

The Stations



of the Cross

The Stations Of The Cross

Also known as *The Ways Of The Cross*.

What are THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS are a popular Catholic devotion, which commemorates the Passion and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bethlehem's stations include 8 of the traditional stations. The other 6 traditional, but not Scriptural, stations have been replaced with events from the four Gospels.

What do the fourteen stations mean?

Each of the fourteen stations stands for an event that occurred during Jesus' Passion and death. A person making THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS is to read, ponder, and meditate about each event depicted at each station, and pray.

When did the devotion of the Stations Of The Cross begin?

Christian pilgrims originally performed the Stations many centuries ago. These pilgrims actually visited the Holy Land, and went to the sites of Jesus' Passion. There are records of similar forms of this devotion which date back to 400 A.D.

Directions

*This booklet contains a copy of the Scriptures to be read at each Station, along with a prayer and other suggested Scriptures. I suggest that you choose either 14 different **SITES** in your home or 14 different **TIMES** of the day to do each station. This will allow you to "walk with Jesus" during His final hours.*

May our gracious and compassionate God grant you abundant blessings as you study, meditate, and pray at these Stations of the Cross. Peace be with you!

In **Jesus'** name,

Pastor Adams

Stations

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All Scripture readings are from the New International Version (NIV), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House; 1984.

THE FIRST STATION:

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with Him, and He began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," He said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him. "*Abba*, Father," He said, "everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will." Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," He said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Once more He went away and prayed the same thing. When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him.

Returning the third time, He said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come.

Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes My betrayer!”

Prayer

Lord,

Your time in the Garden was filled with sorrow
Your time was filled with prayer.

My sin was the cause of Your sorrow;
Your trust in Your Father was the cause of Your prayer.

Thank You for abiding by Your Father’s will;
Accepting the cup of sorrow that I might be reconciled to
Your Father.

Teach me, enable me, to pray in the strength of the Holy Spirit
when sorrow threatens to overwhelm me.

Teach me, enable me, to pray and live in
accordance to my Father’s will.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Genesis 3

THE SECOND STATION:

Jesus is Arrested

John 18:3-11

So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am He,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again He asked them, “Who is it you want?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

“I told you that I am He,” Jesus answered. “If you are looking for Me, then let these men go.” This happened so that the words He had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those You gave Me.”

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?”

Prayer

Lord,

At Your arrest You demonstrated the fact that You were completely in control of all that was about to happen.

My life often seems to spin out of control and I am too frustrated, too weak, and too powerless to recover.

Why do I fail to call on You?

Why do I fail to trust in Your will?

Why do I fail to believe in Your power?

Forgive me, calm me, and open my eyes to see Your good and gracious hand at work in all things.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

1 John 4:16-18

Luke 22:47-53

THE THIRD STATION:

Jesus is Condemned

Matthew 27:11-26

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

When He was accused by the chief priests and the elders, He gave no answer. Then Pilate asked Him, “Don’t You hear the testimony they are bringing against You?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him.”

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify Him!”

“Why? What crime has He committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify Him!”

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

All the people answered, “Let His blood be on us and on our children!”

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

Prayer

Lord,

I am sorry that for my sin You were condemned to die. How sadly ironic is it that when I fail I immediately look for a scapegoat on whom to place the blame.

Jesus, You were my scapegoat – You are my salvation. May Your Spirit help me to praise and bless Your holy name. May Your Spirit sanctify my lips and my life.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Leviticus 16:6-10, 20-26 *and* **John 14:1-7**

THE FOURTH STATION:

The Lord is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Mark 15:16-20

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck Him on the head with a staff and spit on Him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.

Prayer

Lord,

You are now crowned with glory and robed with honor – but only after enduring the thorns on Your brow and the whip on Your back. Forgive me when my praise is empty and when my life mocks Your reign

Open my mouth to praise You. And help me to my knees, that I may worship You as You deserve.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Revelation 1:12-18 *and* **Isaiah 52:13-15**

THE FIFTH STATION:

Jesus Carries His Cross

John 19:16-17

Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

Prayer

Lord,

Worn out by trials and beatings You were then made to bear the weight of my infirmities and my sorrows.

When I feel that my burdens have become more than I can bear, please remind me of the burdens You have already carried for me.

And bring me the rest and the comfort You offer through faith.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Matthew 11:28-30

Mark 8:34-38

THE SIXTH STATION:

Simon is Enlisted to Help Carry the Cross

Luke 23:26

As they led Him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Prayer

Lord,

“Why me?” How often is that my prayer and cry to You?

I confess that I often view You and the world as treating me unfairly. That must have been how Simon felt when he was forced to help carry Your cross.

Though he may not have fully understood Who he was helping at the time, Simon provided You with the aid You required at the time You required it the most.

Help me to stop whining about serving others. Help me to joyfully serve others in Your stead. Help me to carry my own cross in such a way that I may glorify You and fortify my faith and hope.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

2 Corinthians 4:1-11 *and* **Galatians 6:2-5**

THE SEVENTH STATION:

Jesus speaks to the Mourning Women

Luke 23:27-31

A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then

”“they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”
and to the hills, “Cover us!””

For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Prayer

Lord,

Even in the midst of Your own sorrows and pain You had compassion for those who lined the road. Open my eyes to see past my own sorrows to see the despair in those around me. And help me to comfort others with the hope that You first gave to me through Your death and resurrection.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 *and* **Hebrews 6:16-20**

THE EIGHTH STATION:

Jesus is Stripped

John 19:23-24

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said,
“They divided My garments among them
and cast lots for My clothing.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

Prayer

Lord,

Beaten and bloody, You were then stripped and humiliated. Jesus, I confess that I try to hide my shame and my sin. But while others may only see the life I reveal to them, my heart lays stripped and open before You. You see all that I am. Thank you Lord for loving me in spite of this full knowledge. Help me to not base my judgments of my neighbors on their outward appearance, but by the faith of their heart.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

John 3:19-21 *and* **Proverbs 15:11**

THE NINTH STATION:

The Crucifixion

Matthew 27:33-37

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it. When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Prayer

Lord,

Nails and flesh . . . these two were used to cancel the condemnation that was written against me. In Your flesh, Lord, You fulfilled the whole law on my behalf. With the nails, the record of my sins and failings were fastened to Your cross. By Your public crucifixion, You publicly pardoned me of all my sins. May every cross I see remind me of this wondrous pardon and freedom!

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

John 20:24-31 *and* **Colossians 2:13-15**

THE TENTH STATION:

Jesus is Mocked

Mark 15:27-32

They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save Yourself!”

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked Him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but He can’t save Himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.

Prayer

Lord,

People have mocked You because of me. While You hung on the cross, the mockery You bore belonged to my sinful self. And whenever I live the life of a hypocrite – Your name is again muddied and blasphemed. Forgive me of my shallow faith and hypocritical life, and empower me to live a life worthy of Your holy and precious name!

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Psalm 2 and Jude 3-10

THE ELEVENTH STATION:

Jesus Cries Out to His Father

Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave Him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

Prayer

Lord,

You have shown Your people the depth of Your heart. Even as You hungered for fellowship with Your Father, You refused to forsake me by abandoning the cross. It is brought again to my remembrance that the sin that separated You from God was mine. That was to be ME crying out in my despair and my spiritual anguish. YOU took my place; You took my punishment; You restored me to my God and my Father. My spirit cries out in praise of the depth of Your love.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Psalm 22 and 1 Kings 19:9-18

THE TWELFTH STATION:

Jesus Dies

Mark 15:37-39

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died, He said, “Surely this Man was the Son of God!”

Prayer

Lord,

You died.

It seems so impossible that You, the God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, died. At times death frightens me. Death has caused and will cause so many tears. My eyes have cried at the loss of my friends and my family. My eyes have cried at the death of my Lord.

I thank You that because of Your sacrifice, God’s wrath over my sin has been removed. I thank You that because of Your death and because of Your resurrection, I can look forward to a city with streets paved with gold and to Your Father’s hand wiping away the tears from my eyes.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:6-7

Romans 5:12-17 & 6:23

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: The Lord is Taken Down from the Cross

Mark 15:42-45

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

Prayer

Lord,

Though Your breath once brought Adam to life and Your Spirit continues to enliven our faith, You were once limp and lifeless.

Though Your hand ruled creation, the hands of others were needed to remove You from the cross.

We thank You for faithful Joseph, who made the confession of his faith before Pilate as he asked for Your body. Keep us ever mindful that we too may ask for and hold in our own hand the body of the Lord as we eat Your holy Supper.

And when we finally close our eyes in death, we ask that our death might be as trusting as Yours.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

Genesis 2:4-7 & Ephesians 2:1-10

THE FOURTEENTH STATION:

Jesus is Buried

John 19:39-40 and **Matthew 27:59-61**

He [Joseph] was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it . . . Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

Prayer

Lord,

By Your rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of all of Your saints. By Your rest in the tomb, our stay in the grave is but a sleep. As You were planted in that garden tomb, so also one day You shall plant me.

Thank You for the faith that allows me to place my loved ones into the earth with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. And thank you for the hope that enables me to live my life, right now, as one awaiting the glories of heaven.

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

Additional Scriptures you might read

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 (45-58)
Philippians 2:5-11