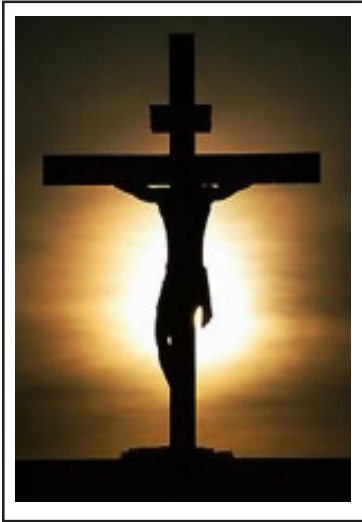


12 Stations of the Cross



Take an intimate prayer journey into the awesome mystery of the passion and death of Jesus.

Put aside the thoughts and concerns of the world about you. Enter by the Spirit into the awesome mystery of the passion and death of Jesus, the Son of God, who became a man for our sake. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he was dreadfully alone. In his loneliness he looked for companionship but found none. He wanted someone to talk to and console him in this lonely hour. He turned to his three closest friends and asked, “Will you keep watch with me?” (Matthew 26:38) But his friends were fast asleep. He turns now to you, **“Will you spend one hour with me? Will you walk by my side to the hill of Calvary and share some of the feelings of anxiety, of abandonment and the cruelty of man?”** Reply from the depths of your heart, “Lord Jesus, I will walk with you to Calvary! I will share your sufferings, mistreatments, and the abandonment you experienced. I surrender to your Holy Spirit and trust him to take hold of my thoughts and affections as I walk beside you to the crucifixion.” *Amen*

We encourage you to quietly and prayerfully stop at each station, read the scriptures, and pray outloud with an expectant heart, trusting the Holy Spirit to deepen your love and devotion to Jesus Christ.

1

Jesus is condemned to die

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Matthew 27:15-26 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY : Almighty God, your Son did not enter joy before He had suffered pain; He was not glorified before He was crucified. Help me always to walk in the way of the cross, so that my pain will end in joy, and my defeat will end in victory, knowing that Jesus does not expect me to endure anything that He Himself has not endured; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

2

Jesus is mocked by the soldiers and given the cross

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son willingly endured agony and shame for my sake; help me to endure during difficult times, even accepting agony and shame for His sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

3

Simon helps Jesus carry the cross

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Luke 23:26

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son was not too proud to accept help from a stranger when He was weakened by whipping and scourging; help me to not be too proud to accept help from others when I am weakened by disability, illness, or age; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

4

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Luke 23:27-31

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

(note: Jesus was referring to the destruction of Jerusalem that would take place 70 years in the future, and the sadness and pain that would come with this event...)

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son had the presence of mind to think of the suffering of others even as He Himself suffered; help me to live with greater concern for others than for myself; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

5

Jesus is stripped of his garments

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Mark 15:22-24

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son freely suffered humiliation, so that I might be exalted in heaven with you; help me to work for the salvation of others, even if others humiliate me for it; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!



Jesus is Nailed to the cross

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Mark 15:25-32

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, you willingly stretched out your arms on the hard wooden cross to embrace the entire world with your love despite the pain that it would bring; clothe me with your Holy Spirit, so that I can stretch out my hands in love for others, so that they can also know and love you; I pray in your name, O Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!



Jesus is crucified with criminals

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Luke 23:32-33; 39-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, despite your suffering and your agony, you tended to the needs of others less worthy than you; help me to tend to the needs of others without regard to their worthiness, even in times of personal stress and adversity. I pray in your name, O Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

8

Jesus provides for his mother

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son, though dying, remembered His mother and tended to her needs; send your Holy Spirit O Lord to preserve me from distraction and tend to the needs of others even in times of great personal distress; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

9

The Holy of Holies is opened

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, you removed the barrier between God and man, and opened the holiest place to all people. Help me never to close what you have opened; help me to never prevent others from entering into your presence, your peace, your joy, or your kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

10

Jesus dies

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

John 19:28-30

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, through your death you took away the sting of death; through your death you have transformed the grave into the gate of heaven. Through your death, I have received life everlasting through your resurrection power! Grant me grace to follow you, so that at length I may fall asleep in faith and awake in your likeness. I pray in your name, O Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

11

Jesus is taken down from the cross

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Mark 15:42-45

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, although you were executed in disgrace with common criminals, Joseph of Arimathea, risking his own reputation, performed the kind and reverent act of taking your body down from the cross and burying it. Grant me the strength and boldness, because of my love for you, to always do what is right regardless of the personal cost; I pray in your name, O Jesus Christ, my Lord. *Amen*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!

Jesus is laid in the tomb

*I love you, Lord Jesus, and I bless you
because you redeemed the whole world by your holy cross.*

Luke 23:54-55

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

Imagine the scene and pray:

PRAY: Almighty God, your Son was laid in a tomb in the garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Thank you that I have been buried with Him in baptism, let me find my perfect rest in Him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us!



**Please return
to the Prayer Garden
Patio for the
closing prayer.**

**(When you're finished, please return
Prayer Guide to the box.
Thank you.)**

Luke 24:1-8

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? **He is not here; he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am beginning to understand what it means to be a resurrection people. Like the first women to the tomb, like your original disciples, I am overjoyed and terrified. Overjoyed because I, one of your 21st century disciples, know that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Overwhelmed because I know I have been rebellious in thought, word, or deed with others, and therefore with you. By declaring my discipleship, the world may do the same to me as it did to you.

Silence for 10 seconds

Dear Jesus, today I begin anew my journey toward a deeper devotion to you, toward eternal life, to that time and space where I will meet you face to face. Open my eyes to see your face now in the faces of all those I meet. Open my heart to allow your love and resurrection power to flow through me into the world in all of my thoughts, words, and deeds. Grant me your grace to live my life in peace, speaking your Truth every step of the Way. **AMEN**