

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS (2024)

~ St. Peter Canisius International Catholic Parish ~



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Sign of the Cross

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

Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ, this morning we gather here to reflect on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. By remembering His passion, we realize the immense Love GOD has for each of us. We are also hoping to realize more and more of all the sins we've committed; for those, our sins, are what caused Our Sweet Lord Jesus to suffer his passion and died on the Cross. Let us begin with the opening song.

Opening Hymn ♪ O SACRED HEAD SURROUNDED ♪

O Sacred Head surrounded, by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head so wounded, reviled and put to scorn!
The power of death comes o'er You, the glow of life decays.
Yet angel hosts adore You and tremble as they gaze.

In this Your bitter passion, good shepherd think of me.
With Your most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be,
Beneath Your cross abiding, forever would I rest,
In Your dear love confiding, and with Your presence blest.

O Jesus we adore thee, upon the cross our King,
We humbly bow before thee, and of thy vic'try sing.
Thy cross is our salvation, our hope from day to day.
Our peace and consolation, when life shall fade away.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray,

Most merciful Lord, with a contrite heart and penitent spirit I bow down before Your divine Majesty. I adore You as my supreme Lord and Master. I believe in You, I hope in You, and I love You above all things. I am heartily sorry for having offended You, my only and supreme God. I firmly resolve to amend my life; and although I am unworthy to obtain mercy yet, looking upon Your Holy Cross, I am filled with peace and consolation.

I will, therefore, meditate on Your sufferings and visit the Stations, in company with Your sorrowful Mother and my Holy Guardian Angel, to promote Your honor and to save my soul. I desire to gain all indulgences granted to this holy exercise for myself and for the souls in Purgatory.

O Loving Jesus, inflame my cold heart with Your love, that I may offer this devotion as perfectly as possible, and that I may live and die in union with You. **Amen.**

*♪ At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.*

First Station - Jesus Is Condemned to Death

(Kneel)

V. We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Jesus, the most innocent of beings, is condemned to death, yes, to the shameful death of the Cross. In order to remain a friend of Caesar, Pilate delivers Jesus into the hands of His enemies.

Narrator : They took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. There, Pilate asked Jesus...

Pilate : Where are you from? Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have the power to release you, and power to crucify you?

Narrator : Jesus replied...

Jesus : You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

Narrator : Pilate said to the chief priests, the leaders, and the people...

Pilate : You brought me this man as one who was preventing 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.

Narrator : The people cried in response...

People : If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.

Narrator : Pilate responds...

Pilate : Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Narrator : The people cried out...

People : Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

Let us pray.

O innocent Jesus, I have sinned, and I am guilty of eternal death; but that I may Live, You gladly accept the unjust sentence of death. For whom then shall I live if not for You, my Lord? If I desire to please men, I cannot be Your friend. Let me, therefore, rather displease the whole world than not please You, O Jesus! Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♫ Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length, the sword had passed*

Second Station - Jesus Carries His Cross

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Narrator : 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.

The soldiers 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 on His hand knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying...

Soldiers : Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator : And so Jesus started his journey to the place where He will be crucified.

Let us pray.

O my Jesus, I cannot be Your friend and follower if I refuse to carry my cross. O beloved Cross, I embrace You, I kiss You, I joyfully accept You from the hand of my God. Far be it from me to glory in anything save in the Cross of my Lord and Redeemer. By it, the world shall be crucified to me, and I to the world, that I may be Yours forever. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. *Have mercy on us.*

*♩ O, how sad and sore distressed,
Was that Mother highly blest,
Of the sole begotten One!*

Third Station - Jesus Falls the First Time

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Carrying the Cross, our dear Savior was so weakened with its heavy weight, that He fell exhausted to the ground. He was feeling thirsty, His sight was blurred because of the sweat around His face. The Cross was light and sweet to Him, but our sins made it so heavy and hard to carry. Are we going to continue to burden Jesus with our foul actions?

Let us pray.

Beloved Jesus, You carried the burden and the heavy weight of my sins. Should I then not bear in union with You, my light burden of suffering, and accept the sweet yoke of Your commandments? Your yoke is sweet, and Your burden is light. I willingly accept it. I will take up my cross and follow You. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs,
Of her dying glorious Son.*

Fourth Station - Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

How sad and painful must it have been for Mary to behold her beloved Son laden with the Cross, covered in wound and blood, driven through the streets by savage executioners. Confused and sad as to why all of this is happening, Mother Mary finds consolation when she and Jesus finally meet eye to eye. With loving compassion, her gaze ensures her Son that she's there for Him and will always be there till end. What unspeakable pangs her most tender heart must have experienced! How did she desire to die instead of Jesus, or at least with Him!

Let us pray.

O Jesus, dear Mother Mary, I am the cause of the pains that pierced your hearts. Would that my heart might experience some of your sufferings.

O Mother, let me share in your sufferings and those of the Son, that I may lighten your burden, seeing your son in anguish. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ Is there one who would not weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

Fifth Station - Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Seeing Jesus exhausted, the soldiers looked around for a man to help. They compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene and forced him to help Jesus. Though rebelling at first for not knowing what was going on, Simon dropped everything on him and began to carry the cross. Jesus looks at Simon with a gaze of love and gratitude, then continues his bitter walk towards Golgotha. Simon, though feeling lost, gathers his thoughts and willingly helps Jesus.

Let us pray.

O Jesus, whosoever does not take up his cross and follow You, is not worthy of You. Behold, I cheerfully join You on the way of the cross. I desire to carry it with all patience until death, that I may prove worthy of You. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. *Have mercy on us.*

*♩ Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?*

Sixth Station – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Veronica witnessed the scourging which Jesus endured. Moved by compassion, Veronica catches up and hurries to walk towards Jesus.

Without saying a word, she pushes through the hurdle of soldiers, approaches with bravery and stand in front of Jesus. She wipes Jesus' disfigured face which is now covered in wound and dust.

Jesus takes a deep breath, gave a sigh of relief, looks at her in gratitude and continues His journey. Veronica was left with an imprint of His holy face on the cloth (*pause*). “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brother, you do unto Me.”

Let us pray.

Dearest Jesus, what return shall I make You for all Your blessings? Behold, I consecrate myself entirely to Your service. My whole heart I give to You; stamp on it Your holy image, that I may never forget You. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His Spirit forth He sent.*

Seventh Station - Jesus Falls the Second Time

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Overwhelmed by the weight of the Cross, Jesus falls again to the ground. But the cruel executioners do not permit Him to rest but a moment. With thrusts and blows, they urge Him onward. With what cruelty Jesus is treated and trampled underfoot! Remember, compassionate soul, that your sins caused Jesus this painful fall.

Let us pray.

Have mercy on me, O Jesus, and help me never to fall into my former sins. From this moment I will strive sincerely never to sin again. But You, O Jesus, strengthen me with Your grace, that I may faithfully carry out my resolution. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. *Have mercy on us.*

*♩ Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender child,
All with bloody scourges rent.*

Eighth Station - Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem (*Kneel*)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Narrator : 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 :

Jesus : “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?”

Let us pray.

O Jesus, who shall give my eyes a torrent of tears that I may, day and night, weep over my sins? I beseech You by Your bitter and bloody tears to move my heart, so that tears may flow in abundance from my eyes, and that I may weep over Your sufferings and over my sins until death. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ O thou Mother: fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord.*

Ninth Station - Jesus Falls the Third Time

(Kneel)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Exhausted at the foot of Calvary, Jesus falls for the third time to the ground. How painfully must it have been all the wounds of His tender body reopened by these repeated falls. And how enormous must my sins be, to cause Jesus to fall so painfully. Had not Jesus taken my sins upon Himself, they would have plunged me into the abyss of Hell. The soldiers gave Him no rest, with whips and shouting, they forced Him to continue His journey.

Let us pray.

Most merciful Jesus, I return You a thousand thanks for not permitting me to die in my sins and fall into the abyss of Hell, as I have deserved so often. Enkindle in me a sincere desire to amend my life. Let me never again fall into sin but grant me the grace of final perseverance. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. *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.*

Tenth Station - Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments (*Kneel*)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Narrator : As they came to the place that is called The Skull, the soldiers cast lots to divide his clothing. The soldiers took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They took His tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another...

Soldier : Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.

Narrator : This was to fulfill what the scripture says...

Jesus : "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Narrator : And that is what the soldiers did.

Let us pray.

Forgive me Lord, for my sake You bore our shame. You who are holy, were stripped of your clothing. Help me, O Jesus, to amend my life. Let it be renewed according to Thy will and desire. However painful the correction may be to me, I will not spare myself. With the assistance of Your grace, I will refrain from all sinful pleasure and vain amusement, that I may die happy and live forever. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ Holy Mother, pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.*

Eleventh Station – Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross (*Kneel*)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Narrator : Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. One of the criminals who were hanged there deriding him and saying...

Criminal 1 : Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Narrator : The other criminal says...

Criminal 2: 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. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Narrator : And Jesus replied...

Jesus : Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Let us pray.

O Jesus, meek and patient Lamb, I renounce forever my impatience. Crucify, O Lord, my flesh, with its evil desires and vices. Punish and afflict me in this life, but spare me in the next. I resign myself altogether to Your holy will. May it be done in all things. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♩ Let me share with Thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.*

Twelfth Station - Jesus Dies on the Cross

(Kneel at all time)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Narrator : When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice...

Jesus : Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachtani?

Narrator : Which means...

Jesus : My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator : When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said...

Jesus : I am thirsty.

Narrator : A jar of full sour wine was standing there, so they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus received the wine, He said...

Jesus : It is finished.

Narrator : Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

(Silence)

Let us pray.

Oh what love! Jesus dies on the Cross, to preserve you from eternal death. Most lovable Jesus, who will grant that I may die for love of You? I will endeavor to die to the world and its vanities when I behold You on the Cross covered with wounds and crowned with thorns. Merciful Jesus, take me into Your wounded heart, that I may despise all perishable things, to live and die for You alone. Amen. (Silence)

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♪ Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.*

Thirteenth Station - Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross (*Kneel*)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

Narrator : After all that has happened, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed His body.

Jesus did not descend from the Cross but remained on it till His death. When taken down, He rested on the bosom of His beloved Mother as He had so often done in life. Persevere in your good resolutions, and do not flee from the cross. For he who perseveres till the end shall be saved. Consider, moreover, how pure the heart should be that receives the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the adorable Sacrament of the Altar. How broken is a mother's heart to receive the bruised body of her only son. You can't hold back your tears, the pain you endure is too great.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus crucified! I most earnestly ask You: Help me do what is right and let me not be separated from Your Cross, for on it I desire to live and to die. Create in me, O Lord, a clean heart, that I may worthily receive You in Holy Communion, and that You may remain in me, and I in You, for all eternity. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. *Have mercy on us.*

*♩ By the Cross with thee to stay;
There with thee to weep and pray,
This I ask of thee to give.*

Fourteenth Station - Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb (*Kneel*)

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Narrator : They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The body of Jesus is laid in a stranger's tomb. He Who in this world had not whereon to rest His head, would have no grave of His own after death. You whose heart is still attached to this world, despise it that you may not perish with it.

Let us pray.

O Jesus, You have singled me out from the world, what then shall I seek in it? You have created me for Heaven, what then shall I desire upon earth? Depart from me, deceitful world, with your vanities! And so, I will walk the way of the Cross traced out for me by my Redeemer, and journey onward to my heavenly home, where my rest and my joy shall be forever. Amen.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified.

R. Have mercy on us.

*♫ Virgin of all virgins blest,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.*

Let us unite our prayers and say...

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Closing Prayer

Let us pray,

My Jesus, I have traveled Your Way of the cross. It seems so real and I feel so ashamed. I complain of my sufferings and find obedience to the Father's will difficult. My mind bogged down by the poverty, sickness, starvation, greed and hatred in the world. There are many innocent people who suffer so unjustly. There are those born with physical and mental defects. Do we understand that You continue to carry Your cross in the minds and bodies of each human being?

Help me to see the Father's will in every incident of my daily life. This is what You did – you saw the Father's will in Your persecutors, Your enemies and your pain. You saw a beauty in the Cross and embraced it as a desired treasure. My worldly mind is dulled by injustice and suffering and I lose sight of the glory that is to come. Help me to trust the Father and to realize that there is something great behind the most insignificant suffering. There is Someone lifting my cross to fit my shoulders – there is Divine Wisdom in all the petty annoyances that irk my soul every day.

Teach me the lessons contained in my Cross, the wisdom of its necessity, the beauty of its variety and the fortitude that accompanies even the smallest cross. Mary, My Mother, obtain for me the grace to be Jesus to my neighbors and to see my neighbors in Jesus. **Amen.**

V : The Lord be with you

R : *And with your Spirit*

V : Dear Lord, accept our humble devotion as our expression of Love and thanksgiving to You. May the Lord bless us all **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

R: *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

♪ THE TRIBUTE ♪

How can I say thanks, for the things You have done for me.
Things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me.
The voices of a million angels, could not express my gratitude,
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to thee.

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
To God be the glory, for the things He has done.

With His blood He has saved me, with His power, He has raised me,
To God be the glory, for the things He has done.

Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to Thee,
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.

With His blood He has saved me, with His power, He has raised me,
To God be the glory, For the things He has done.

Thank you for sparing your time to accompany Jesus to Calvary through this Living Stations of The Cross. God bless you and your loved ones.