

Stations of the Cross



*We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you,
Because by your holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

Opening hymn choices:

1

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be.
Deny yourself, the world forsake
and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, be not ashamed!
Let not disgrace your spirit fill!
For God himself endured to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

2

O Sacred Head, surrounded
by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded,
Reviled and put to scorn!
The pow'r of death comes o'er you,
The glow of life decays,
Yet angel hosts adore you,
And tremble as they gaze.

3

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my Lord;
The vain things that now tempt me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

OPENING PRAYER (stand)

Priest: Jesus came with his disciples...

All (kneeling): Almighty and eternal Father, / accept our prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son, our Savior and Lord. / As we recall his Sacred Passion / send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, / we beg You, / so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. Amen. (Stand and sing:)

*Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread your holy Way.
May we feel no bitter hatred,
When we too are persecuted,
Left alone to walk with You.*

I. Jesus is condemned to death

Priest: Again the high priest...

All (kneeling): The kings of the earth rise up / and the princes conspire together against the Lord and against his Anointed. / I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; / the Lord said to me: / "You are my Son; this day I have begotten you. / Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance / and the ends of the earth for your possession." (Psalm 2, 2 & 7-8)

Pr.: Let us pray... *All:* Amen. (stand)

*Now the Cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The jeweled Cross of Victory.*

II. Jesus carries his Cross

Priest: And Pilate said to the Jews...

All (kneeling): Who would believe what we have heard? / To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? / He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; / there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, / no appearance that would attract us to him. / He was rejected and avoided by men, / a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, / one of those from whom men turn away, / and we held him in no esteem. (Is. 53, 1-3)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole Body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.*

III. Jesus falls the first time

Priest: If the world hates you...

All (kneeling): Why are your clothes red, / and your garments like those of the wine presser? / "The wine press I have trodden alone, / and of my people there was no one with me. / I trod them in my anger, and trampled them down in my wrath; / their blood spurted on my garments and I stained all my clothes. / I looked about, but there was no one to help, / I was appalled that there was no one to lend support; / so my own arm brought about the victory." (Is. 63, 2-5)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.*

IV. Jesus meets his afflicted mother

Priest: Now there were standing...

All (kneeling): To what can I compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? / What example can I show you for your comfort, virgin daughter Sion? / For great as the sea is your distress; / who can heal you? (Lam. 2, 13)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of Christ.*

V. Simon helps Jesus to carry his Cross

Priest: And when they had mocked...

All (kneeling): With a loud voice I cry out to the Lord; / with a loud voice I beseech the Lord. / My complaint I pour out before him; / before him I lay bare my distress. / When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path. / In the way along which I walk they have hid a trap for me. / I look to the right to see, but there is no one who pays me heed. / I have lost all means of escape; / there is no one who cares for my life. (Ps. 141, 2-5)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.*

VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Priest: "Lord, when did we see you..."

All (kneeling): A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; / he who finds one finds a treasure. / A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. / A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; / for he who fears God behaves accordingly, / and his friend will be like himself. (Sirach 6, 14-17)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,
Flogged in Body He resembled
All our brothers poor and scorned.*

VII. Jesus falls the second time

Priest: It was our weaknesses...

All (kneeling): Though he was harshly treated, / he submitted and opened not his mouth; / like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, / he was silent and uttered no cry. / When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, / a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, / though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (Is. 53, 7 and 9)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.*

VIII. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Priest: There was following Jesus...

All (kneeling): Come, all you who pass by the way, / look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering, / suffering with which the Lord has afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. / At this I weep, my eyes run with tears: / far from me are all who could console me, / far away are any who might revive me. (Lam. 1, 12 and 16)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain.*

IX. Jesus falls a third time

Priest: I lie prostrate...

All (kneeling): The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom should I fear? / The Lord is my life's refuge; / of whom should I be afraid? / When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh, / my foes and my enemies themselves stumble and fall. / Though an army encamp against me, / my heart will not fear; / though war be waged upon me, even then will I trust. (Ps. 26, 1-3)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all He had to give.*

X. Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Priest: They gave Jesus wine...

All (kneeling): Happy is the man whom God chastises! / Do not reject the punishment of the almighty. / For he wounds, but he binds up; he smites, but his hands give healing. / Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; / I looked for comforters, and I found none. / Rather they put gall in my food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Job 5, 17 & 18; Ps. 68, 21 & 22)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.*

XI. Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Priest: When they came to Golgotha...

All (kneeling): My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, / far from my prayer, far from the words of my cry? / O my God, I cry out by day, and you answer not; / I cry out by night, and there is no relief for me. / All my bones are racked. / My heart has become like wax melting away within my chest. / My throat is dried up like baked clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws; / they have pierced my hands and my feet; / I can count all my bones. (Ps. 21, 2-3, 15-16, 17b)

Pr.: Let us pray... All: Amen. (stand)

*Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head- the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.*

XII. Jesus dies on the Cross

Priest: It was now about...

All (kneeling): My people, what have I done to you? / or in what have I offended you? / Answer me. / What more should I have done, and did not do? / I led you out of the land of Egypt, and you prepared a cross for me. / I opened the Red Sea before you, and you opened my side with a lance. / I gave you a royal sceptre, and you have given me a crown of thorns. / With great power I lifted you up, and you have hung me upon a cross. / My people, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? / Answer me. **Our Father... Amen.** (stand)

*Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother
In your arms was placed our Brother,
"Full of grace" now filled with grief.*

XIII. Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Priest: When the soldiers came...

All (kneeling): O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, / and I will bring you back to your land. / Then you shall know that I am the Lord. / O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live. / You shall know then that I am the Lord. / I have promised it, / and I will do it, says the Lord. (Ezekiel 37, 12-14)

Pr.: Let us pray... *All:* Amen. (*stand*)

*Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days You resurrected,
You did first what we shall do.*

XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Priest: Joseph of Arimathea took the body...

All (kneeling): I will praise you, O Lord, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. / O Lord, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me. / O Lord, you brought me up from the lower world; / you preserved me from among those going down into the pit. / Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. / For his anger lasts but a moment; his good will is for a lifetime. / At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with dawn comes rejoicing.
(Ps. 29, 2-6)

Pr.: Let us pray... *All:* Amen. (*stand*)

*Jesus, risen, be our lover
In your Food and in our brother.
Lead us home to heav'n with You.*

CLOSING

The Resurrection of Jesus

Priest: When the Sabbath was past...

(remain standing)

All: 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; / the third day he arose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; / from there he shall 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.

Closing Song:

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

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