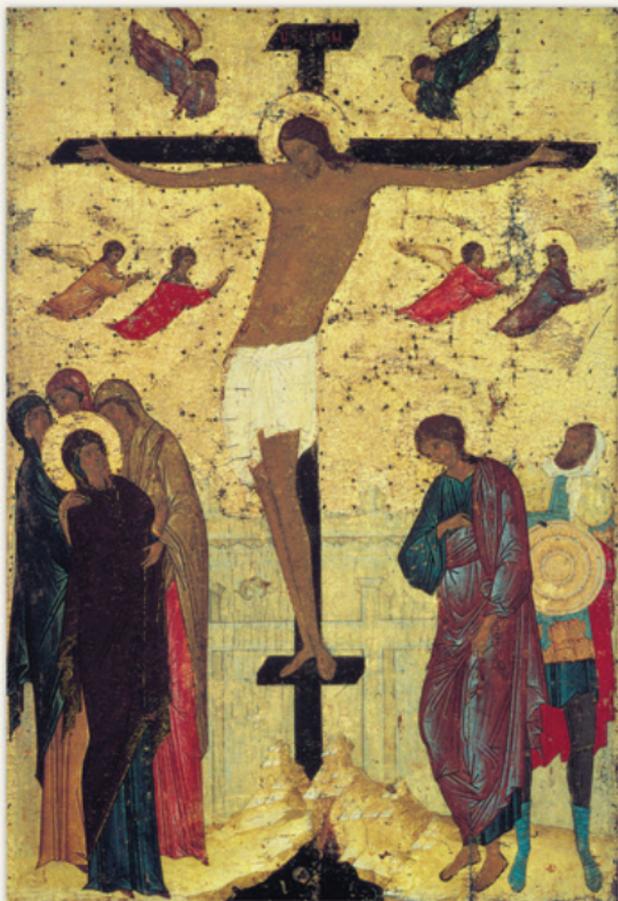


STATIONS *of the* CROSS



The Stations of the Cross

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The Stations of the Cross

From ancient times, Christians have made pilgrimages to holy places. In the medieval period, when pilgrimage to Jerusalem was popular, people there began to walk the traditional path Jesus took from his arrest to his passion and death. Because not everyone could travel to Jerusalem, the church began to offer local pilgrimage liturgies—the Way of the Cross.

Moving from station to station, following the events in the words of scripture and letting the prayers draw us into the narrative, we are given the opportunity to understand something of Christ's passion and our involvement in it. The movement and the events are the heart of the Way (or Stations) of the Cross, and many different prayers and readings have been developed for this devotion. It can be said as a private form of prayer or, particularly on Fridays in Lent, as a public liturgy.

There are fourteen stations in the service, with eight stations marking events recorded in the Gospels (numbers 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14) and six stations commemorating events known only in tradition or legend (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13). The version of the service in this booklet comes from the *Saint Augustine Prayer Book*, to be published by Forward Movement in 2013. While it differs in a few places from the version found in the Episcopal *Book of Occasional Services*, the text is based on the same sources.

The thirteenth-century hymn, *Stabat Mater*, may be sung at the beginning of the service during the entrance of the ministers, during the movement between stations, or at the conclusion of the service. You may use the version included in this booklet, or number 159 in *The Hymnal 1982*.

At each station, after the officiant names the station, this versicle and response is said. In many places, it is said kneeling:

Officiant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.**

Then a passage of scripture, either recounting the event of the station or reflecting on its meaning, is read. After a period of silence, another versicle and response are said, followed by a collect. As the procession moves to the next station, a portion of the hymn *Stabat Mater*, the *Trisagion*, or some other hymn may be sung.

Please note that within this booklet, the responses of the people are indicated in **bold type**. The symbol ✠ indicates an appropriate time to sign one's self with the cross.

Private Prayers in Preparation

O merciful Savior, grant that while we follow your blessed footsteps along the Way of Sorrow, our hearts may be so touched with true contrition that you may turn our weeping into gladness by giving us forgiveness of all our sins. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that as we seek forgiveness from you, so we may be ready to hear your call to take up our cross and share in your suffering by acts of service and in patience of life. *Amen.*

Let us never, O Lord, like Judas, betray you; or like Peter, disown you; or like Pilate, condemn you at the noise and clamor of the mob; make us fear your judgment only. *Amen.*

Let our prayer and meditation be for our good; accept it as a token of our repentance for sins and negligence of which we are guilty, particularly...and as an act of intercession for all in any need, remembering especially...Bring us who follow the path of your cross to the joy of your resurrection and grant that we who have sought to know you here may stand before your glorious presence in eternity. For the sake of your love. *Amen.*

Opening Prayers Before the Altar

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

He who bore the Holy Cross did break the power of sin, death, and the grave. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

Tell out among the nations:

That the Lord has reigned from the tree.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Grant unto us, your servants, to be made partakers of the grace of his resurrection: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

FIRST STATION:

Jesus is condemned to death

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

God did not spare his own Son:

But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, though you were condemned to suffer and die, all judgment has been placed in your hand. Grant that we may be saved from all false judgments against our neighbor, and at the last may stand before you, forgiven by your great mercy, for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

**Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,
bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,
now at length the sword hath passed.**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

SECOND 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.

The soldiers began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

For the transgression of my people was he struck.

Let us pray.

Grant us patience, O Lord, to follow the road you have taken. Let our confidence not rest in our own understanding but in your guiding hand; let our desires not be for our own comfort, but for the joy of your kingdom; for your cross is our hope and our joy now and unto the day of eternity. **Amen.**

**O that blessèd one, grief-laden,
blessèd mother, blessèd Maiden,
mother of th' all-holy One;**

or

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.