

Stations of the Cross



About This Service

This service developed in Jerusalem as a devotion to be undertaken by those wishing to walk in the footsteps of Jesus on Good Friday. In time it developed into 14 stations. Eight of these stations are based directly on the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion, while stations 3,4,6,7,9 and 13 are inferred from the Gospels or taken from pious legends of the crucifixion. Each station begins with a portion of the Stabat Mater, the 12th century hymn of the crucifixion (At the cross her station keeping). Where noted prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer. The meditations and prayers were written by Frank and Victoria Logue.

Line in bold type are said by all.

Lines in regular type are said by the officiant.

Opening Devotions

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

(this prayer is taken from the Book of Common Prayer, page 99)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory
before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we,
walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other
than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

I

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.**

Meditation

Betrayed. Deserted. Alone. Jesus stands before an unjust judge.
Dry palm branches crackle under the feet of the crowd.
Soldiers reign down punches and crown him with thorns.
Jesus is condemned to die.

Prayer

Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, you knew no sin and yet were sentenced to death. Assist me by your mercy to see the beam in my own eye and to remove it before I look to the speck in the eyes of others. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace.
Amen.

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

II

Jesus Takes up His Cross

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Through her heart, His sorrow sharing
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword has passed.**

Meditation

Splinters. Heavy, rough wood. The scent of the hill country.
A single beam laid across the back of a carpenter.
The crowd jeers. The procession to the place of the skull begins.

Prayer

Obedient Lord, you asked us each to take up our cross and follow you. Then you took up your own cross and led the way not just to calvary, but to the empty tomb and beyond. Give us the courage to follow where you lead. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

III

Jesus Falls the First Time

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
O, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole-begotten One!**

Meditation

Stumble. Waver. Collapse.

Jesus' sweat mingles with dust as he falls to the earth.

The weight of the sins of the world on his shoulders.

Barely able to stand. He can not carry the cross without falling.

Prayer

Lion of Judah, you know our weaknesses, our temptations and our failings. Support us by the power of the Holy Spirit that we do not stumble so as to fall away from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

IV

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs,
Of her dying, glorious Son.**

Meditation

Mother and child. Madonna.

Joseph is dead. There is no angelic choir.

No shepherds. No wise men.

Gone are the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Mary sees her battered son through a veil of tears.

Prayer

Son of God, son of Mary, the crowd heaps scorn and turns the blade that pierces your mother's own soul. Grant us the grace to see those in needless suffering and to reach out to them showing the love you wanted to show to your mother Mary as you stumbled toward Calvary. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

V

The Cross Is Laid on Simon of Cyrene

**Jesus Christ, crucified, have mercy on us!
Is there one who would not weep
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to Behold?**

Meditation

Stranger. Neighbor. Friend.

Simon takes up your cross and in so doing takes up his own.

Another innocent man joins the procession to Calvary.

Prayer

Suffering Servant, beaten beyond human semblance through the Good Samaritan you taught us that everyone in need is our neighbor. Help us to follow in your way of love that we do not need be compelled to take up the cross of another when they can not bear their burdens alone. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

VI

A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?**

Meditation

Cloth. Sweat. Blood. Icon.

Legend tells of a woman wiping Jesus' face and gaining an image of Christ painted in his blood on her cloth. In relieving the suffering of others we too find the face of Jesus.

Prayer

Immanuel, God with us, you came as the image of God made flesh and we scorned you. May we seek not to do great things in your name, but to honor you with small acts of mercy done with great love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

VII

Jesus Falls a Second Time

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender child,
All with bloody scourges rent.**

Meditation

Oppressed. Afflicted. Silently suffering.
Simon carries the cross, yet Jesus can not continue.
He bears our infirmities and carries our sorrows.
Crushed under their weight, Jesus falls once more.

Prayer

Compassionate Christ, all we like sheep have gone astray, turning each of us to our own way. Grant that when we fall into sin, we may return from going our own way to following in yours. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

VIII

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His Spirit forth He sent.**

Meditation

Tears. Wailing. Daughters. Mothers. Grief.
Women beat their breasts and mourn openly,
for the Son of Man, but his concern is for them and their children
in the days of woe yet to come.

Prayer

Son of Man, you told the women of Jerusalem to weep not for you but for themselves and their children. Give us the gift tears for our own sins, that we may mourn the ways in which fall short of the glory of God that we may truly repent and return to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

IX

Jesus Falls a Third Time

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
O thou Mother! Fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above.
Make my heart with thine accord.**

Meditation

Brutalized. Dazed. Beyond strength.

Now nearly on Calvary's broad summit, Jesus collapses.

Poles long set into the ground are silhouetted against gray clouds.

Impatiently, Jesus is pulled up and shoved angrily toward his death.

Prayer

Loving Lord, you fell that we might rise and taught us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Help us to die to ourselves so that we might live to you and bear much fruit for your Kingdom. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

X

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.**

Meditation

King of Glory. King of Peace.

Stripped bare. The crown of thorns is all that remains.

Jesus possesses nothing but his life.

Holding nothing back, he offers that last gift.

Prayer

Bread of Life, you came that we might have life and have it abundantly and you emptied yourself, taking the form of a slave that we might be free, and died that we might live. Give us the grace to be stripped bare of all that separates us from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

XI

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Holy Mother, pierce me through!
In my heart, each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.**

Meditation

Cold steel. Warm Flesh. Nails rip through tendon and muscle.

Blood soaks into splintered wood.

Jesus responds.

“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Prayer

Merciful Redeemer, you declared your forgiveness from the cross, showing love to those who killed you and to the thief dying alongside you. Help us to know and count the cost of our forgiveness, bought at so great a price. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

XII

Jesus Dies on the cross

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.**

Meditation

Despised. Rejected.

Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani?

My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

From top to bottom the veil in the Temple is torn in two.

Prayer

Lamb that was slain, as you cried out to your Father from the cross we learned how deep was your suffering, how complete was your sense of abandonment. Be present with us when others betray us or forsake us that we may find ourselves in your eyes and not theirs. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

XIII

The Body of Jesus Is Placed
in the Arms of his Mother

**Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us!
Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.**

Meditation

Mourning mother. Broken child.

A sword of grief pierces her soul.

Women surround her, but none can comfort her.

Her name is bitterness.

Prayer

Crucified Savior, you are resurrection and life and in your death and resurrection we who mourn find the peace and comfort your own mother lacked as your body came down from the cross. Help us to bring the hope of the resurrection to all who mourn. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God,
Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one,
Have mercy on us.**

XIV

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

**Jesus Christ, crucified, have mercy on us!
By the cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.**

Meditation

Cold stone. A shroud. Darkness.

Sabbath rest at last.

The disciples gather in fear.

A grain of wheat waits for spring.

Prayer

Alpha and Omega, you are beginning and end. In death you conquered death so that even at the grave we praise your name. Help us to find you as the way, the truth and the life and to lead others out of darkness and into your light. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord, the King of Glory, the King of Peace. **Amen.**

The following is repeated three times while walking to the next station:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

Concluding Prayer—*said by all gathered at the bridge*
(this prayer is taken from the Book of Common Prayer, page 101)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

King of Peace Episcopal Church

6230 Laurel Island Parkway ∞ Kingsland, Georgia 31548

(912) 510-8958 ∞ www.kingofpeace.org