

# Walking the Way of the Cross

## **The Gathering**

*The ministers and people enter in silence. All may kneel for a time of silent prayer. There is no greeting or penitential rite.*

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was  
content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of  
sinners  
and to suffer death upon the Cross;  
who is alive and glorified with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **The Stations of the Cross**

*After each station is announced we say:*

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

**By your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

*Each reading is followed by silence for reflection and then a short prayer*

### **The First Station:**

#### **Jesus is condemned to death**

*Reading from Matthew's Gospel.*  
Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

When Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' ... and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Second Station:**

#### **Jesus Receives his Cross**

*Reading from John's Gospel*

They took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

### **The Third Station:**

#### **Jesus Falls the First Time**

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

**By your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

*Reading from the Prophet Isaiah*

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

### **The Fourth Station:**

#### **Jesus Meets his Mother**

*Reading from John's Gospel*

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

### **The Fifth Station:**

#### **Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to Carry His Cross**

*Reading from Matthew's Gospel*

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

***The Sixth Station:  
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus***

*Reading from John's Gospel*

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

***The Seventh Station:  
Jesus Falls for the Second Time***

*Reading from Matthew's Gospel*

Jesus said, 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

***The Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem***

*Reading from Matthew's Gospel*

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

***The Ninth Station:  
Jesus Falls for the Third Time***

*Reading from 1 Corinthians*

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's

foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

***The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of his Garments***

*Reading from John's Gospel*

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

***The Eleventh Station:  
Jesus is Nailed to the Cross***

*Reading from Luke's Gospel*

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

***The Twelfth Station:  
Jesus Dies on the Cross***

*Reading from Luke's Gospel*

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

## ***The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross***

*Reading from John's Gospel*

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

## ***The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb***

*Reading from Matthew's Gospel*

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

[Silence]

## ***The Proclamation of the Cross***

*A cross is unveiled by the minister with the following words:*

Behold the Cross  
on which the Saviour of the world  
was nailed.

**Come, let us worship.**

## ***The Reproaches:***

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like  
my sorrow which was brought upon me,  
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his  
fierce anger.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

O my people, O my Church,  
What have I done to you,  
or in what have I offended you?  
Testify against me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt,  
and delivered you by the waters of  
baptism, but you have prepared a cross  
for your Saviour.

**Holy God, etc**

I led you through the desert forty years,  
and fed you with manna.

I brought you through tribulation and  
penitence, and gave you my body, the  
bread of heaven, but you prepared a  
cross for your Saviour.

**Holy God, etc**

What more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?

I planted you, my chosen and fairest  
vineyard, I made you the branches of  
my vine; but when I was thirsty, you  
gave me vinegar to drink,  
and pierced with a spear the side of your  
Saviour.

**Holy God, etc**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,  
and you have led me to the judgement  
hall of Pilate.

I scourged your enemies and brought  
you to a land of freedom, but you have  
scourged, mocked and beaten me.

I gave you the water of salvation from  
the rock, but you have given me gall and  
left me to thirst.

**Holy God, etc**

I gave you a royal sceptre,  
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,  
but you have given me a crown of  
thorns. I raised you on high with great  
power, but you have hanged me on the  
cross.

**Holy God, etc**

My peace I gave, which the world can  
not give, and washed your feet as a sign  
of my love, but you draw the sword to  
strike in my name, and seek high places  
in my kingdom. I offered you my body  
and blood, but you scatter and deny and  
abandon me.

**Holy God, etc**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,  
and you close your hearts to the  
Counsellor. I pray that all may be one in  
the Father and me,  
but you continue to quarrel and divide.  
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,  
but you cast lots for my clothing.

**Holy God, etc**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen  
Israel, and you turned on them with  
persecution and mass murder.

I made you joint heirs with them of my  
covenants, but you made them  
scapegoats for you own guilt.

**Holy God, etc**

I came to you as the least of your  
brothers and sisters;  
I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was a stranger and you did not  
welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and did not visit me.

**Holy God, etc**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of  
your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who  
suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his  
victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart in  
silence.*