



The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations



The Way of the Cross leads us to contemplate the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to consider His great love for us, His humility, and the glory of the perfect offering He made in the work of our redemption. The Way of the Cross, as a devotion, has its origin in the faithful's retracing of Christ's steps in the City of Jerusalem. Throughout the centuries, believers have walked the streets and hills of Jerusalem, recalling the saving mysteries of Christ in the very place where they were accomplished. In time, the Church raised shrines and images representing the Holy Places of Jerusalem throughout the Christian world, so that those unable to make the long pilgrimage to Judea could nevertheless commemorate Christ's Passion by tracing the Way of the Cross. There are a number of methods for praying the Way of the Cross and a legitimate and holy variety of prayers, meditations and hymns that may be employed according to the devotion of the Church. This booklet contains two complete sets of prayers.

Traditional Version

Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Opening Devotions *(all kneel)*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. ***Christ, have mercy.*** Lord, have mercy.

Presider and People say

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.

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

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 procession goes to the First Station.

Modern Version

Opening Devotions *(all kneel)*

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

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

O Jesus, we are about to walk with You through the stages of Your Agony and Death. We are about to spend a brief time renewing the sacrifice that gave us the life of a Christian; that upholds us by the graces You have won; and brings us along the road to a salvation that all took place (and continues today) by Your sacrifice on the Cross. As we walk, help us to understand more deeply Your passion and while meditating on Your Cross, may we come to give more generously of ourselves. May we who are called to serve You be courageous in taking up our cross and may we lay down our lives in Your example of perfect love and sacrifice. We ask this in Your gracious and glorious name.

Amen

Presider and People say

Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
will be done,
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

The procession goes to the First Station.

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, “He deserves to die.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

V. God did not spare his own Son:

R. But delivered him up for us all.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

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.***

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus is condemned unjustly by those who did not understand him and by those who were frightened of what he did and said. Perhaps they sensed that he could make a difference, that he could turn their world upside down. We continue to condemn people unjustly today; people are condemned because of the colour of their skin, gender, beliefs, sexual orientation, height or weight, being differently able, or because they don't conform to our way of thinking, the list is endless. There are also the people who have been justly condemned, who have been found guilty, served their sentence and asked for forgiveness. Does our society really forgive; really believe that people can change or do we continue to condemn them over and over again?

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, what a terrible injustice to see you condemned to death. Your own people, the Roman judges and the soldiers didn't recognise that you were God Incarnate. Give us the grace to see, respect and love you in all people, both innocent and guilty. Change our hearts that we may see with new eyes those we might otherwise condemn. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord***

Second Station: Jesus takes up his Cross



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 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.

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

R. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There are burdens that we all carry; some are very obvious and others we take great care to hide. There are the burdens of illness, pain and disability, of old age, dependence, and caring for someone who no longer knows who we are. There are the burdens of constant fear, of difference, of loneliness and of isolation. The invitation of Jesus on the cross is to hand over these burdens to him.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, may we see your presence in all the burdens we carry today. Help us to share our burdens more freely, not to be afraid to acknowledge our fears and our pain. May we be more aware of the crosses that others bear and make time to alleviate their burden. May your face shine on each one of us through the crosses we bear. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord***

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Christ 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, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

V. Surely he has borne our griefs:

R. And carried our sorrows.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus falls under his cross. He doesn't look much like God when he falls to the ground on the way to Calvary. He could easily have been one of the marginalised in our society; fallen into the gutter or be slouched into a doorway on skid row. The crowds look on with disdain at this man whom they see as a sinner, who has been condemned to death by the authorities. Like the crowd, we often condemn and reject those we see as sinners. We judge them without knowing their truth or trials; scourging and crowning them with thorns. Do we even suspect the part we might have played in knocking them down? What can we do to help them up?

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, it is easy to see your image in the Saints. Help us to also see you in the sinners. You had a place in your heart for the divorced Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the good thief, and for those who crucified you. Give us this same compassionate heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord***

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his afflicted mother



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessèd are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

V. A sword will pierce your own soul also:

R. And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessèd Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, 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.*

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus carries the heaviest burden of the loss of his family; the severing of the earthly, loving relationship between mother and child. This was not of his making. The violence inflicted upon him etched into the very heart of his mother, as she watched the agony of her son. We see the Blessed Virgin's pain in the mothers and fathers who watch their children giving up their lives to drugs and other addictions, destructive worldly pleasures and pursuits, and suicide; in those who suffer violence or the threat of violence in their home from parent, spouse or child. We see her pain in children coping with the breakdown of parents' marriage, in those couples trying desperately to rebuild their relationship and keep their family together.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, we remember the gaze that rested between Christ and his mother. In that moment of pain, there was also a moment of deep and enduring love. O Lord, give us the courage to bring that love into the deepest recesses of our homes, to our children and to our spouses, to those places of fracture and disharmony in our circle of relationships. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Fifth Station: The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, 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.”

V. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

R. Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Can you picture Christ lying hidden and unknown beneath every person in need and in despair? Across our world, we see human suffering in the faces of strangers; in the faces of those struggling for democracy, in the faces of those suffering from persecution or abuse, in the faces of those dealing with the loss of property and financial security, in the faces of those dealing with addiction, illness and tragedy, in the faces of those we know of, but do not know, who struggle with the aftermath of the ravages and destructive storms of nature and with the devastating effects of climate change.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, help us to grasp our opportunities to be a Simon in our world. In those times when we can help, let us have the courage, strength and generosity to so do. May we continue the spirit of Simon through our support of agencies such as the Jubilee Center and all who work to alleviate suffering in our world. Lord, may we have the humility to accept all the Simons along our road who reach out to help us in our moments of need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Sixth Station: A woman wipes the face of Jesus



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks 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. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

V. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

R. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Today the visible face of Christ, the Church, stands before us wounded by its own challenges with power, inclusion, compassion and relevance, and scarred with the wounds of neglect and unresponsiveness. The face of Christ calls us to look upon and to help heal the Church.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, give your wounded Church the courage of Veronica so that we may wash the face of Christ clean from the disfigurements of our sins. Help us to bring healing to the scars that hide the beauty of your face to our world. Give us the faith to continue to build your Church as a visible sign of your love and compassion. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Seventh Station: Jesus falls a second time



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

V. But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

R. Scorned by all and despised by the people.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

Almighty and everliving 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 walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All around us people are overburdened by the crosses they carry; they struggle and sometimes fall. There are those who have lost their jobs and feel that they have little hope of finding another, those who live with the prospect of unemployment, and those who struggle to keep others in work. There are those who suffer because of failures in financial, health and political systems. Our Lord is with us however and whenever we fall, and there he chooses to love and save us.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, from deep within, Christ found the courage and strength to get up yet again and continue the journey for our salvation. Give us your Spirit so we too can find the strength and courage to keep going even when hope appears dim. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

V. Those who sowed with tears:

R. Will reap with songs of joy.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and 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.*

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Listen to our Lord's message for us today. Weep for the children who are abused. Weep for the women who are victimised. Weep for those discriminated against or who suffer from the anxieties of social pressure or bullying. Weep for the young who cannot find opportunities in life. Weep for the old who are forgotten or neglected. Weep for people who starve in the shadow of abundance. Weep for people who are homeless, in exile or seeking refuge. Weep for them all.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, open our hearts to the suffering of all people in our world. Give us the generosity of spirit to help us recognise their pain, the compassion to support them and the courage to challenge the systems that place intolerable burdens on them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Ninth Station: Jesus falls a third time



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

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!”

V. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

R. And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

O God, by the passion of your blessèd Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Many in our world today feel that they are at that moment of ultimate collapse, that their burden is too much to carry. They cannot bear any more. Crushed by the weight of their cross they feel unable to get up, unable to go on. Some may look for relief in addiction. Some may look to escape through suicide. In Christ, we find our true hope and encouragement. The third fall of Jesus reminds us that even in our own Calvary: in our moments of complete helplessness, or our experiences of depression, we can stand up again. Emmanuel, God is with us and he is our strength.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary that we will put our unbounded trust in you. In turn, may we bring your love, in word or action to comfort others in their moments of hopelessness, depression or despair. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.”

V. They gave me gall to eat:

R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

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.*

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Look at the absolute indignity inflicted upon Jesus by his society. Our Lord continues to be stripped of his dignity like those who have their good name taken from them and the intimate details of their lives exposed through the media. Society takes on the role of judge and jury as we curiously devour the details of tragedy and misfortune. Jesus is stripped again when men, women and children are portrayed as objects in a pornographic manner in the media, on television and online.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, forgive us for being an inconsiderate mob prying into people's lives. Forgive us for being consumers of gossip under the name of 'news'. May we respect the dignity of others and leave judgement to God. Let us see the good in those around us and so enable them to reach their full potential. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.***

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”

V. They pierce my hands and my feet:

R. They stare and gloat over me.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus continues to be crucified with the children in our world who die every minute from hunger. He is crucified in all who are maimed, damaged and displaced because of war. He is crucified in all who are marginalised in our society because of their race, sexuality or gender. He is crucified in those who are abused physically, sexually or emotionally. He is crucified in those who are trafficked across the world. He is crucified in the exploitation of the earth and its resources.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, we pray on behalf of those who through weakness or a sense of hopelessness are unable to reach out to you in their hour of need. We pray for all victims of violence; those who suffer it and those who inflict it. We pray especially for children, for the elderly and those too vulnerable to defend themselves. May victims of cruelty and oppression know that you are always with them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross.***

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished!” And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

V. Christ for us became obedient unto death:

R. Even death on a cross.

Let us pray, (*Silence*)

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.*

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There is much to seek forgiveness for in our world today: hunger, poverty, violence, discrimination, addiction, abuse, war, corruption, neglect, indifference, the list seems endless. Each one of us praying these Stations could continue the list on our own behalf and on behalf of others who have suffered. As Jesus dies on Calvary, he challenges us to love our enemies, to let go of hurt, to ask for forgiveness and when we cannot find it in our hearts to forgive, to ask God to do it for us. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, give us strength and courage to stand with those who in silence watched and prayed and wept while Jesus breathed his last. As we cannot measure love, so we cannot dilute this ultimate act of love and forgiveness with words. Let our love span the silence. Let our love and forgiveness speak your praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross.***

Thirteenth Station: The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

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 the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

V. Her tears run down her cheeks:

R. And she has none to comfort her.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. ***Amen.***

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

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Blessed Virgin's grief is our grief too. As she cradles the lifeless body of her son and offers him back to the Father, she stands with all parents who have held their children close to them in death: those lost through addiction, accidents or acts of violence, those who died suddenly or after illness, those who have died by suicide. The Mother of Christ grieves with all who sorrow for loved ones: parents, children, siblings, relatives and friends.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, help us Lord to accept the partings that must come. Help us to offer our loved ones back to you just as the Mother of Christ returned your son. Faced with the silence of death, let us not despair but find hope. May we see death not as the end but instead the beginning of our eternal journey. Help us to trust in you, the Lord of the living and the dead. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb***

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb



Traditional Version

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

Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

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.

V. You will not abandon me to the grave:

R. Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Let us pray, *(Silence)*

O God, your blessèd Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, 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.*

Modern Version

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There are times when we are overcome by the darkness of the tomb, by the countless deaths that we experience; but the answer to all our grieving and despair, is found in this place. The world is now the tabernacle of God. The grain of wheat sown in darkness and in death has indeed yielded a rich harvest. Our presence here is witness to the fact that Jesus' death was not in vain.

Let us pray together, (*Silence*)

O God, each day you put before us life or death. Help us always to choose life. We pray for all those we have known who have died, and for those who have no one to pray for them. We ask for the gift of faith when we are faced with the darkness of the tomb and our own death approaches. May we have eyes to see the promise of new life that the darkness can hold. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sung: *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb***

Concluding Prayers before the Altar

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, *(Silence)*

We thank you, heavenly Father, 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 recalled 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 Jesus our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Imagines in this booklet are from the stained glass windows done by Swiss artist Albert Chavaz (1907–1990) and installed in the parish church of Vercorin, a small village in the Swiss Alps in 1965. For the last station, Chavaz chose to replace the traditional Burial of Christ with the Resurrection.

**St. James Episcopal Church
3329 Wilson Street, Hollywood
Florida 33021**