

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

With Great Litany

Concerning the Service

From the earliest times Christians flocked to the Holy Land to visit the places sanctified by the events in our Lord's earthly life. Especially popular was the pilgrimage along the path our Lord took on the first Good Friday. This pilgrimage was made with great devotion, the procession stopping (or making "stations") for prayer and meditation at the various traditional points where special events took place. For those who were unable to visit the Holy Land, the custom arose throughout Europe of setting up replicas of the different incidents along the Way of Sorrows, so that the faithful could make spiritual pilgrimages. After a long development, these little shrines became restricted to fourteen and it is now customary to set them up along the walls of Christian churches. - St. Augustine's Prayer Book, p. 160

The ministers enter in silence to stand before the Altar.

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
Have mercy upon us.

| Saint Mary, Mother of God our Savior Jesus Christ,
| Pray for us.

| All holy Angels and Archangels, and all holy orders of blessed Spirits,
| Pray for us.

| All holy Patriarchs and Prophets; Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, and Virgins; and all the
| blessed Company of heaven,
| Pray for us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

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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

Leaving the house of Caiaphas where he has been blasphemed, and the house of Herod where he has been mocked, Jesus is dragged before Pilate, his back torn with scourges, his head crowned with thorns; and he who on the last day will judge the living and the dead, is himself condemned to a shameful death.

It was for us that thou didst suffer, O blessed Jesus; it was for our sins thou wast condemned to die. Oh, grant that we may detest them from the bottom of our hearts, and by this repentance obtain thy mercy and pardon.

Let us pray.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

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SECOND STATION: JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

A heavy cross is laid upon the bruised shoulders of Jesus. He receives it with meekness, nay with a secret joy, for it is the instrument with which he is to redeem the world. What efforts do we make, on the other hand, to escape all suffering as far as we can?

O Jesus, grant us, by virtue of thy cross, to embrace with meekness and cheerful submission the difficulties of our state and to be ever ready to take up our cross and follow thee.

Let us pray.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
Good Lord, deliver us.

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THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

Bowed down under the weight of the Cross Jesus slowly sets forth on the way to Calvary, amidst the mockeries and insults of the crowd. His agony in the garden has exhausted his body; he is sore with blows and wounds; his strength fails him, he falls to the ground under the Cross.

O Jesus! Who for our sins didst bear the heavy burden of the cross and fall under its weight, may the thought of thy sufferings make us watchful over ourselves, and save us from any grievous fall into sin.

Let us pray.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity, by thy Circumcision and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

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FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER

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

Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

Still burdened with his cross, and wounded yet more by his fall, Jesus proceeds on his way. He is met by his Mother. What a meeting must that have been! What a sword of anguish must have pierced that Mother's bosom! What must have been the compassion of that Son for his holy Mother!

O Jesus, by the compassion which thou didst feel for thy Mother, have compassion on us and give us a share in her intercession. O Mary, most afflicted Mother, intercede for us, that through the sufferings of thy Son we may be delivered from the wrath to come.

Let us pray.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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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 the strength of Jesus fails, and he is unable to proceed, the executioners seize and compel Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross. The virtue of that cross changes his heart, the compulsory task becomes a privilege and joy.

O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege also to bear thy cross; may we glory in nothing else; by it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world; may we never shrink from suffering, but rather rejoice if we be counted worthy to suffer for thy Name's sake.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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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

As Jesus proceeds on the way, covered with the sweat of death, a woman moved with compassion makes her way through the crowd and wipes his face with her veil. As a reward of her piety, the impression of his sacred countenance is miraculously imprinted upon the veil.

O Jesus, may the contemplation of thy suffering move us with the deepest compassion, make us to hate our sins, and kindle in our hearts more fervent love of thee. May thy image be graven on our minds, until we are transformed into thy likeness.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

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

Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

The pain of his wounds and the loss of blood increasing at every step of his way, again his strength fails him and Jesus falls to the ground a second time. Our pride has caused his fall, it is our insolent haughtiness which crushes him to the earth.

O Jesus, falling again under the burden of our sins, and of thy sufferings for our sins, how often have we grieved thee by our repeated falls into sin! Oh, may we rather die than offend thee again!

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States , and all others in authority, that they may above all things seek thy honor and glory, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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EIGHTH STATION: THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM MOURN FOR OUR LORD

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

At the sight of the sufferings of Jesus, some holy women in the crowd were so touched with sympathy that they openly bewail and lament him. Jesus, knowing the things that were to come to pass, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

O Lord Jesus, we mourn and will mourn both for thee and for ourselves, for thy sufferings and for our sins which caused them. Oh teach us so to mourn that we may be comforted, and escape those judgements prepared for all who reject thee.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME UNDER THE CROSS

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

Jesus has now arrived almost at the summit of Calvary, but before he reaches the spot where he is to be crucified, his strength again fails him and he falls the third time, to be again dragged up and goaded onward by the brutal soldiery.

O Lord Jesus, we entreat thee, by the merits of this thy third most painful fall, to pardon our frequent relapses and our long continuance in sin; and may the thought of these thy sufferings make us hate our sins more and more.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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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

Arrived at last at the place of sacrifice they prepare to crucify him. His garments are torn from his bleeding Body, and he, the Holy of holies, stands exposed to the vulgar gaze of the rude and scoffing multitude.

O Lord Jesus, thou didst endure this shame for our most shameful deeds. Strip us, we beseech thee, of all false shame, conceit and pride, and make us so to humble ourselves voluntarily in this life, that we may escape everlasting shame in the world to come.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel.

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or tom by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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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

The cross is laid upon the ground and Jesus is stretched upon his bed of death. At one and the same time he offers his bruised limbs to his heavenly Father on behalf of sinful men, and to his fierce executioners to be nailed by them to the shameful wood. The blows are struck! The Precious Blood streams forth!

O Jesus, nailed to the cross, fasten our hearts there also, that they may be united to thee until death shall strike us with its fatal blow, and with out last breath we shall have yielded up our souls to thee.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity. and tribulation,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

For three hours has Jesus hung upon his pierced hands; his blood has run down in streams; and in the midst of excruciating sufferings, he has pardoned his murderers, promised the bliss of Paradise to the good thief, and committed his blessed Mother and Beloved Disciple to each other's care. All is now finished; and meekly bowing down his head, he gives up the ghost.

O Jesus, we devoutly embrace that honored cross where thou didst love us even unto death. In that death we place all our confidence. Henceforth let us live only for thee; and in dying for thee let us die loving thee.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences,
and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives
according to thy holy Word,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKE DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

The multitude have left the heights of Calvary and none remain save the Beloved Disciple
and the holy women, who at the foot of the cross are striving to stem the grief of Christ's
most loving Mother. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take the body of her divine Son
from the cross and deposit it in her arms.

O Mary, blessed Mother of my God, thou bearest in thine arms thine only Son, now dead,
who often rested his head in sleep upon thy breast. Pray for us, that as thou holdest him
lifeless in death, he may bear us up in the hour of our death in his everlasting arms.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to tum
their hearts,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-
hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHER

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world

The body of her dearly beloved Son is taken from his Mother, and laid by the disciples in the tomb. The tomb is closed, and there the lifeless body remains until the hour of its glorious resurrection.

We too, O God, will descend into the grave whenever it shall please thee, as it shall please thee, and wheresoever it shall please thee. Suffer our sinful bodies to return to their parent dust; but do thou, in thy great mercy, receive our immortal souls, and when our bodies have risen again place them likewise in thy kingdom, that we may love and bless thee for ever and ever.

Let us pray.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

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CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us thy peace.

O Christ, hear us.
O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, let thy mercy be showed upon us;
As we do put our trust in thee.

O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
Neither reward us according to our iniquities.

Christ became obedient unto death for us:
Even the death of the Cross.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the Cross; Who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**