

# Scriptural Stations of the Cross

## Invitation to Prayer

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** [Gathered as a community of faith] we reflect on a path traveled many years ago. Beginning in the dark of night, the journey to Calvary was shadowed by betrayal, anger, jealousy, conceit, and pride—all casting further darkness upon the world. Through the Passion and Death of the Word made flesh, the lamp of love provided the light for the sunrise of tomorrow.

As we journey with Jesus, our brother, in praying the Way of the Cross, may these ancient Scripture texts help unite our voices to Christ Jesus, the eternal light, who illumines our journey to the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Please be seated.

## **THE FIRST STATION:**

### ***Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives.***

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: They came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch." He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." When he returned he found them asleep.

Mark 14:32-36

**All: Lord, hear my prayer;  
in your faithfulness listen to my pleading;  
show me the path I should walk,  
for I entrust my life to you.**

Song: *My God, my God, do not be silent.  
I call by day, you do not answer,  
answer me.*

## **THE SECOND STATION:**

*Jesus is betrayed by Judas.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Mark 14:43-46

**All: It is not an enemy that reviled me  
not a foe who viewed me with contempt,  
but it was you, my comrade and friend,  
You, whose company I enjoyed,  
at whose side I walked in the house of God.  
But I will call upon God,  
and the Lord will save me.**

Song: *Save me, O God, save me, O God,  
for the waters have reached my neck.*

## **THE THIRD STATION:**

*Jesus is condemned to death by the Sanhedrin.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?" Then Jesus answered, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'" At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses?"

Mark 14:60-63

**All: Blessed are those  
who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,  
nor go the way of sinners.  
Because the Lord knows the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.**

Song: *Do not forsake me, come quickly to help me.*

## **THE FOURTH STATION:**

*Jesus is denied by Peter.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's maids came along. She looked intently at Peter and said, "You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it and went out into the outer court. Then the cock crowed. The maid said to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." Once again he denied it. A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more, "Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean." He began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man." And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept.

Mark 14:66-72

**All: Even my trusted friend, who ate my bread,  
has raised his heel against me.  
But you, Lord, take note of me to raise me up  
and let me stand in your presence forever.**

Song: *"Come, seek his face," says my heart,  
"seek his face."*

## **THE FIFTH STATION:**

*Jesus is judged by Pilate.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: Now on the occasion of the feast Pilate used to release one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Mark 15:1, 6-15

**All: O God, whom I praise, do not be silent,  
for wicked and treacherous mouths attack me.  
They speak against me with lying tongues;  
with hateful words they surround me,  
attacking me without cause.  
Help me, Lord, my God; save me in your mercy.**

Song: *My God, my God, do not be silent.*

## **THE SIXTH STATION:**

*Jesus is flogged and crowned with thorns.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

Mark 14:16-20

**All: Rescue me from my enemies, my God;  
lift me out of reach of my foes.  
Deliver me from evildoers;  
from the bloodthirsty save me.  
My strength, for you I watch;  
you, God, are my fortress, my loving God.**

Song: *Listen, listen, to my cry, my cry for help.*

## **THE SEVENTH STATION:**

*Jesus carries his cross.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

John 19:16b-17

**All: Because I kept silent, my bones wasted away;  
for day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength withered as in dry summer heat.  
Then I declared my sin to you;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said, "I confess my transgression to the Lord,"  
and you took away the weight of my sin.**

Song: *Rescue me, do not let me sink, rescue me.*

## **THE EIGHTH STATION:**

*Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry Jesus' cross.

Mark 15:21

**All: Hasten to answer me, Lord;  
for my spirit fails me.  
Do not hide your face from me,  
lest I become like those descending to the pit.  
At dawn let me hear of your kindness,  
for in you I trust.  
Show me the path I should walk,  
for to you I entrust my life.**

Song: *Bless the Lord, bless the Lord, O my soul!*

## **THE NINTH STATION:**

### ***Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem.***

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’”

Luke 23:27-29

**All: Answer me, Lord, in your generous love;  
in your great mercy turn to me.  
Do not hide your face from your servant;  
in my distress hasten to answer me.  
Here I am miserable and in pain;  
let your saving help protect me, God,  
That I may praise your name in song  
and glorify you with thanksgiving.**

Song: *Be gracious, Lord, be gracious,  
for I am in distress.*

## **THE TENTH STATION:**

*Jesus is crucified.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull). They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

Mark 15:22-24

**All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.  
Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me.**

Song: *My spirit is faint, my heart despairs,  
I stretch out my hands to you.*

## **THE ELEVENTH STATION:**

*Jesus promises to share his reign with the good thief.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

**All: Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
For as the heavens tower over the earth,  
so his mercy towers over those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

Song: *Why do you sleep, O Lord, why do you sleep?  
Rise up! Rise up!*

## **THE TWELFTH STATION:**

*Jesus' mother and his disciple stand by his cross.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there 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 19:25-27

**All: Keep me safe, O God;  
in you I take refuge. Say to the Lord,  
you are my Lord, you are my only good.  
I keep the Lord always before me;  
with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken.**

Song: *Save the Son, save the son of your handmaid.*

## **THE THIRTEENTH STATION:**

*Jesus dies on the cross.*

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

**Lector: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15:33-37

**Silence**

**All: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
Why so far from my call for help,  
from my cries of anguish?  
My God, I call by day, but you do not answer;  
by night, but I have no relief.**

Song: *I cry, I cry, I cry, I cry: hear me.*

## **THE FOURTEENTH STATION:**

*Jesus is placed in the tomb.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Mark 15:42-46

**All: O God, you are my God—for you I long!  
For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts,  
Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

Song: *I cry, Lord, in the morning, my prayer,  
comes before you. I cry, Lord.*

## **THE FIFTEENTH STATION:**

*Jesus is raised from the dead.*

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

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Lector: When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.”

Mark 16:1-6

**All: I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will declare all your wondrous deeds.  
I will delight and rejoice in you;  
I will sing hymns to your name, Most High.**

Silence

**L:** Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection.

**L:** Risen Lord, pattern of our life forever.  
Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Promise and image of what we shall be.  
Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Son of God, who came to destroy sin and death. Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Word of God, who delivered us from fear of death. Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Crucified Lord, forsaken in death but raised in glory. Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep. Lord, have mercy. (*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** King of the universe, who will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. Lord, have mercy.  
(*All: Lord, have mercy.*)

**L:** Let us pray for the grace to forgive others just as we have been forgiven:

**ALL: OUR FATHER (for thine...forever and ever.)**

**L:** Hear the prayers of your people, O God,  
who have walked the way of the cross in faith, hope  
and love.

**All:** **Keep us faithful to Christ's sacred passion  
as we pray, fast, and share what we have with the  
poor. Stir up within the hearts of all the baptized  
the desire to carry Christ's cross  
with other members of His Body.  
May all know of your saving deeds.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**L:** Let us ask the Lord's blessing. (*silence*)  
May God bless us, protect us from all evil,  
and bring us to new life.

**All:** **Amen.**

**L:** Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** **And give God thanks.**

*Instrumental music as people leave.*