

# Scriptural Stations of the Cross



	<i>Traditional Stations</i>	<i>Scriptural Stations</i>
I	Jesus is condemned.	Jesus prays in the garden
II	Jesus takes up his cross.	Jesus is betrayed & arrested.
III	Jesus falls	Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin
IV	Jesus meets his mother	Peter denies knowing Jesus
V	Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus	Jesus is condemned by Pilate
VI	Veronica wipes Jesus' face	Jesus is scourged & crowned with thorns
VII	Jesus falls again	Jesus takes up his cross
VIII	Jesus meets the women	Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus
IX	Jesus falls a third time	Jesus meets the weeping women
X	Jesus is stripped	Jesus is crucified
XI	Jesus is crucified	Jesus promises paradise to the thief
XII	Jesus dies	Jesus cares for his mother
XIII	Jesus' body is taken down	Jesus dies
XIV	Jesus is buried	Jesus is buried

## Concerning the Service

After the officiant announces each station, it is traditional that a genuflection or solemn bow be made at the opening versicle and response ("We adore ...).

During the silences observed, one of the options below might be used in addition to other private prayers and reflections.

### *Trisagion*

Holy God;  
 Holy and Mighty  
 Holy Immortal One  
 Have mercy upon us.

### *Kyrie*

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

### *Gloria Patri*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### *Lord's Prayer*

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. Amen.

## Opening Prayers

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

For twenty centuries the Church has gathered to remember and to re-live the events of the final stage of the earthly journey of the Son of God. Once again, the Church meets to follow the footsteps of Jesus, who “went out, carrying his cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha” (Jn 19:17).

We are here because we are convinced that the Way of the Cross of the Son of God was not simply a journey to the place of execution. We believe that every step of the Condemned Christ, every action and every word, as well as everything felt and done by those who took part in this tragic drama, continues to speak to us. In his suffering and death too, Christ reveals to us the truth about God and man.

In this, we want to concentrate on the full meaning of that event, so that what happened may speak with new power to our minds and hearts, and become the source of the grace of a real sharing in it. To share means to have a part.

What does it mean to have a part in the Cross of Christ? It means to experience, in the Holy Spirit, the love hidden within the Cross of Christ. It means to recognize, in the light of this love, our own cross. It means to take up that cross once more and, strengthened by this love, to continue our journey...To journey through life, in imitation of the one who “endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2).

*Brief pause for silence.*

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with the light of your Spirit, so that by following you on your final journey we may come to know the price of our Redemption and become worthy of a share in the fruits of your Passion, Death and Resurrection. You who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The First Station Jesus Prays in the Garden

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, we see you in the garden, praying in the darkness of night. Your anguished prayer is one of deep struggle with the Father's will. While you agonize over the Father's will and are strengthened to fulfill his plan, your disciples, overcome with sadness, can do nothing but give themselves over to sleep. As we begin this journey with you, Jesus, help us to see that for you it was a journey of love. May we learn from this walk how to follow you more closely and accept the love that you have for us.

**O Jesus, wake us from our sleep. Help us to face life's difficulties honestly, knowing that we can trust in God. Strengthen us in the time of our trials. May our prayer always be an expression of all that we are, and all that we do. We love you, Jesus; teach us how to pray.**

*All stand.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

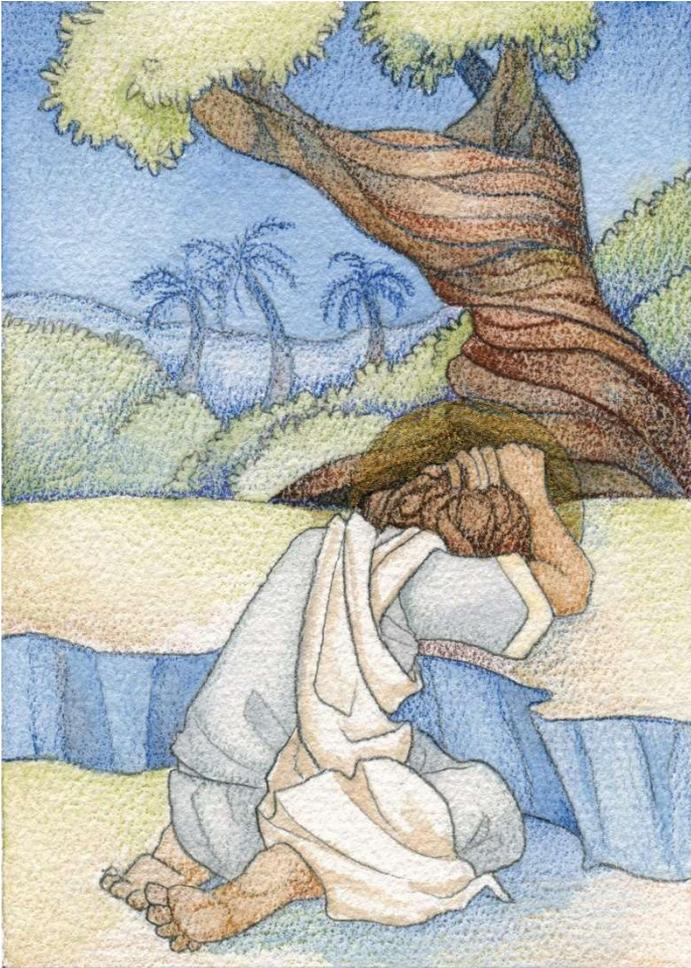
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The First Station  
Jesus Prays in the Garden**



## The Second Station

### Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. (Mark 14:43-46)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, as you wake your disciples, one who has not slept arrives with an angry crowd. Judas reveals your identity to them with a kiss. His act of affection is a signal to point you out as the one who loves but is rejected by his own.

**O Jesus, we are quick to greet you with affection in our prayer and worship. But how often do our external words and actions conceal hearts that are easily turned from you? We love you, Jesus, help us to love you with all of our hearts.**

*All stand.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Second Station  
Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested**



## **The Third Station**

### **Jesus Is Condemned by the Sanhedrin**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!" (Luke 22:66-71)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, your words are blasphemy to the ears of the high priest. He tears his garments, unable to see the presence of God in the one who stands before him arrested and accused. He cannot believe in a God who, because of such great love, would willingly become so powerless.

**O Jesus, we can be so limited in our vision. We find it difficult to look beyond our narrow expectations and see you as you are. Give us the grace to hear your words clearly and to follow you in truth. We love you, Jesus; reveal to us what God is like.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

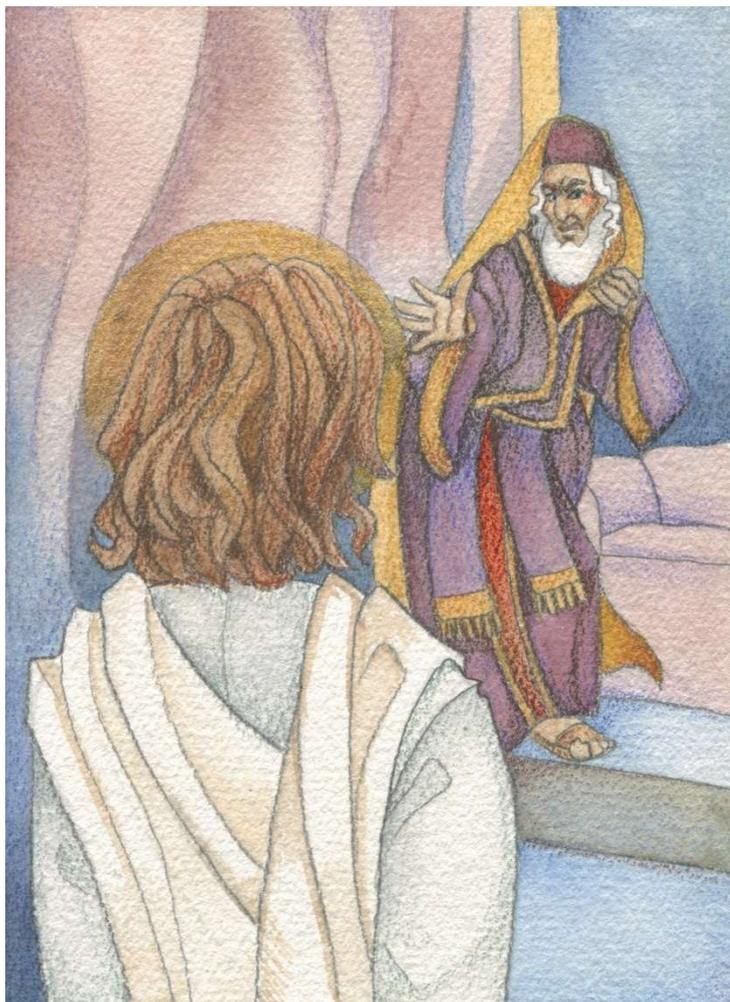
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Third Station**  
**Jesus Is Condemned by the Sanhedrin**



# The Fourth Station

## Peter Denies Knowing Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:69-75)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, you told Peter that he would deny you three times before the rooster would crow. He did not believe you. He swore that he would never deny you, and that in fact he was willing to die for you. Peter felt that he knew himself better than you knew him. But now as dawn approaches and the rooster crows, he sees the truth.

**O Jesus, we set out to follow you but then quickly turn, going our own way. We are afraid to acknowledge you in front of others, but you speak to us in the midst of our denial. We love you, Jesus; keep us faithful to you.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

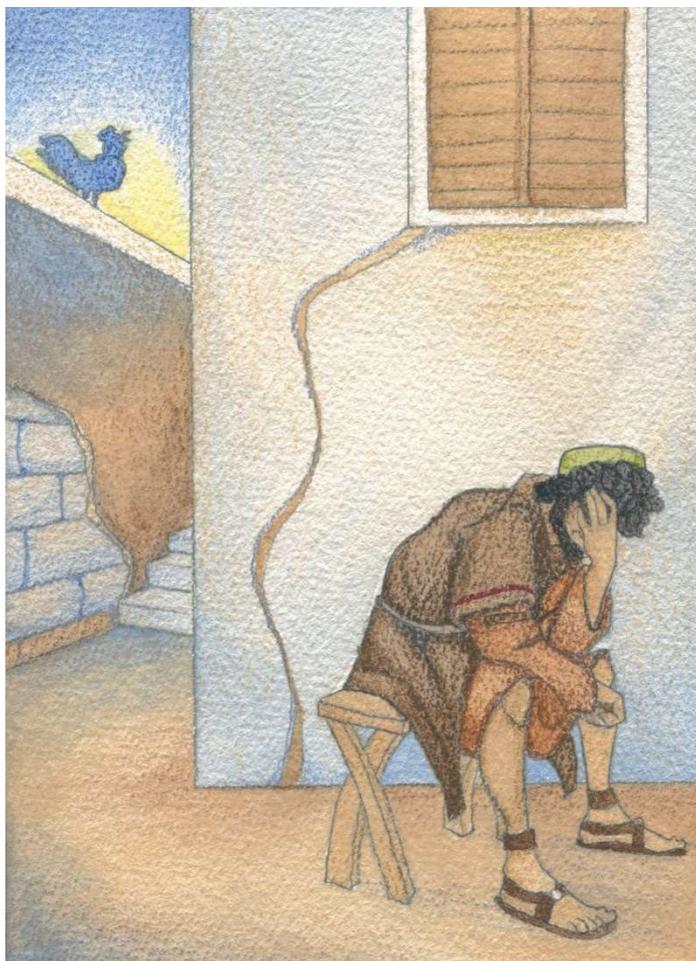
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Fourth Station  
Peter Denies Knowing Jesus**



## The Fifth Station

### Jesus Is Condemned by Pilate

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. (Luke 23:13-15, 23-24)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, Pilate perceives your innocence, but the crowd insists on guilt. Hearing their persistent shouts, Pilate sets aside the judgment of his conscience, and the decision is made. He hands you over to be crucified.

**O Jesus, how often do we let the threatening voice of the crowd overwhelm the voice of conscience? Fill us with compassion for the outcast and commitment to the truth. We love you, Jesus; lead us beyond the crowd.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

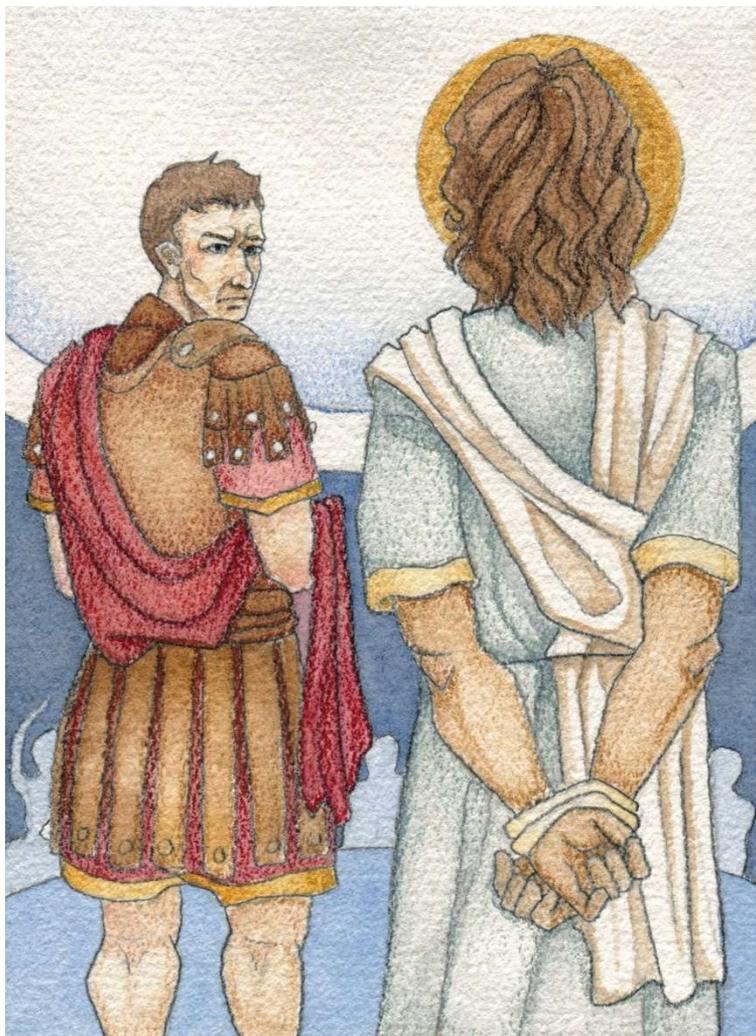
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Fifth Station**  
**Jesus Is Condemned by Pilate**



## **The Sixth Station**

### **Jesus Is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:26-31)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, soldiers of an earthly realm mock your kingship. You are so powerless in their eyes, so weak, the ruler of a kingdom that cannot be seen, and, therefore, must not exist. They treat you as a foolish impostor, caught in a lie.

**O Jesus, how often do we look for the kingdom with the eyes of the world rather than with the eyes of faith. We forget your promise that your kingdom is among us. Help us to see your strength in our weakness, your reign in our powerlessness. We love you, Jesus; establish your rule over us.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Sixth Station**  
**Jesus Is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns**



## The Seventh Station

### Jesus Takes up His Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19:6, 15-17)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, like Isaac carrying the wood to the mountain, you set out with the wood of the cross. But unlike him you will not ask your Father where the lamb is, because you know you are the lamb of the sacrifice. You now begin your journey with the cross.

**O Jesus, you carry a cross, which is given unjustly. You willingly bear the burden of our sinfulness and accept the cross of our guilt. There is no greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. We love you, Jesus; help us to show this love in our lives.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

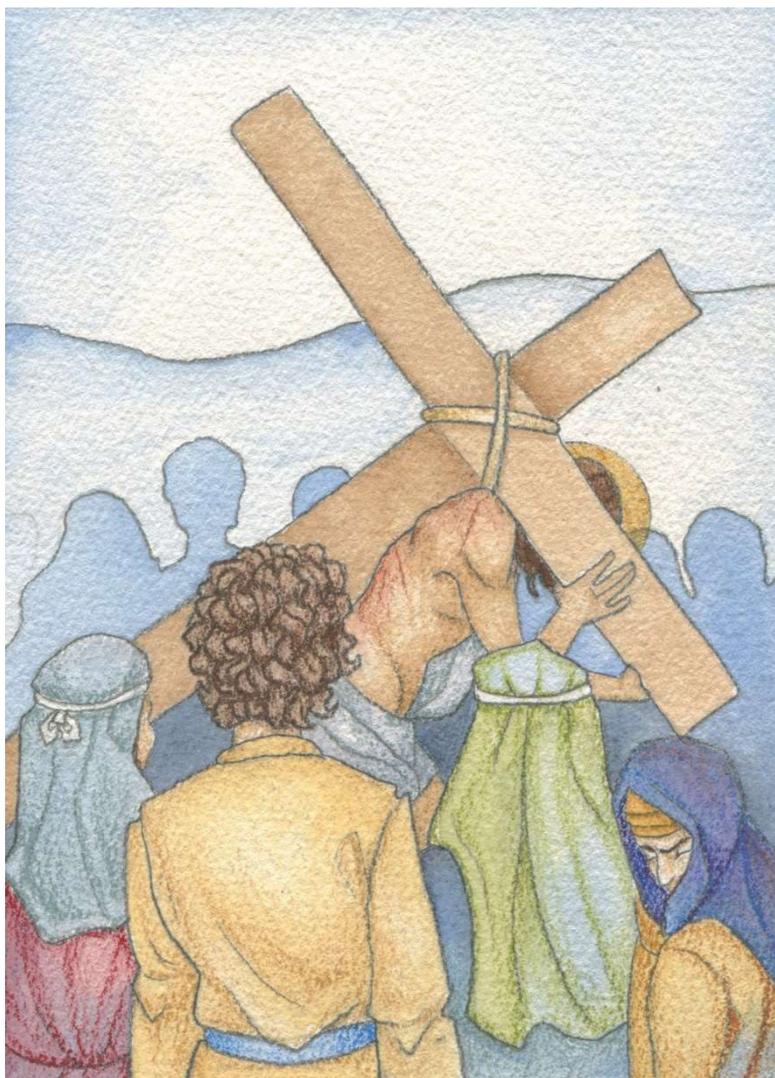
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Seventh Station  
Jesus Takes up His Cross**



## **The Eighth Station**

### **Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, the torture you experienced at the hands of the soldiers left you weak. When you prayed in the garden that the will of the Father be done, an angel was sent to strengthen you. Now as you seek to fulfill the Father's will, he sends Simon to help you.

**O Jesus, strengthen us on our journey. Open our hearts to the help you offer through the kindness of others. Open our eyes to the needs of those who walk beside us. We love you, Jesus; lighten our burdens.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Eighth Station  
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus**



## The Ninth Station

### Jesus Meets the Weeping Women

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23:27-31)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, after being silent, you speak. You turn the eyes of the women away from your suffering and toward the destructive powers of sin. You warn them not to shed their tears for you but rather for themselves and their children. If you, the innocent one, can suffer so, what will be the fate of the guilty?

**O Jesus, the wood is now very dry! Set fire to the world so that it might burn with your love. Destroy all hatred, fill us with joy again. Teach us to mourn the way things are; show us the way they could be. We love you, Jesus; weep for us.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Ninth Station  
Jesus Meets the Weeping Women**



## The Tenth Station

### Jesus Is Crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

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. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." (Luke 23:33-38)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, your suffering continues as nails are driven into your hands and feet and taunting jeers are hurled at your body imprisoned on the cross. Yet to those who mock and challenge you, you offer no reproach, only forgiveness and compassion for them in their ignorance.

**O Jesus, how often we have acted as if the way of the cross were un- necessary and too difficult. We believe we know a better way, a way worn down by the crowd. We find that path goes nowhere. Forgive us; we do not know what we are doing. We love you, Jesus; by your wounds heal us.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Tenth Station  
Jesus Is Crucified**



## **The Eleventh Station**

### **Jesus Promises Paradise to the Crucified Thief**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, two others are nailed on either side of you. One challenges you to release him now; the other asks to be freed with you in your kingdom. One sees only weakness; the other sees power and is able to trust in a promise of everlasting life with you as his time in this world comes to an end.

**O Jesus, look upon us now. See us in our need and hear us as we cry out to you. Help us to trust you in difficult circumstances. Give us eyes to see your power in helpless times, to see your kingdom in all we encounter. We love you, Jesus; remember us.**

**Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

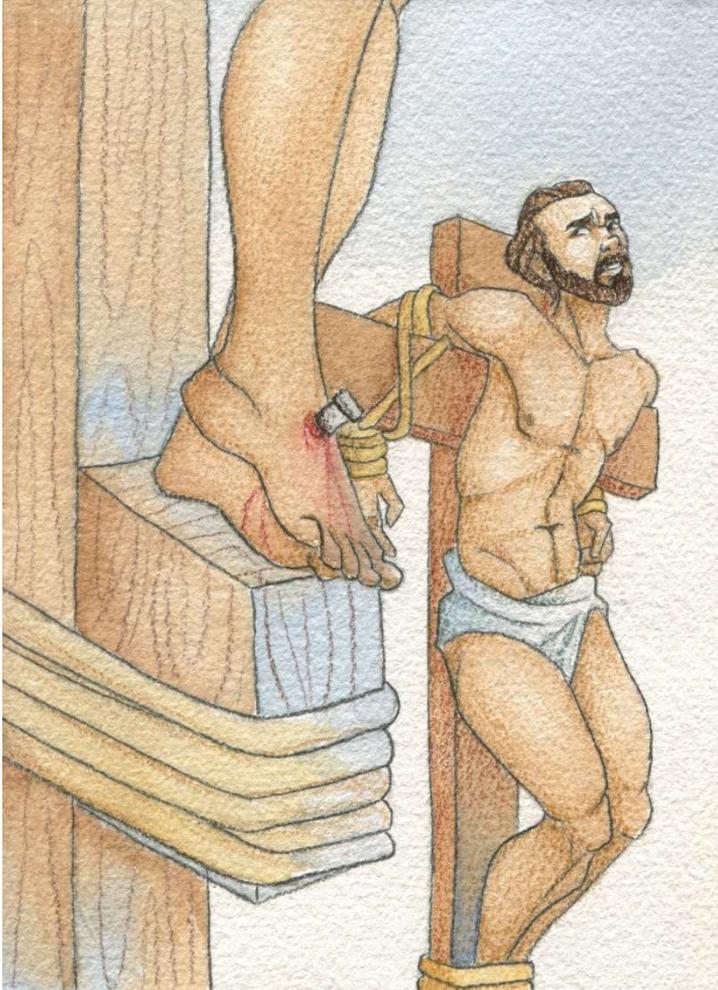
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Eleventh Station**  
**Jesus Promises Paradise to the Crucified Thief**



## The Twelfth Station Jesus Cares for His Mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25-27 NLT)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, you give your mother to the disciple you love. Even as you face death, you entrust those whom you love most into each other's care. Your dying is marked by giving, and by concern for the ones who remain. You do not leave us as orphans, you have promised your Spirit to your church, and at the cross the church is born.

**O Jesus, help us see that we are the disciples you love, and you have given us each other. We pray that we might allow the Spirit to give us life as sisters and brothers joined in mutual care. We love you, Jesus; bind us as one.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Twelfth Station  
Jesus Cares for His Mother**



# The Thirteenth Station

## Jesus Dies

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

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 commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." (Luke 23:44-47)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, the Word spoken by the Father, you have accomplished the purpose for which you were sent. Your trust in the Father remains, even amid the dark clouds of death.

**O Jesus, may we too accomplish the purpose for which we were created. Help us to commit ourselves into the Father's hands, to trust in him, and believe in his love for us, a love that your death reveals to us. May your dying never be in vain. We love you, Jesus; help us to die to ourselves and live for you.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

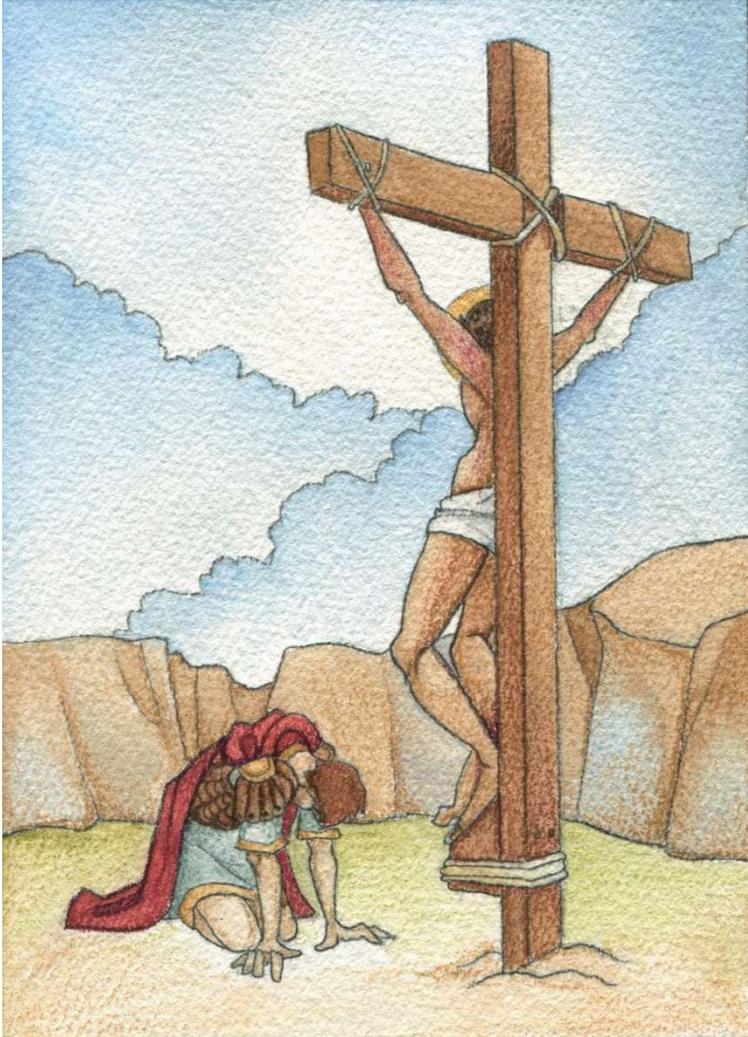
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Thirteenth Station  
Jesus Dies



## The Fourteenth Station

### Jesus Is Buried

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock. This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin. As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law. (Luke 23:53-56 NLT)

*Kneeling or standing, silently reflect upon the passage and the accompanying image.*

Jesus, now the time of surrender, of being at rest, begins. It is the seventh day when God rested from the work of creation. And you, the Son of God, rest and await the dawn of the eighth day when all will be made new—and we wait with you.

**O Jesus, teach us to rest. Deliver us from thinking that everything depends upon our actions. Help us to be patient in trusting that God will bring about the completion of his creation through you. We love you, Jesus; fill us with your peace.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

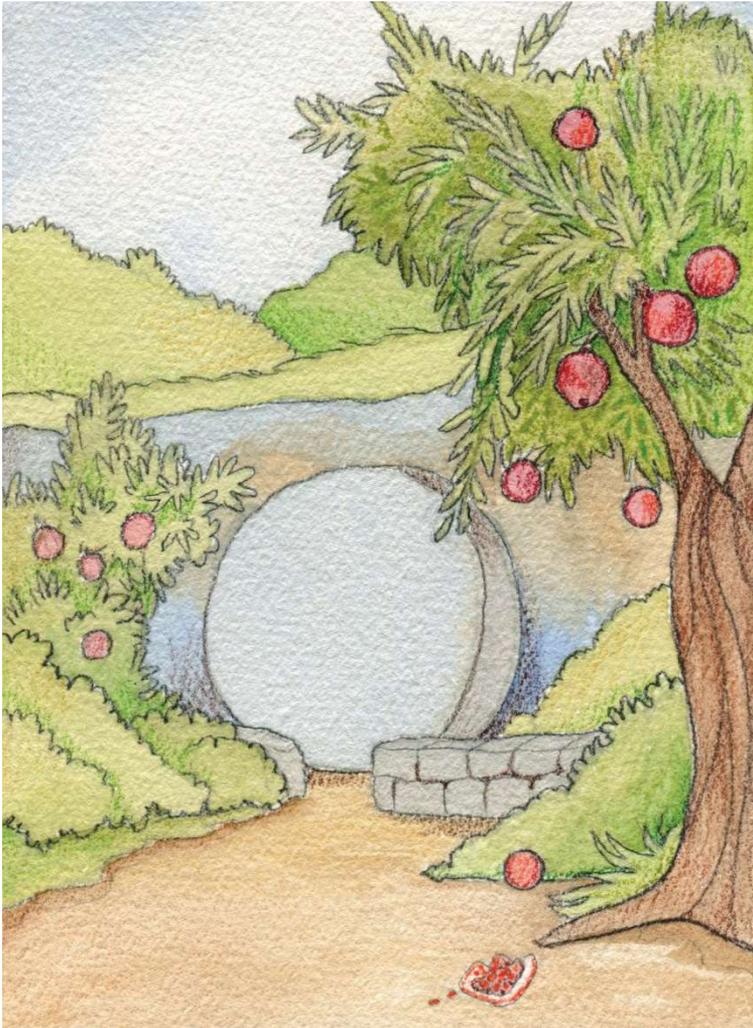
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Fourteenth Station  
Jesus Is Buried



## Closing Prayers

**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. Amen.**

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 the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Opening prayer adapted from an address by St. John Paul II on Good Friday 2000. Station reflections adapted from Biblical Way of the Cross by Amy Wellborn & Michael Dubruiel. Illustrations by Allison Royal*