

Stations of the Cross

The term “Stations of the Cross” refers both to a series of fourteen representations of events on Christ’s journey to the Cross and the popular devotion of passing before them in meditation on Christ’s sacrifice.

The devotion reflects the practice of pilgrims to Jerusalem who, from earliest times to the current day, have followed the way of the Cross from the house of Pilate to Calvary and wished to reenact this journey on their return home.

The traditional pilgrimage route in Jerusalem starts at the site of Pilate’s Judgment Hall in the Antonia and follows the Via Dolorosa through the narrow streets of Old Jerusalem to come to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on Calvary Hill.

When the Franciscans received custody of the holy places in medieval times, they encouraged the erection of tableaux in their own churches depicting the sacrificial journey. The custom spread widely to other churches.

The content and number of the stations have varied widely throughout the ages, but the number was settled as fourteen under Clement XII in the 18th century. Eight of the stations directly reflect incidents recorded in the Gospels, the remaining six are based on inferences from the Gospel or from pious legend.

With the recovered theology of the paschal mystery stressing the integral unity of Christ’s death and resurrection, a fifteenth station representing the resurrection has frequently been added to the series.

The Way of the Cross

Opening Devotions:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(The procession goes to the first station.)

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they condemned him and said, “He deserves to die.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

God did not spare his own Son:
He was delivered up for us all.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty god, your most dear son did not go up to joy before he suffered pain, and he did not enter glory before he was crucified: As we follow on the way of the cross, mercifully grant that we may find it to be the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the second station)

Second Station: Jesus takes up his cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
He was stricken for the transgression of my people.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Most merciful Father, your beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the third station)

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:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Surely he has borne our griefs:
And carried our sorrows

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the fourth station)

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his afflicted mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, o daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

A sword will pierce your own soul also:
And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the fifth station)

Fifth Station: The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Whoever does not hear his own cross and come after me:
Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Heavenly Father, your blessed son did not come to be served but to serve. Bless those who follow his steps by giving themselves to the service of others so they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy, with wisdom, patience and courage. We ask this for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the sixth station)

Sixth Station: A women wipes the face of Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despise, and we esteemed him not. His appearance so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form

beyond that of children of me. But he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Restore us, O Lord god of hosts:

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the seventh station)

Seventh Station: Jesus falls a second time

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

By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

But as for me, I am a worm and not man:

Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting god, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who live and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the eighth station)

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Those who sowed with tears:

Will reap with songs of joy.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the ninth station)

Ninth Station: Jesus falls a third time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. "Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!"

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:
And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of death to be for us the means of life; Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the tenth station)

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothing

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, they cast lots for my clothing."

They gave me gall to eat:
When I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon. Grant us the grace to joyfully accept our present suffering, confident of the glory that will be revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

(The procession goes to the eleventh station)

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

When they came to a place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross to extend your saving embrace to everyone. By your Holy Spirit, help us to reach out our hands in love and bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honour and glory of your name. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the twelfth station)

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished!” And then crying with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” and he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

Christ, for us, became obedient unto death:
Even death on a cross.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Most merciful Father, you gave your only begotten Son to die on the cross for our redemption. By his glorious resurrection, you delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant that we may die to sin each day, so that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the thirteenth station)

Thirteenth Station: The Body of Jesus is placed in his mother’s arms

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

Her tears run down her cheeks:
And she has none to comfort her.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies’ sake. **Amen.**

***Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.***

(The procession goes to the fourteenth station.)

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading:

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 be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

You will not abandon me to the grave:
Nor let your Holy One see corruption.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, your blessed Son Jesus was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of Baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.*

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

Saviour of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

Save, us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his life he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

To Christ our Lord who loves us and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Blessing

The Lord's Servant

*He was despised; he was rejected,
a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
As one from whom people hid their faces,
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Ours were the sufferings he bore,
ours the torments he endured,
while we thought he was being punished,
struck by God and brought low.*

*He was pierced for our sins,
bruised for no fault but ours.
His punishment has won our peace,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*We have all strayed like sheep,
all taking our own way;
but the Lord laid on him
the guilt of us all.
Isaiah 53.3-6*

***PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM
CHURCH.***