The Way of the Cross
with text from the Scriptures
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Given the adverse circumstances in regard to the current global pandemic, we are, Barton Cotton Publishers, allowing the use of our ‘Way of The Cross’ booklets and folders for the duration of the Catholic church closings and the restrictions on group meetings. The booklets and folders may be used for online Masses and Way of the Cross group meetings so that parishioners with these booklets and folders at home can follow along with the Stations.
OPENING PRAYER

(Stand)

Pr.: Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemani, and he said to them, “Sit down here, while I go over yonder and pray.” Then he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them, “My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with me.” He went forward a little, and falling prostrate he prayed, saying, “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; yet not as I will but as you will.” (Mt. 26, 36 to 39)

(Kneel)

All: Almighty and eternal Father, / accept our prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son, our Saviour and Lord. / As we recall his Sacred Passion / send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, / we beg You, / so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. / Amen.

(Stand)

Sing: (to the tune of Stabat Mater)

Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread your holy Way.

May we feel no bitter hatred,
When we too are persecuted,
Left alone to walk with You.
SECOND STATION
Jesus carries his Cross

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

Pr.: And Pilate said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!”
But they cried out, “Away with him! Away with
him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I
crucify your king?” The chief priests answered,
“We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed
him over to them to be crucified. And so they took
Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for him-
self. (John 19, 14 to 17)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Who would believe what we have heard? / To
whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? / He
grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot
from the parched earth; / there was in him no
stately bearing to make us look at him, / no
appearance that would attract us to him. / He was
rejected and avoided by men, / a man of suffering,
accustomed to infirmity, / one of those from whom
men turn away, / and we held him in no esteem.
(Is. 53, 1 to 3)

Pr.: Let us pray. Father in heaven, your Son, Jesus
Christ, still carries his Cross in his persecuted
brothers and sisters throughout the world. Make us
feel the needs of all persons so that we might as
readily help them as we would help Jesus himself.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole Body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.
THIRD STATION
Jesus falls the first time

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love what is its own. Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also. (John 15, 18 to 20) (KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Why are your clothes red, / and your garments like those of the wine presser? / “The wine press I have trodden alone, / and of my people there was no one with me. / I trod them in my anger, and trampled them down in my wrath; / their blood spurted on my garments and I stained all my clothes. / I looked about, but there was no one to help, / I was appalled that there was no one to lend support; / so my own arm brought about the victory.” (Is. 63, 2 to 5)

Pr.: Let us pray. O God, to free us from sin and weakness your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced his fearful passion and crucifixion. Strengthen us in our baptismal resolutions by which we renounced sin and Satan, so that through the passion of this life’s sufferings we might rise to a new life of joyful service free of all selfishness.

All: Amen. (STAND)

Sing: Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.
FOURTH STATION
Jesus meets his afflicted mother

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

Pr.: Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus his
mother and his mother’s sister, Mary of Cleophas,
and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw
his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he
loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold,
your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold,
your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took
her into his home. (John 19, 25 to 27)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: To what can I compare you, O daughter Jerusalem?
/ What example can I show you for your comfort,
virgin daughter Sion? / For great as the sea is your
distress; / who can heal you? (Lam. 2, 13)

Pr.: Let us pray. O blessed Lord, at your passion a sword
of sorrow pierced the loving heart of your mother
as Simeon had foretold. Grant that we who look
back on her sorrows with compassion might receive
the healing fruits of your sufferings.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of Christ.
FIFTH STATION

*Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**Pr.:** And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him, and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning 'the place of the skull'. (Mk. 15, 20 to 22)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

**All:** With a loud voice I cry out to the Lord; / with a loud voice I beseech the Lord. / My complaint I pour out before him; before him I lay bare my distress. / When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path. / In the way along which I walk they have hid a trap for me. / I look to the right to see, but there is no one who pays me heed. / I have lost all means of escape; / there is no one who cares for my life. (Ps. 141, 2 to 5)

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt.

**All:** Amen.
(STAND)

**Sing:** Brave but trembling came the woman, 
None but she would flaunt the Roman, 
Moved by love beyond her fear.
SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: “Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?” And answering the king will say to them, “Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.” (Mt. 25, 37 to 40)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; / he who finds one finds a treasure. / A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. / A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; / for he who fears God behaves accordingly, / and his friend will be like himself. (Sirach 6, 14 to 17)

Pr.: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Give us, we beg You, the courage and dedication to sacrifice and suffer with those who are in need, the least of your people.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,  
Flogged in Body He resembled  
All our brothers poor and scorned.
SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

Pr.: It was our weaknesses that he carried, our sufferings
that he endured, while we thought of him as
stricken, as one struck by God and afflicted. But he
was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins;
upon him was the punishment that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone
astray like sheep, each following his own way;
but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.
(Is. 53, 4 to 6)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Though he was harshly treated, I he submitted and
opened not his mouth; I like a lamb led to the
slaughter or a sheep before the shearsers, I he was
silent and uttered no cry. I When he was cut off
from the land of the living, and smitten for the
sin of his people, I a grave was assigned him
among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers,
I though he had done no wrong nor spoken any
falsehood. (Is. 53, 7 and 9)

Pr.: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You shared in our
weaknesses and accepted our guilt. Grant us the favor of
rejoicing over our human weaknesses, so that in all we
do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all
others.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.
EIGHTH STATION
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)
All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bawling and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."
(Luke 23, 27-28)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)
All: Come, all you who pass by the way, / look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering, / suffering with which the Lord has afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. / At this I weep, my eyes run with tears: / far from me are all who could console me, / far away are any who might revive me. (Lam. 1, 12 and 16)

Pr.: Let us pray. Beloved Jesus, with tears of pity these women of Jerusalem responded to You, broken, bruised, and beaten, on the road to Calvary. Deepen our faith, we beg You, so that we may see You in our brothers and sisters, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference.

All: Amen.
(STAND)
Sing: Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain.
NINTH STATION
Jesus falls a third time

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me with your words. (Ps. 118, 25 to 28)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom should I fear? / The Lord is my life’s refuge; / of whom should I be afraid? / When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh, / my foes and my enemies themselves stumble and fall. / Though an army encamp against me, / my heart will not fear; / though war be waged upon me, even then will I trust. (Ps. 26, 1 to 3)

Pr.: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, You permitted your Son to be weakened, crushed, and profaned so that He might rise from the dead freed from the ravages of sin. Help us to accept our weaknesses and failings as forerunners of our glorious resurrection in union with your Son.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all He had to give.
TENTH STATION
Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it, he would not drink. Then after they had crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, “They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garments they cast lots.”
(Mt. 27, 34-35)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Happy is the man whom God chastises! / Do not reject the punishment of the almighty. / For he wounds, but he binds up; he smites, but his hands give healing. / Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; / I looked for comforters, and I found none. / Rather they put gall in my food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Job 5, 17 & 18; Ps. 68, 21 & 22)

Pr.: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, stripped of everything, You stood exposed to the jeers and contempt of the people whom You loved. Clothe us with genuine love of others, so that nothing we suffer may ever fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.
ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Lk. 23, 33-34; Jn. 19, 18)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, / far from my prayer, far from the words of my cry? / O my God, I cry out by day, and you answer not; / I cry out by night, and there is no relief for me. / All my bones are racked. / My heart has become like wax melting away within my chest. / My throat is dried up like baked clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws; / they have pierced my hands and my feet; / I can count all my bones. (Ps. 21, 2-3, 15-16, 17b)

Pr.: Let us pray. Lord and Saviour, You have told us that we too must accept crucifixion if we are to accept resurrection with You. Help us to rejoice in the sufferings that come with the fulfillment of our daily duties, seeing in them the royal road of the cross to the resurrection.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Life eternal, death defiant,
   Bowed his head – the world was silent,
   Through his death came life anew.
TWELFTH STATION
Jesus dies on the Cross

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

Pr.: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was
darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.
And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the
temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with
a loud voice and said, “It is finished. Father, into
your hands I commend my spirit.” Then, bowing
his head, he died. (Lk. 23, 44 to 46; Jn. 19, 30b)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: My people, what have I done to you? / or in what
have I offended you? / Answer me. / What more
should I have done, and did not do? / I led you out
of the land of Egypt, and you prepared a cross for
me. / I opened the Red Sea before you, and you
opened my side with a lance. / I gave you a royal
sceptre, and you have given me a crown of thorns.
/ With great power I lifted you up, and you have
hung me upon a cross. / My people, what have I
done to you, or in what have I offended you? / Answer me. (from the Reproaches of Good Friday)

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)

Sing: Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother
In your arms was placed our Brother,
“Full of grace” now filled with grief.
THIRTEENTH STATION

The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so that they did not break his legs, but one of them opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimatha, because he was a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission. (Jn. 19, 33-34, 38a.)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, / and I will bring you back to your land. / Then you shall know that I am the Lord. / O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live. / You shall know then that I am the Lord. / I have promised it, / and I will do it, says the Lord. (Ezechiel 37, 12-14)

Pr.: Let us pray. Beloved Saviour, You returned to the Father all that He had given You, so that He might restore all to You a hundred-fold in the glorious resurrection. Help us, we beg You, to give generously of ourselves in all that we do for You, so that like You we might be made perfect in a new resurrection.

All: Amen.
(STAND)

Sing: Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days You resurrected,
You did first what we shall do.
FOURTEENTH STATION
Jesus is laid in the tomb

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Pr.: Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed. (Mt. 27, 59-60)
(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: I will praise you, O Lord, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. / O Lord, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me. / O Lord, you brought me up from the lower world; / you preserved me from among those going down into the pit. / Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. / For his anger lasts but a moment; his good will is for a lifetime. / At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with dawn comes rejoicing. (Ps. 29, 2 to 6)

Pr.: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You restored to us the Saviour we thought defeated and conquered. Help us, we beg You, so to empty ourselves of self concern that we might see your hand in every failure and your victory in every defeat. These things we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. (STAND)

Sing: Jesus, Risen, be our lover
   In your Food and in our brother.
   Lead us home to heaven with You.
CLOSING*

The Resurrection of Jesus

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.  
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed 
the world.

Pr.: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the 
mother of James, and Salome, bought spices that they 
might go and anoint Jesus. Very early on the first day of 
the week, when the sun had just risen, they came to the 
tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll 
the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?” for 
it was very large. But looking up they saw that the stone 
had been rolled back, and upon entering the tomb they 
were amazed to see a young man sitting at the right side 
and clothed in a white robe. He said to them, “Do not 
be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who 
was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. Behold the 
place where they laid him.” (Mk. 16, 1 to 6)  
(REMAIN STANDING)

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; / on the third day 
he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / 
and is seated at the right hand of / God the Father almighty; 
/ from there he will 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.

*This closing may be omitted on Good Friday
FOREWORD

The Second Vatican Council in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (art. 13) directs that popular devotions be in some fashion derived from the Sacred Liturgy and lead back to the Liturgy. Since the Liturgy is so Scriptural it would seem that popular devotions should also incorporate Scripture more abundantly into their exercises. This booklet is an attempt to provide some liturgical orientation to the Stations of the Cross. I am most grateful to the members of the Camden Diocesan Liturgical Commission, and especially to William Barnett, S.S.L. and James I. Ronan, S.S.L., for their assistance in the preparation of this booklet.

A “fifteenth station” of the Resurrection is added, since the Passion of Christ is meaningless unless the Resurrection is kept in mind. Passion, Death, and Resurrection is the new Passover, from the death of sin to the life of freedom in love. This “fifteenth station” should be done before the Resurrected Christ in the tabernacle.

A plenary indulgence may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross. No further prayers are required. If, for some reasonable cause, the Stations are interrupted, a partial indulgence may be gained for each Station.

The basis for Scripture used is the Confraternity – Douay version.
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