

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Paul Parish

A Franciscan Family of Faith

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Scripture Reading

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, that man will save it. -Luke 9:22-24

Let Us Pray

ALL: Lord Jesus, help me to be open to your closeness and presence as I begin this journey to Calvary with you. Help me to find in your Passion and Death the strength to take up my cross and follow you.

First Station: Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus has been scourged and crowned with thorns. Now Pilate unjustly condemns Him to die upon the cross.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through the eyes of Jesus, not the eyes of Pontius Pilot.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) At the Cross her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping, close to Jesus to the last.

Second Station: Jesus Accepts His Cross



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus is given a cross to carry on His bleeding and bruised shoulders. He takes this cross upon Himself as He takes upon Himself all of our sins.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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 by recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Through her heart, his sorrow sharing, all His bitter anguish bearing, now at length the sword had passed.

Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus weakened by all His suffering, stumbles and falls on the way to Calvary. He struggles and rises, despite His pain, to go onward towards His death.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you know how often I fall trying to follow you. Yet, you are always there to lift me up. Help me always to trust in your loving care for me.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) O how sad and sore distressed, was that Mother highly blessed, of the sole begotten Son.

Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus on his way to Calvary sees His Mother. Both are stricken with grief. Her love for Him is surpassed only by His love and concern for her.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs, of her dying glorious Son.

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Carry the Cross



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus is growing weaker. Fearing that He may not be able to go on, His executioners force Simon of Cyrene to help Him carry His cross.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, sometimes I am indifferent to the needs of others in my life. Help me to see that loving others is the surest way to find you.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Is there one who would not weep, whelmed in miseries so deep, Christ's dear Mother to behold.

Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus' face is bathed in sweat and blood. Veronica, moved by pity, wipes His face with her veil and the image of His holy face is imprinted on the cloth.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Can the human heart refrain, from partaking in her pain, in that Mother's pain untold?

Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus falls again under the weight of the cross. His executioners drag Him to His feet and force Him to go onward to Calvary.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, She beheld her tender Child, all with bloody scourges rent.

Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus is so bruised and bleeding that the women of Jerusalem weep when they see Him. He tells them, "Weep not for me, but rather for your children."

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) For the sins of His own nation, saw Him hang in desolation, till His spirit forth He sent.

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus, weak and exhausted, falls for the third time. Though He hardly has strength to move, they force Him to walk again on the journey to Calvary.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) O though Mother! Font of love, touch my spirit from above, make my heart with Thine accord.

Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus has reached the summit of Calvary, the place of His execution. As they strip Him of His garments, they reopen His bleeding wounds.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: 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 & others.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Make me feel as thou hast felt, make my soul to glow and melt, with the love of Christ my Lord.

Eleventh Station: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus is now thrown down upon the cross. His executioners violently stretch His limbs and fasten them with crude nails to the wood.

Let Us Pray

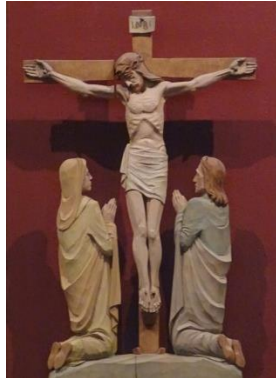
LEADER: Lord Jesus, I can never doubt your great love for me when I see you crucified. Help me to see your cross as the great sign of your love for me.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Holy Mother, pierce me through, in my heart each wound renew, of my Savior Crucified.

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus is crucified. After three hours of agony and pain. He commends His spirit to His Father, bows His head and dies.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, your broken and lifeless body calls me to deeper faith. You chose death, even death on the cross. Help me to see my crosses as ways of loving you.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Let me share with thee His pain, who for all my sins was slain, who for me in torment died.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken from the Cross



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus' lifeless body is taken from the cross by disciples, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Tenderly, they place Him in the arms of His sorrowing Mother.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, seeing your body taken from the cross reminds me of 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.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) Let me mingle tears with thee, mourning Him who mourned for me, all the days that I may live.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Meditation

LEADER: Jesus' body is wrapped in a shroud and placed in a nearby sepulcher of a friend, Joseph of Arimathea. Then a large stone is rolled against the entrance and they depart.

Let Us Pray

LEADER: Lord Jesus, when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. Even though You sometimes seem distance or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and loving presence.

LEADER: Jesus Christ Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

ALL: (sing) By the cross with thee to stay, there with thee to watch and pray, all I ask of thee to give.

Closing Scripture Reading

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the 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 men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day.*" And they remembered His words. Luke 24:1-8

Closing Prayer

Let Us Pray

ALL: Lord Jesus, help me to walk with you each day of my life even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healings, the failures and triumphs of my life are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead me to closeness with you. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with you always. Amen.

Spare your people, Lord. Spare your people in your loving kindness. Show us your mercy, we have sinned against you, Lord. (Repeat three times)

For the intentions of the Holy Father, we pray:

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.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



Prayer Before the Crucifix

Behold, O kind and gentle Jesus, I kneel before you and pray that you would impress upon my heart the virtues of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a firm purpose of amendment. At the same time, with sorrow I meditate on your five precious wounds, having in mind the words which David spoke in prophecy, "They have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones."
Psalm 22

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.