



Stations of the Cross

“Behold the Wood”

Behold, behold the wood of the cross, on which is hung our salvation. O come, let us adore.

- 1. Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it shall remain but a single grain and not give life.*
- 2. And when my hour of glory comes as all was meant to be, you shall see me lifted up upon a tree.*
- 3. For there can be no greater love shown upon this land than in the one who came to die, that we might live.*
- 4. My Father, if it be your plan, this cup might pass me by, yet let it happen as you will, if I must die.*
- 5. For surely he has borne our tears, is wounded by our sin. And yet he open not his mouth that we might live.*
- 6. My body now is torn with pain, my friends have left and gone. O loving Father, take my life into your hands.*

Preparatory Prayer
(to be said kneeling before the altar)

Priest and People: My Lord, Jesus Christ, you have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love; and I have so many time ungratefully abandoned You. But now I love You with all my heart; and because I love You, I am sincerely sorry for ever having offended You. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany You on this journey. You go to die for love of me; I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of You. My Jesus, will live and die always united to You.

To be sung while processing to 1st Station:

*At the Cross her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her son to the last.*

THE FIRST STATION

Jesus Is Condemned To Death

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: The finality of Pilate's words seared Jesus' soul:
sentenced to die by crucifixion, a criminal's death.
Only hours earlier, in the stark loneliness of
Gethsemane, Jesus accepted without reservation
all that his Father would ask of him, "Not my will,
but yours be done." Fear-filled but composed,
Jesus embraced the sentence and so fulfilled his
years in the loving surrender of his life. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, grant us the grace not to
condemn love but to live love and to follow the
way you show us along the path of your divine
humanity.

All: Lord, help me always try to do the right thing.
Even when I am threatened by the truth, help me
accept it, and grant me the strength to act with
justice and compassion.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing, All His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.*

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Accepts His Cross

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Gethsemane fear becomes cold reality as Jesus feels
the heavy beam of the cross on his beaten
shoulders. What was only fear now begins to be
actual pain. This burden also leaves no doubt that
crucifixion is unavoidable. Whatever anticipation
there may have been about his fate will now, over
the next few hours, dissolve into naked reality.
Jesus will accept each phase of his execution as it
comes. His heart, strained with love and pain, is
open to all that will follow on this path to Calvary.
(Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, help us to accept the cross in
our lives, whatever it may be - suffering,
loneliness, bereavement, failure. Give us the grace
to know that you are carrying it with us, so that it
becomes for us a source of new life.

All: Lord, lighten the burden and weight of my cross.
Grant me the strength and perseverance to carry
my cross gracefully, so that I might witness to
others the consolation that comes in your name.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Oh how sad and sore distressed was that Mother highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.*

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls The First Time

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: As often as we contemplate the weakened, weary
Jesus falling to the dust, we focus on the pain of
collapsing under the heavy wood and suffering still
more bruises. What was most difficult and
painful, in fact, was getting up. Although he was
cajoled and even whipped into rising to reassume
his cross and continue toward Calvary, Jesus had
to rely on inner strength, on his character and
motivation, to go on. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, you save the poor who cry to
you and you lift up those who have fallen. Give us
a spirit of dependence, rooted in humility so that
we may help and support all who fall under the
weight of suffering.

All: Lord, lift me from my fall. Grant me the stamina
and endurance to begin again the journey to my
goal.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.*

THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: The sensitive, wrenching moment when Jesus' eyes
met his mother's was part of his bereavement, not
hers. She would soon grieve over the loss of her
son, but now, the grief was his. One of Jesus'
followers betrayed him; another denied he knew
him; and the rest abandoned Jesus when his need
was the greatest. Except for Mary and John, Jesus
was alone. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Help us, Lord, to learn from the
motherhood of Mary how to love every person as a
beloved child, how to become signs of your loving
supporting care.

All: Mary, you felt the pain and frustration of seeing
your son suffer and die, and yet you trusted in the
goodness of God. In your wisdom, teach me to
love and trust as you did.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen

*Is there one who would not weep, whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry The Cross

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: "Why me?" Jesus heard the angry protest over the
noise of the crowd. In his pain he didn't pay
attention to it until a soldier brought Simon over
to him. Then he understood. As Simon walked
along the narrow street, he was pressed to the side
to make way for the faltering Jesus and the
soldiers. Just then, one of the soldiers insisted
that Simon help the condemned man. "Why
should I be chosen for this indignity? Why not
somebody else? It's not fair!" Simon objected.
Jesus understood how he felt, as Simon, for a
time, took the weight of the crossbeam on his own
shoulders. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our
fellow men throughout the world who live and die
in poverty and hunger. Give them, by our hands,
their daily bread. By our understanding give them
peace and joy.

All: Lord, help me become more generous with my
time. Direct me toward charity, and teach me
patience. Assist me in works of love.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Can the human heart refrain from partaking in her pain,
in that Mother's pain untold?*

THE SIXTH STATION

Veronica Wipes The Face Of Jesus

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Not many of Jesus' friends were around since his
arrest the night before. Where were those who
cheered him and laid palms in his path only days
earlier? When it was more fashionable and safer
not to recognize Jesus or show concern for him,
Veronica steps out of the crowd to wipe his face.
Did it feel cool and refresh Jesus, or did it sting his
bloodied face? Either way, Jesus saw the
compassionate heart that prompted her act and
was grateful for it. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father of light, no one has seen your
face. Yet through your loving Son, we see it come
clear in the least and most contemptible people.
Give us eyes to see, so that we may see you in
those who seek our help.

All: Lord, lend me the strength and courage that I
need to follow Veronica's example to offer
comfort and consolation to those who need it.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, She beheld her tender Child, all with
bloody scourges rent.*

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls The Second Time

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Wouldn't it be understandable for Jesus to
become immersed in his own suffering and fear as
he falls again amid the street throng? "Who cares
about these people, about Simon and Veronica
who helped me, even about my mother? All I can
think about is the pain I feel and the sharp sense
of being so alone." With each step and each fall,
Jesus is tempted to think of himself as the only
one with real pain and real problems, as the only
one who matters. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Give us courage, Lord, when failure
presses heavily on us and we are desolate, stretch
out your hand and raise us up.

All: Lord, grant me the courage and determination to
walk once more and with you toward my
destination.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*She beheld her tender Child, saw Him hang in desolation,
'till His spirit forth He sent.*

THE EIGHTH STATION

The Women Of Jerusalem Console Jesus

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: The small group of women approached Jesus as he
struggled in the procession moving slowly toward
Calvary. It was their custom as “professional
mourners” to try to console the condemned man
and even offer a narcotic drink to dull the pain or
crucifixion. Jesus accepts their words of comfort
but not the drug. How well that cup must have
expressed the rock-bottom reality Jesus was heading
for. It symbolized more clearly than the crossbeam
on his back that crucifixion was indeed just ahead.
That destination, that ordeal, was inevitable.
(Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, you place in each of us the
gift of compassion and the longing for justice.
Help us to realize our responsibility for each
other’s pain and, like Jesus, to give our lives for all.

All: Lord, be with me when I am in trouble. Then
teach me your mercy so I can ease the pain of
others.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*O thou Mother! Font of love! Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord.*

THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls The Third Time

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Perhaps at the place of execution, Jesus falls yet
again, exhausted physically and emotionally. Lying
on the ground, Jesus finds a moment's rest before he
will have to get up to face the hammer and nails. In
this moment, does he recall other times he had to
get up after failure and disappointment, times when
he tempted not to pursue his mission? Does he
think of missed opportunities? Are there regrets
about words unspoken that might have been?
People who ignored his words of life? No matter
now about the past. Jesus gets up again to face the
present. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, you willed that your Incarnate
Son should be obedient to death, even death on a
cross. Grant that by the example of his
humiliations and suffering we may share in his
courage by walking upright to our own Calvary.

All: Lord, grant me the spirit of hope that inspired and
encouraged you to lift yourself three times from
the ground to complete your mission.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Make me feel as thou hast felt; make my soul to glow and melt
with love of Christ my Lord.*

THE TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped Of His Garments

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Jesus is stripped of his last possessions. On a small
hill just outside the city gates, Jesus stands naked
to the world as the soldiers remove his clothes to
prepare him for crucifixion. He has lost his
strength, his freedom, his disciples, and now even
his clothes. What more can he lose? But without
owning so much as a garment to cover himself, he
has not lost his self-possession and his dignity.
Amid the degradation and torment he suffers, we
see so clearly that his fundamental value and
dignity come from who he is, not from what he
possesses. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Lord, give us the grace to devoid
ourselves of our masks and all that puts a barrier
between you and us so that we might be clothed in
the garments of your love.

All: Lord, grant me the open mindedness to see past
my inadequacies and of others so that I may
unconditionally love and accept everyone.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the Lord to be
impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Holy Mother! Pierce me through, in my heart each wound
renew of my Savior crucified.*

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: The grotesque act of nailing a human being to a
post takes place about midday, and Jesus, one of
three criminals, is raised on high. Beyond the
torment, the thirst, the blood loss, and the
suffocation, Jesus also hears the jeers of those who
arranged his execution: "He relied on God. Now
let God come to rescue him." (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, before your Son gives himself
up to death, he commits his body to the cross.
May the memory of his cross and resurrection help
us to free ourselves of all attachment to sin. May
he draw us to himself and make us sharers in his
sufferings so that one day we may share his glory.

All: Lord, help me endure the times when I'm a victim
of injustice, and help me refrain from persecuting
others.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Let me share with thee His pain, who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.*

THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies On The Cross

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (Kneel)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: From multiple causes associated with crucifixion, Jesus' life is "interrupted." What did Mary and the others think as they watched Jesus surrender to the inevitable? It was the end of a loving, faithful, composed, principled, and self-sacrificing life. What if Jesus did not die at this time, but let us say, had taught and healed and loved for another fifteen years, and then was crucified? We think Mary's life and their lives and ours would have been so much more enriched. What if? ...But let us be content with God's ways. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, we thank you for those you have given us to enrich our lives. Help us, by your grace, to accept their passing. Though we are poorer because of it, we rejoice that they are with you and that we can smile at our memories of them.

All: 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. (Stand)

*Let me mingle tears with thee, mourning Him who mourned for me,
all the days that I may live.*

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken From The Cross

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: "It is finished," Jesus had said a short time earlier
on the cross. Now he lay dead in Mary's arms.
This emotional tableau was the model
immortalized in John's Gospel and then, in the
marble, by Michelangelo's Pieta. Jesus' life was
over. Through three decades he was the model of
God for many of his contemporaries, and then
over the centuries since then, for endless millions.
"He who sees me, sees the Father," Jesus had said.
As the model of a human life, Jesus would touch
us all and leave his blessed influence on the world
forever. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Father, as we stand beneath the
Cross, we desire to venerate the body of your Son
lying lifeless in the arms of his mother. May we
imitate her by accepting a share in his cross and by
trying to live always in your presence freed from
sin and the fear of death.

All: Lord, lead me in the ways of kindness and mercy.
Teach me to be as loving and merciful to others as
you are to me.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*By the Cross with thee to stay, there with thee to weep and pray,
is all I ask of thee to give.*

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: Jesus' body was removed from the execution site
and brought to a tomb cut out of rock. One of
those who helped prepare the body for burial was
Nicodemus, the Pharisee who had questioned
Jesus secretly one night a couple of years earlier
about his teaching and miracles. Jesus spoke of
himself as being "lifted up." Did Nicodemus
connect this with being lifted up on the cross?
Gazing at the lifeless body of Jesus, did he also
recall that Jesus had spoken of rising three days
later? Did Nicodemus believe this would happen?
(Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. Lord of all hopes and freedom, like
the grain of wheat, you fell into the ground and
died to give us life. When all our hopes fail, give
us courage. When we feel cut off bring us back to
the newness of life.

All: Lord, grant me an end to my waiting. In my
anxiety and restlessness, bring me the peace that
comes in your name.

Holy Mother, I pray to you for the wounds of the
Lord to be impressed in my heart. Amen.

*Virgin of all virgin's blest! Listen to my fond request.
Let me share they grief divine.*

CLOSING

Jesus Is Risen From The Dead

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
(Genuflect)

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Reader: The life of Jesus does not stop at the Cross. If it
did our faith would be in vain. Jesus' death won
us back from death. His resurrection gives us new
hope. The Cross and the resurrection can never
be separated, they are the one movement of Jesus
towards the Father. (Pause)

Minister: Let us pray. God our Father, by raising Jesus your
Son you conquered the power of death and
opened the way to eternal life. Raise us up and
renew our lives by the Spirit that lives within us.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of
heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into
hell; the third day he arose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
God, the Father almighty; from there he shall come to
judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy
Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Please exit the church in silence.



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