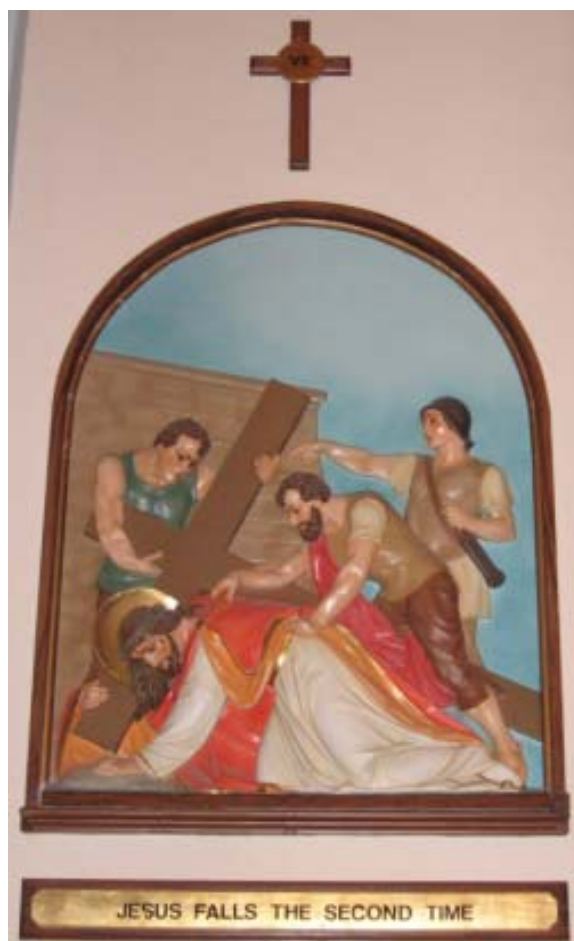
“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?”

And answering, the king will say to them, “Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”

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:

It was our weaknesses he carried, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as struck by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following our own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.

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:

There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

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:

I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me with your words.

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:

They gave Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink. Then after they crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, "They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garments they cast lots."

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:

When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

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,
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you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Then, bowing his head, he died.**

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:

When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they did not break his legs, but one of them opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimathea, because he was a disciple of Jesus, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission.

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:

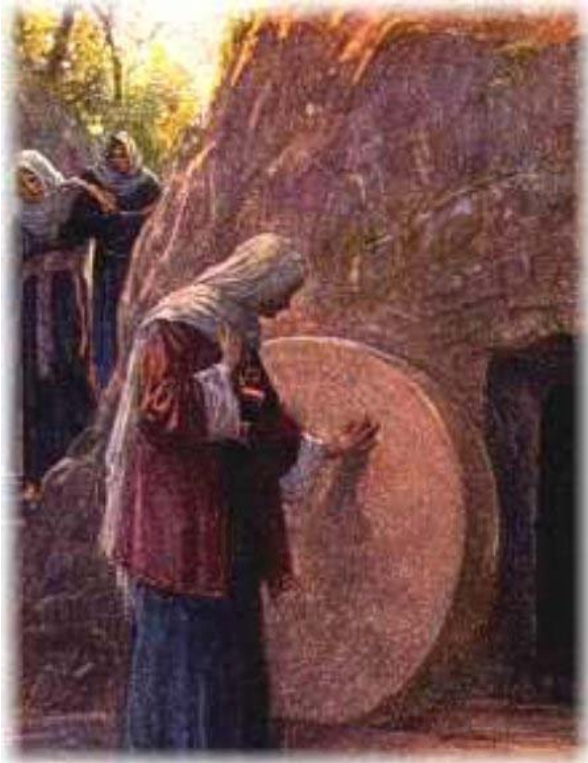
Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth, he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed.

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.