



Way of the Cross

Via Crucis

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC PARISH

LENT 2020

INTRODUCTION

All stand:

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

Let us pray.

Send, Father, the light of your grace and guide our steps on the ways of the cross, so that walking in the footsteps of Christ we may arrive at the glory of the resurrection.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.*

STATION I - JESUS IS CONDEMED TO DEATH

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

When, Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'ba-tha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" (John 19:13-15a).

But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, who they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will. (Luke 23:23-25).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Look with mercy, Father, toward us who contemplate the passion of your Son: grant that in him, taken to the cross we may recognize the way of life.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword has passed.*

STATION II - JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS ON HIS SHOULDERS

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. (Mat 27:27-31).

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol'gotha. (John 19:17).

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake he will save it. (Luke 9:23-24).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Lord, in your love you have taken the cross upon yourself for us, carrying our sins; grant that our cross may be day by day a way of conversion and salvation.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten One!*

STATION III - JESUS FALLS DOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME

We worship you oh Christ and bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

Surely, he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Lord, your hand has pressed down upon me. I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. For I am ready to fall. (Psalm 38:2,6,11,17)

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Father, in Christ your Son who has descended to the depths of human suffering you have shown your love for us; grant us to recognize with humility our faults that we may encounter your mercy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Christ above in torment hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.*

STATION IV - JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

We worship you oh Christ and bless you.

Because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

Sim'e-on blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34-35).

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me. (Lam 1:12ab).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

God, who through Sim'e-on in the temple have foretold to the Virgin Mary the sorrow that would pierce her, grant us also to remain firm in faith in the moment of greatest suffering.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Is there one who would not weep,

'Whelmed in miseries so deep,

Christ's dear Mother to behold?

STATION V - SIMON OF CIRENE CARRIES THE CROSS OF JESUS

We worship you oh Christ and bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cy-re'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. (Luke 23:26.32)

He who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Mat 10:38). Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:2).

A moment of prayer, kneeling

All stand: Let us pray.

God, your only Son has met on Calvary the help of Simon of Cy-re'ne; grant us to recognize Christ in every suffering brother and serve him with the love that He has shown us.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

Can the human heart refrain

From partaking in her pain,

In that Mother's pain untold?

STATION VI - VERONICA DRIES THE FACE OF JESUS

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

My heart has said of you, "Seek his face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Hide not your face from me. (Psalms 27:8-9a)

As many were astonished at him, his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men. He had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 52:14; 53:2b-3).

A moment of prayer, kneeling

All stand: Let us pray.

Father of mercy grant that we may impress in ourselves the image of the face of your Son so that we never doubt of your love.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.*

STATION VII - JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

And we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:6-7).

Save me, O God! I sink in the deep mire, where there is no foothold; and the flood sweeps over me. For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face. (Psalm 69:2.3.8)

A moment of prayer, kneeling

All stand: Let us pray.

Lord, you have dressed yourself with our weaknesses and have fallen under the weight of our sins, so that we can stand firm on your love: save us from the pride that still makes us fall and teach us the humility to always lean on you.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

For the sins of his own nation,

Saw him hang in desolation

Till his spirit forth he sent.

STATION VIII - THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM CRY FOR JESUS

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23:27-28.31).

I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. (John 15:5-6).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Merciful Father, the women of Jerusalem have cried seeing the suffering of your Son: grant us suffering for our sins so that looking to him we may receive from you the Spirit of grace and consolation.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*O sweet Mother! fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.*

STATION IX - JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

But at my stumbling they gathered in glee, they gathered together against me; cripples whom I knew not slandered me without ceasing; they impiously mocked more and more, gnashing at me with their teeth. (Psalm 35:15-16).

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." (Rm. 15:1-3)

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Father, your Son did not want to be sustained by the angels when he struck against the rock of our hardness of heart: grant us, we implore you, of never tempting you when you grant us to participate a little in the suffering of his passion.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Make me feel as you have felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord*

STATION X - JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also, his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so, they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (John 19:23-24).

Seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col. 3:9a-10).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Lord, in giving to us all yourself you have wanted to be stripped of everything; free us from every malice and from love of the world and give us the joy of having you as the only good.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.*

STATION XI - JESUS IS NAILED ON THE CROSS

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
(genuflection)

Reading:

And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:33-34a).

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross!" So also, the chief priests mocked him to one other with the scribes, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. (Mark 15:29-32).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Lord, who out of love for us you have embraced the will of the Father to make yourself nailed on the cross, grant us, who always flee under our desires to learn from you the obedience that guides us toward life.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Let me share with thee his pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died*

STATION XII - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
(genuflection)

Reading:

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "E'lo-I, E'lo-I, la'ma sa-bach-tha'ni?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Eli'jah." And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait let us see whether Eli'jah will come to take him down." (Mark 15:33-36).

Then Jesus crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! And having said this he breathed his last." (Luke 23:46)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:38-39).

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Rm. 5:8-9).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

Merciful Father, Christ your Son has known death for us; grant us we implore you, the forgiveness of sins, instill in us your Holy Spirit so that we can participate in your own life.

He who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.*

STATION XIII - JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND HANDED OVER TO HIS MOTHER

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(genuflection)

Reading:

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clo'pas, and Mary Mag'da-lene. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. (John 19:25.31-34).

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Ari-ma-the'a, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he brought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud. (Mark 15 :42-46a).

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Heb 12:1-2a)

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

God, you have wanted that Mary be present at the cross of your Son participating in his suffering; through her intercession forgive us our sins and grant that we may come to take part with Christ in his kingdom.

He who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

*By the cross with thee to stay;
There with thee to weep and pray,
All I ask of thee to give.*

STATION XIV - JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

We worship you oh Christ and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
(genuflection)

Reading:

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. (John 19:41)

And Joseph from Arimathea, took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. (Mat. 27:60).

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (Luke 23:54-56).

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rm. 6:3-4).

A moment of prayer, kneeling.

All stand: Let us pray.

God, our Savior descended into the tomb to open the doors of Hell; through the victory of his resurrection grant all of us to be messengers of the new life given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Virgin of all Virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.*

FINAL

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.

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.

Send, O Father, your blessing upon us who have gone over the way of the cross of our Redeemer with faith, so that with your grace we may arrive at salvation and participate in the glory of the resurrection.

Grant this through Christ our lord.

Amen.

Final Blessing.

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

