

STATIONS

OF

THE

CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday Public Prayer and procession

(The following Stations of the Cross are based on those celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. They are presented here as an alternative to the traditional stations and as a way of reflecting more deeply on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion.)

Leader:

Opening reflection:

Lord Jesus, all of Your life led to the Way of the Cross. In this final journey You lay down Your life for your friends.

Jesus, You consider us your friends. You walk side by side with us on the journey of our lives.

You know our joys and hopes, our sufferings and pain.

Today we walk side by side with You on Your way to the Cross. Your suffering, Your death, Your rising from the dead give meaning and hope to our lives.

The way of the Cross is the way of so many of our sisters and brothers in our world today. You take our way and You make it your own; and Your life our lives up that we may all be saved.

Prayer:

Leader:

Let us pause in reflection and prayer

God of power and mercy,
in love You sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with you forever.

Bless us as we gather to reflect
on His suffering and death
that we may learn from His example
the way we should go in our own lives.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY
All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY
All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Matthew 26:36-41)

Leader:

Lord,

at times we, too, feel deep separation and sadness: we feel that we are failures, we feel unloved.

Often our real failure is not to truly believe in Your friendship, and to deny our own love to You and to others.

Grant us your strength and wisdom,

help us to know that You are with us always,

guide us so that we may seek to follow your will in all things.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Then, while Jesus was still speaking, 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)

Leader:

Lord, we see You betrayed by one who was close to You through your ministry.

At times we feel let down by others around us.

At times we let others down by not being loyal to them, not standing up for them, staying quiet when they are treated badly.

Grant us the courage of our convictions – that we are Your people, and want our own lives to be shaped by that conviction, so that our lives may faithfully reflect the good news Jesus brought to us.

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth." (Luke 22: 66-71)

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Leader:

Jesus, You are brought before the authorities of Your own people. They want to find a way of putting You to death, even innocent as You are. In the world of our own day, authorities ignore the rights and the innocence of people, and the justice that is their due. And there is slaughter, genocide, mass killing of people.

Lord,

grant us your sense of righteousness

that we may never cease to work

to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised.

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

(Matthew 26: 69-75)

Leader:

At times we find it hard to stand up for what is true and to speak the truth.

It can be easier, more convenient, less troublesome if we 'fudge the issue' at times, go into 'double-speak', or even deny what we know.

This can even be the case when a conversation involves our faith, our religion, our beliefs, what we know to be right and wrong.

Lord,

grant us the gift of honesty

that we may not fear to speak the truth even when that is difficult.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barrabas... and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

(Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

Leader:

Jesus, you were brought before the foreign occupying power, the Romans. Pilate has the power of life and death over You. In our world there are conflicts where foreign powers become involved for reasons of politics and profits, at times becoming involved in war in which 'the ordinary people' suffer and die. We become confused. We go quiet. We need to question and understand our loyalties, and show our support for the victims of these big 'power plays'.

Lord,
grant us discernment
that we may see as You see, not as the world sees.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY
All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY
All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.

(John 19: 1-3)

Leader:

Jesus, these soldiers have lost their own sense of what is right, just doing what they have been told to do. Their situation is not easy – far from home, perhaps not understanding the local culture and norms of the place they are in, and not really convinced of the cause that has brought them there. When they cannot engage a real, threatening enemy, we see in our own times that armed forces take out their frustration by beating, robbing, raping and killing innocent bystanders. The innocent become the victims again and again.

Lord,

help us to be instruments of Your peace.

Grant us patience and hope in times of our own suffering,

that we may offer our own lives like you did, sure of God's being with us.

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

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: 6, 15-17)

Leader:

Jesus, you have been weakened by what has happened to you this day. Now You must carry the heavy wooden cross, an instrument of criminal execution. The label 'criminal' makes you less human in the mind of your executioners.

Our own world uses labels, too, to strip people of their dignity. It seems that if we can label difficult people, we can make them less human in our eyes and easier to deal with, even to the point of killing them.

Lord,

help us to recognise the dignity of all people
and to treat them in that way.

Grant us strength of purpose

that we may faithfully bear our own crosses each day.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

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 his cross.

(Mark 15: 21)

Leader:

Jesus, Your strength is ebbing away.

And so they pick a passer-by to carry Your cross so that their goal will be fulfilled.

Simon is forced to share in Your humiliation.

It is sometimes the unfamiliar, even the unwanted, that brings us closer to You.

You taught us that in serving the lowly and the poor, we will be serving You

Lord,

grant us willing spirits in our service of those in need;

and so guide us to be instruments in our own circumstances of Your love for all people.

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Leader:

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, 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.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

(Luke 23: 27-31)

Leader:

Jesus, how these women must have loved You!

They risked their lives to be by Your side, yet powerless to stop your execution.

We are touched by these women's love and support. And we are touched by those women today, sobbing powerlessly over their starving and dying children.

We see how others suffer. If only we could find ways to comfort them, as those women tried to comfort You on the way to Calvary.

Lord,
grant us gentle, compassionate spirits
that we may comfort those who are suffering.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified

Leader:

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 called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

(Luke 23: 33-34)

Leader:

Jesus, here you are at Golgotha, "the place of the skull", stripped of all you possess.

You are totally vulnerable now, You have given your all.

We over-value our possessions and under-value who we are as human beings – sons and daughters of God!

Our society drives us to acquire more and more. We don't want to give up anything: and You give up everything, even Your life for us, Your friends.

If only we could be convinced of what Your friendship makes of us!

Lord,

grant us open hearts to know more of Your life-giving love for us all.

Help us to give of ourselves to others so that that we may bring something of Your own life to those around us. .

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

(Luke 23: 39-43)

Leader:

Jesus, the first 'thief' says all the right words – but does he really believe in you as the Messiah? Is he trying to talk himself out of this cruel death! The other one accepts his guilt and its terribly punishment. He doesn't ask for a miraculous release; he asks not to be abandoned by You. And You reassure him.

We want to be clear as this man was about the causes and effects of our sin. We want to learn what it means to be repentant, and so give ourselves to be saved by You.

Lord,
grant humility and honesty as we look at our lives and our sin.
Grant us perseverance
that we may never stop seeking you.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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)

Leader:

Jesus, You love John Your disciple and Mary Your Mother. You now ask them to be one for the other in this time of suffering.

John will explore the depths of the mystery of Your presence and life-giving, life-changing love for all.

Mary is named the Model Disciple for her faith, her faithfulness, her prayer, her closeness to You, her sharing in the life of Your community, sent to mission.

Lord,

help us to be like John, like Mary.

Help us to be committed to Your Life, to Your Way.

Grant us constancy

that we may be willing to stand by those in need as we see John and Mary at Your cross.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader:

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 because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when He had said this He breathed his last.

(Luke 23: 44-46)

Leader:

Jesus You became one of us in your birth, and now You have died as one of us, You have died for us.

All through Your life you were utterly faithful to God and the ways of God, always confronting the evil and injustice in our world.

This is the way You call us to live, empower us to live.

It isn't any more that "It's human to sin" as we can so easily say. It is human to live in Your way, Your way of faithfulness to God, of opposition to evil and injustice, of compassion to all.

Lord,
grant us trust in You and in Your way,
that when our time on earth in ended
we may be lifted fully into Your life.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

All: Amen.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All:

Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader:

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

(Matthew 27: 57-60)

Leader:

Jesus, Joseph acted out of charity, out of love for You, out of respect for Your body.

He was not afraid to go to Pilate and ask for Your body. He demanded justice of Pilate, even now that You had died.

Sometimes we are intimidated by people in powerful positions to speak out for what is right.

Lord,

help us never to flinch away from the duty to speak up and call for respect, dignity and justice for all.

Grant us your compassion to those in need;

Help us to be strong in our seeking what will provide for those in need.

Lord, have mercy

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy

All: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

All: Amen.

All sing: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

Closing Prayer:

Reader:

Death no longer has power over Jesus.
When he died, he overcame sin, forever;
So "His life now is life with God".
Because of this we too should think of ourselves as "dead to sin but alive
for God in Christ Jesus. *(Romans 6:9-11)*

Leader:

Lord Jesus Christ,
your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven
and reconciles all people to you.
Often, however, we neglect You and Your way.
Nonetheless You never abandon us, for You love us and always will.
Make us a less selfish and more caring people.
Help us to live Your faithfulness to led You to the cross;
help us to share the crosses of others, as Simon did for You.

OUR FATHER

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND

May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries
follow in Your steps and so come to share Your glory in heaven
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.