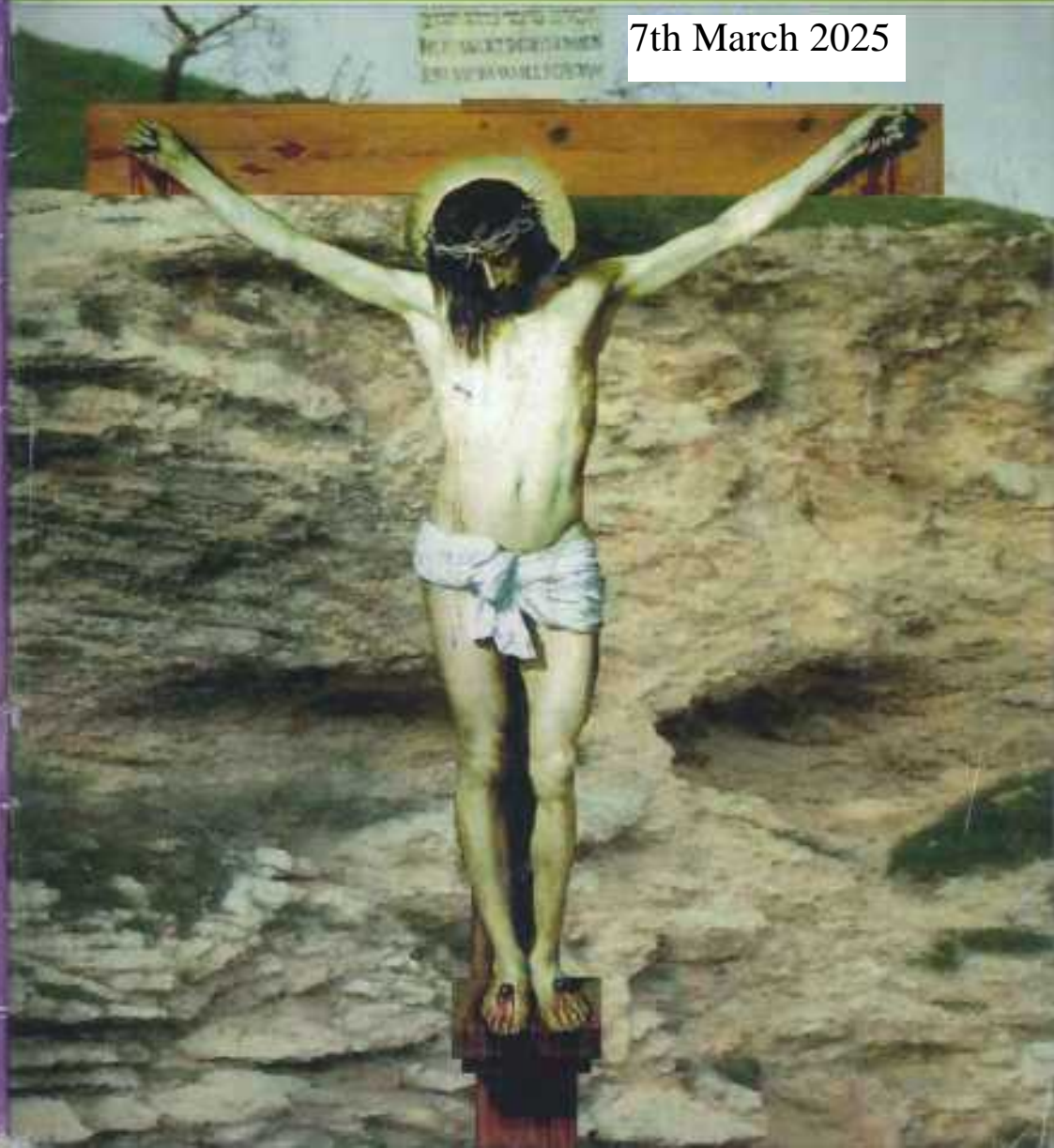


Stations of the Cross

7th March 2025



Introduction

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 the 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, before the Lord our Maker,
for he is the Lord our God.

Philippians 2:6-11

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Opening Prayer



He knelt down and prayed saying:
"Father, if You are willing, take
this cup from me; nevertheless not
my will but Yours be done." And
there appeared an angel from
heaven, strengthening him. And
being in agony he prayed more
earnestly, and his sweat was as it
were, great drops of blood falling
down to the earth.

Prayer

O God, whose only begotten Son for our sake did suffer agony in the garden and was betrayed and forsaken by sinful men; give us grace and courage to yield our wayward hearts to the accomplishment of your righteous will and the greater glory of your holy name in joyful gratitude for the saving love of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Where he hung the dying Lord.*

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The First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



Pilate said, "I find no fault with this man," but when the crowd grew loud, he grew silent. "I wash my hands, you deal with him." Pilate had the knowledge and the power to stand and say no to the world as it sought to crush the Lord of life. He didn't use either.

How many times do I have the knowledge and the power to say no, and stay silent? How many times do I participate, by my silence, in the Passion of Jesus? Who will die because I do not say no?

Prayer

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 our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*For her soul of joy bereaved,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.*

The Second Station

Jesus takes up his Cross

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have 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 of God, 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 wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing.

Prayer

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.

*O how sad and sore distressed,
Now was she,
Mother blessed,
Of the Sole begotten One.*

The Third Station

Jesus falls the first time

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World.



The laughter at your first fall is transformative, Jesus. The gathered "I's" surrounding you laugh together, becoming a "we" for the first time. We laugh together, we reduce you to a joke, to something less than a man. Your first fall is the fall of Jane, Joseph or Cathrine, but it is also the fall of my "I." I am lost now, in the collective "I" of the mob.

How many times, Lord, have I sacrificed my "I" as I took satisfaction or pleasure in the fall of another? How many lynchings have I started with my laughter?

Prayer

O God, who knows 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 to 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.

*Deep the woe of her affliction,
When she saw the crucifixion
Of her ever glorious Son*

The Fourth Station

Jesus meets his Sorrowful Mother

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



We want to make you a clown. We want to isolate you completely, but your mother will not permit it. She withstands the blows of taunt and sorrow to be present for you along the way. She alone remains to give you courage, to remind us that you are someone's child, just like we are.

How many times, Lord, have we watched someone suffer, but from a safe distance? How many times have you looked for help or in the eyes of another for comfort, but were unable to find it?

Prayer

O God, who has willed that by the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother; mercifully grant that through the church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share with her 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.

*For his people's sins chastised,
She beheld her Son despised
Scourged, and crowned with thorns entwined that Mother blessed,
Of the Sole begotten One.*

The Fifth Station

Simon helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have 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 will come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

How many others have we called on to do our violence for us? How many soldiers have pulled triggers because we could not? How many Cyrenes' push buttons for us?

Prayer

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. 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 beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Saw him then from judgment taken,
And in death by all forsaken,
Till his Spirit he resigned*

The Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



You have been beaten so badly that you are "marred beyond human semblance." As you walk along, you are almost unrecognizable. It is so much easier for us to hate you, to jeer you, to wish you dead when we cannot see your face. Veronica will not permit us that luxury. She steps forward and wipes away the blood and sweat, showing all of us your human face.

How many times have we missed your humanity, Jesus? How many times has it been easier to deal with your suffering because

we left your face marred beyond recognition? Do we have it in us to see your face?

Prayer

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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*With what pain and desolation,
With what grief and resignation
She beheld her dying Son*

The Seventh Station

Jesus falls the second time

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



The first time you fell, we laughed. This fall elicits our hatred. Even though we have forced Simon to help you, you wouldn't refuse to play your role "Get up! Get up you!" We are desperate to find an outlet for our rage. Life isn't the way we want it to be, and someone has to pay. "Get up! Get up Jesus! Hurry up!"

How many times have we added our voices when the mob kicked someone when they were down? It isn't that it's easier for us to attack someone who's weak, it isn't easy.

It is necessary. We need you to fall, so that we can see you as different, as disappointing and as worthy of our hatred.

Prayer

Almighty and ever living God who in your tender love for mankind did send your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of this great humility. Mercifully grant that we who walk in the way of his suffering, may 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.

*O how deep her lamentation,
Far beyond our contemplation,
As the darkness hid the Sun!*

The Eighth Station

Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



There followed after Jesus a great multitude of 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".

How many times have we contemplated your Passion, Lord, and wanted to cry for you? How many times have we wanted to weep because of your pain, and not because we caused it? How often have we

blinded ourselves to our complicity in violence by feeling sorry for the victims?

Prayer

Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which we are guilty. To repent and forsake them; that by your pardoning grace, our consequences may not be visited upon our children nor our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*There she watched in bitter anguish,
Seeing Christ in torment languish,
Mocked and by his foes decried*

The Ninth Station

Jesus falls a third time

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



Jesus, you have done all that you can do. When you fall this last time, you entrust the reminder of what must be done to us. There is no more strength. You are utterly beaten, defeated, but we are not finished. Like the potter's clay, we will now make you into what we need you to be.

How many times have we seen someone's weakness as an opportunity to shape them up, to change them into what we want them to be? How many times do we take advantage of the fact that you are too weak to resist, Jesus, and fasten you to the Cross?

Prayer

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son, you didn't make the instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us that we may learn to glory in the cross of Christ. May we gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Suffering for the whole creation,
Bleeding there for our salvation,
For us sinners crucified*

The Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



Physical humiliation isn't enough. Spitting on you isn't enough. Scourging isn't enough. We need to shame you. We need to strip away from you any shred of human dignity. We are blind to the dignity in which your Father clothes you. Unable to see your deeper dignity, we revel in the shame we pour out on you.

How many times have we branded someone with a scarlet word? "Drunk, convict, weakling?" How many times have we labelled our brothers or sisters, so as to set them apart, reduce them to nothing?

Prayer

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be scourged and his face to be spit upon. Give us grace to accept joyfully the suffering 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.

*Who, on Christ's dear Mother gazing,
Pierced by anguish so amazing
Born of woman, would not weep?*

The Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



When they came to a place which is called the "Skull", there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Thus the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors..."

How many times have we allowed our rage to drive us to cruelty? Cruel acts? Cruel speech? How many times has another borne the scars of our rage?

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who did stretch out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross; that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. 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 your holy name who reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Who on Christ's dear Mother thinking,
Such a cup of sorrow drinking
Would not share her sorrows deep?*

The Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the Cross

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have 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 taken the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

Mute with horror, we stumble to our homes, as though the earth were moving under our feet. The ground itself seems unsteady as we contemplate a world without violence. On what will we stand since we have killed God's Son?

Prayer

O God, who for our redemption did give your only-begotten Son to death on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant us the grace to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Climbing Calvary's rugged mountain
Stand we beneath that precious fountain,
Flowing from Christ's wounded side*

The Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have Redeemed the World



We have all departed by the time the guards permit those who love you to bring you down from the Cross. Once the spectacle ended, we are compelled to leave. There is something horrible and fascinating about you as you hang there, and it frightens us. We leave the task of dealing with your body to those who are already unclean.

How often, O Lord, have we fled our own horror, left the care of the dead and the dying to others? How many times have we let our fear of the power of death drive us into hiding?"

Prayer

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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Like St. Mary, may we treasure,
Such great love that none can measure,
And within its peace abide*

The Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid in the Tomb

Priest: We adore you O Christ and we bless you
All: Because by your Holy Cross you have 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 begged for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it 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.

You will breathe life once again into our deadened spirit, Jesus, but not on this day. Today we walk as those robbed of hope, shuffling from one place to another as though we belonged in the tomb with you. Perhaps, without the breath of your new life, that is precisely where we belong.

Prayer

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a garden tomb, 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

*Jesus, may her deep devotion, Stir in us the same emotion
Fount of love, Redeemer Kind;
That our hearts fresh odour gaining
And a purer love attaining,
May with thee acceptance find*

The Fifteenth Station

Jesus is raised from the dead



With the guards at the tomb, we stand aghast as the women run behind the stone and find you gone. They run out screaming in delight and terror as the life that you always intended for us dawns. We sneak into the chamber to find the linens, neatly folded where you lay. At once we are overjoyed and terrified. Overjoyed because we know the truth now, and we can never turn away from it. Terrified because we know how we treated you.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, today, at the tomb, we begin our journey to Galilee, where you said you'd meet us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us strength to shout the truth every step of the Way.

