

The Way of the Cross



CLOSING PRAYER

Presider:

Almighty and ever-living God,
As we have followed Jesus in his Passion and Death,
our hearts have been opened
by Your steadfast and transforming love.

Grant us the courage and hope
to walk with Jesus each and every day.

May we witness to the life-giving truth
of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection
in our words and in our actions,
so that together we might work
in the service of Your Kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns
with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God,

Through the Passion of your beloved Son you reveal to us
your heart and shower your mercy on all your children.

As we enter into Christ's Passion we seek to abandon
ourselves entirely to you; enlighten us, lead us, uphold us,
take possession of us.

With Mary, his Mother and ours, and all of your saints, we
bring You these prayers. We raise them for ourselves and for
all humanity, so that the grace of this Way of the Cross might
reach every human heart and fill them with that unfailing
hope which radiates from the cross of Jesus.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns
with You in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

**1ST STATION:
JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

Presider: Jesus is Condemned to Death
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt
down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup
from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."
— Luke 22.41-42

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, out of love for you and for the world, your Son
our Lord Jesus humbled himself on our behalf. As we
contemplate the revelation of your mercy on the Cross, we pray
that we may be attached to him, so that with him we might let
your will be ours. Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives
and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God
forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

**THE 14TH STATION:
JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

Presider: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and
laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He
then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.
— Matthew 27:59-60

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, whose desire for his children
was revealed in the quiet darkness of the tomb. From the
depths of our hearts hear the voices of your children. Grant that
seeing in you our nature, and in the love of your sleeping face,
we may find our joy and our rest. Through Jesus Christ, your
Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?*

THE 13TH STATION:

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Presider: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on
the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that,
when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall
mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep
bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

— *Zechariah 12.10*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, who through his beloved Son has poured out
His love for the world. With our hope in you ever alive and
with hearts enflamed by the magnitude of your mercy, we fix
our gaze on the gift of Your eternal salvation. Grant that
responding in love, we may merit what has been freely given.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you
in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when they took Him from the cross?*

2ND STATION:

JESUS BEARS HIS CROSS

Presider: Jesus Bears His Cross
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have
loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's
life for one's friends.

— John 15.12-13

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, we thank you for the gift of
your commandment of love which has revealed your mercy to
us. Renew and strengthen us, that through our humble
obedience your glory might shine throughout our world.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you
in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He took His heavy cross?*

**3RD STATION:
JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Presider: Jesus Falls for the First Time
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my
soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth
justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or
make it heard in the street. *– Isaiah 42.1-2*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, whose only Begotten Son chose to take on our
very human flesh, grant, we pray that we may be inwardly
transformed through him so that we might know your delight in
us as your children. Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives
and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God
forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He stumbled and He fell?*

**THE 12TH STATION:
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

Presider: Jesus Dies on the Cross
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

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 command my
spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.. *– Luke 23.44-46*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

O Most Merciful Jesus, who as an example of humility for the
human race took flesh and submitted to the Cross, graciously
grant that we might follow you in patient love and obedience
and so to merit a share in your resurrection. Through Jesus
Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with
the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He died upon the cross?*

THE 11TH STATION:
JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Presider: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

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. Jesus said, “Forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”
— *Luke 23:33-34a*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

O Most Holy Crucified One, nailed to the cross for us, grant us Your forgiveness and Your mercy. May Your forgiveness live deep within each human heart as the assurance of a love that saves and makes each of us new, allowing us to remain with you for ever. Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?*

4TH STATION:
JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Presider: Jesus Meets His Mother
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”
— *Luke 2:34-35*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, who through the Blessed Virgin Mary gave the human race the grace of eternal salvation. Grant that we may share in her sorrow so that the holy Passion of our Lord may remain always within us as a reminder of your great and merciful love. Through Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He saw her in the crowd?*

THE 5TH STATION:
SIMON HELPS JESUS

Presider: Simon Helps Jesus
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

They compelled a passerby, who was coming in from the
country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father
of Alexander and Rufus. — *Mark 15.21*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, you have loved us with a tender mercy. While
the cross of your Son gives meaning to every cross, you have
also given us the extraordinary grace to participate in the
mystery of your redemption. Grant that our hearts may be full
of charity and love for our neighbor. Through Jesus Christ,
your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy
Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when Simon helped Him on?*

THE 10TH STATION:
JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Presider: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming
in human likeness; and being found in human form, he
humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

— *Philippians 2.7-8*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, who in the Word became flesh,
so that we might know the truth and fullness of your love for
us. In wonder and thanksgiving we contemplate the face of
your Son, and pray that we might recognize in ourselves the
mysterious splendor of your likeness. Through Jesus Christ,
your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy
Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when stripped Him of His clothes?*

THE 9TH STATION:
JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Presider: Jesus Falls the Third Time
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and
afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed
for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us
whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

— *Isaiah 53.4-5*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
grant that we may receive to the very end the hope and the love
that you have given us. May everyone confront the challenges
of life with the strength and faithfulness which were yours in
the final moments of your cross. Through Jesus Christ, your
Son who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy
Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He fell down to His knees?*

THE 6TH STATION:
VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Presider: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

He is the image of the invisible God,... For in him all the
fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God
was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth
or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.
— *Colossians 1.15,19-20*

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, who through your Son have
shown us the face of your mercy. Grant that we may be
washed clean by his precious blood, and that the glory of your
image be restored in us. Through Jesus Christ, your Son who
lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one
God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when she wiped His bloody face?*

THE 7TH STATION:

JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

Presider: Jesus Falls the Second Time
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he
will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will
not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in
the earth.

– Isaiah 42.3-4

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Eternal Father, You are near to all who suffer and You place in
their hearts the strength to rise again. Be with us O Lord, you
who are Mercy incarnate, especially when we are most in need
of your forgiveness and peace. Through Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when He fell down once again?*

THE 8TH STATION:

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

Presider: Jesus Speaks to the Women
We adore You, O Christ and we bless You,

All: because by Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world!

Reader:

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.”

– Luke 23.27-28

Silent Reflection

Presider:

Almighty and Ever-living God, whose Eucharist sustains and
nourishes us throughout our lives. Fill us, we pray, with Your
infinite mercy and grace, so that we may join with our brothers
and sisters in the work of your tender compassion. Through
Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in unity
with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: AMEN

† *Were you there when they wept because of Him?*