

Stations of the Cross

Grace Anglican Church

Edited from the 2003 Edition Book of Occasional Services

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross devotion recalls the series of events of our Lord Jesus' crucifixion.

In the early centuries of the Christian faith, pilgrims to Jerusalem often visited the places connected to the final hours of Jesus' earthly life. Over time, Christians unable to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem developed the practice of recalling those events using images and "stations" to imitate the Jerusalem pilgrimage and to meditate on the final hours and events of Jesus' life. There are fourteen traditional stations. Nine stations correspond to events found in the Bible, and the remaining five stations* are either based on inferences from the Bible or on pious tradition.

The Stations of the Cross that are displayed in Grace Anglican Church were hand carved at the Kozak Workshop in Lviv, Ukraine. This set was member gifted to the congregation in 2022.

You can pray the Stations of the Cross as an individual devotion, or pray it with others. If you pray it with others, typically one person leads by reading the portions in standard print, others responding with the bold print.

Prelude

In the (+) Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We will glory in the cross of Jesus the Christ:
***In whom is our salvation,
resurrection, and eternal life.***

Let us pray. ***Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

The First Station:
Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

On what is now referred to as Good Friday, as soon as it was morning, the chief priests, elders, scribes, and most of the council; secretly met together to make accusations against Jesus. Condemning him to death, they bound him and led him away delivering him to Pilate for judgment. They said, "He deserves to die." Pilate spoke to Jesus, and finding no guilt, intended to release him. The chief priests and elders of the people led the assembly to cry out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

God did not spare his own son:
But delivered him up for us all.

Let us Pray.

***Almighty God, mercifully grant that we,
walking in the way of the cross, may find it
the way of life through Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord. Amen.***

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Second Station: **Jesus Takes up His Cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

Condemned, Jesus bearing his cross, was taken from Pilate's judgment hall En route to the hill called "Place of a Skull," in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through suffering. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
For our transgressions was he stricken.

Let us Pray.

Our Father, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: give us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Third Station:
Jesus Falls the First Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Surely he has borne our griefs:
And carried our sorrows.

Let us Pray.

O God, you know we are sometimes in the midst of many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant us strength and protection in all our trials, and carry us through our temptations. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Fourth Station:
Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother*

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

Following her son to Golgotha, perhaps Mary found solace in her words of praise when she was first with child, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. His mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts."

A sword will pierce your own soul also:
And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us Pray.

O God, who willed that in the death of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your followers, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Fifth Station:
The Cross Laid on Simon the Cyrene

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

As they led Jesus to Golgotha, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Whoever does not bear his cross and follow me:
Cannot be my disciple.

Let us Pray.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following him, to give themselves to the service of others. That with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, friendless, and the needy. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Sixth Station:
A Woman Ministers to Jesus*

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

“We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no beauty to attract our eyes. 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. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men.”

Forgive us for our love of self:
By your stripes we are healed.

Let us Pray.

Our eyes have seen Jesus without beauty or majesty. He was despised, rejected, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Seventh Station:
Jesus Falls a Second Time*

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin; that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace:
Seeing that we have a great High Priest.

Let us Pray.

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may have patience when we walk the path of suffering. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Eighth Station:
Jesus Meets Women of Jerusalem

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

“And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the breasts which never nursed. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?”

Those who sow with tears:
Will reap with songs of joy.

Let us Pray.

Teach your people, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which they are guilty, to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Ninth Station:
Jesus Falls a Third Time*

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

“I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!”

He endured the contradiction of sinners:
Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Let us Pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son, you made his death a substitution for our penalty of sin: Grant to us that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Tenth Station: **Jesus is Stripped of His Garments**

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

At 9 am when they came to the hill, the Roman soldiers took his clothing dividing them amongst themselves; and then gambled for his seamless robe. This was to fulfill the scripture, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing." With mighty blows they drove the nails into his hands and feet. Though pressed upon him, Jesus rejected the vinegar mixed with gall to lessen the pain.

They pierce my hands and my feet:
They stare and gloat over me.

Let us Pray.

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Eleventh Station:
Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

Securing the Cross upright, with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left. Pilate then had this inscription placed at the top of Jesus' Cross; written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The people stood by watching, others mocking, saying, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God."

When I am lifted up (crucified):
I will draw all people to me.

Let us Pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, as you showed your love for us on the cross; that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit, that we, taking the message of your salvation my share with others your sacrifice and love. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Twelfth Station: **Jesus Dies on the Cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

While on the Cross, the Lord asked forgiveness for those that had crucified him saying that they did not understand what they were doing. When seeing his mother, and John standing near, he said, “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the John, “Behold your mother.” At noon a great darkness covered the city, there was an earthquake that tore the veil of separation inside the Temple. Jesus cried out “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Later at 3pm, Jesus, spoke with a loud voice, “It is finished, Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

For us Christ Jesus became obedient unto death:
Even death on a cross.

Let us Pray.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Thirteenth Station:
Mary Grieves the Death of Jesus*

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

“All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of our downfall. Behold, our people are left desolate. Our nation shall not see him again until his return when they shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

Her tears run down her cheeks:
She has John to comfort her.

Let us Pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants, to faithfully follow where you have led the way; comforting the brokenhearted and forsaken. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

The Fourteenth Station: **Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb**

We adore you, O Christ, and we worship you:
By your cross redemption has come.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

You will not abandon your Son to the grave:
Nor let your Holy One see corruption.

Let us Pray.

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One:
Have mercy upon us.

Concluding Prayer

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray. **We thank you, O God, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has called us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

To Christ our Lord who loves us, cleansed us from all sin, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. ***Amen.***