

The Stations of the Cross are a traditional Journey that enables us to walk with Jesus during the events leading up to and through His death on the Cross. In this drive-through experience, you are invited to pray, read, reflect, and receive as you walk with our Savior and Lord through the most important events of His life – and ours.



# 1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

## The Sacred Story

Matthew 26:36-41

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." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Who is on your dream team prayer squad?
- 2. What are some other times in scripture that "cup" appears?
- 3. Where is a place you find solace and peace; where you talk with God?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you cried out to your Father in your moment of greatest need. Form us in such a way that we, too, might cry out to our heavenly Father during our times of distress. And give us faith to follow you in obedience. Amen.



# 2. Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

John 18:1-9

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Here Jesus declares "I AM he." This phrase dates all the way back to Moses and the burning bush. Why did this phrasing get Jesus in trouble?
- 2. When reading, it is easier to side with the good guys than the bad. As confession, think of a time that you have betrayed Christ.
- 3. It is hard to forgive people to hurt us. Think of someone who hurt you and process a next step you can take to offer forgiveness.

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, we confess that, like Judas, our actions and inactions; our thoughts and behaviors; our intentions and apathy grieve you. We fail you. And, even our confession is laced with sin. Forgive my betrayal, Lord as I walk your way to the cross you bore for me. Amen.



# 4. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Luke 22:66-71

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And 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."

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Not to be missed, "When day came..." is an intro that speaks to a long night. When was your last "long night?"
- 2. What was something you struggled to believe when it was first shared to you?
- 3. Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? What was that like?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were brought before the religious leaders who were supposed to be close to you and draw others towards the Father. We confess the times in our lives when we have pushed people away from you. We own the times we have betrayed and the pain of when we have been betrayed. Help us to see you as the Great I Am at all times. Amen.



# 4. Jesus Is Denied by Peter

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And 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 too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. What is a way that you have denied Christ?
- 2. Peter was called out because of his accent–do people recognize you as a follower of Jesus because of the words and way you speak?
- 3. What would boldness look like for you in your public witness of Christ to friends and strangers?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter is the beginning of your abandonment. By your Holy Spirit, grant us to the courage to follow you and stick close, even when we are led to places of discomfort and moments of trial. Help us to follow. In the name of Christ. Amen.



# 5. Jesus is Judged by Pontius Pilate

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

## The Sacred Story

Mark 15:1-5, 15

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Look up and read Isaiah 53:4-6
- 2. What comes to mind as you read Isaiah in light of Pontius Pilate and Jesus?
- 3. Spend some time praying for our government leaders that they would not be persuaded by the crowd, but lead under the guidance of Christ Jesus.

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you cried out to your Father in your moment of greatest need. Form us in such a way that we, too, might cry out to our heavenly Father during our times of distress. And give us faith to follow you in obedience. Amen.



# 6. Jesus is Beaten and Crowned with Thorns

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

John 19:1-3

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Reflect on a time you won a trophy.
- 2. While a crown of thorns is heartbreaking, why is this a fitting crown for our savior?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are a king who is worthy of honor, praise, and obedience. Instead we give you thorns and a cross. May we come to see this day as your coronation and bend our knee at your cross. Amen.



## 7. Jesus Bears the Cross

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

John 19:6,15-17

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him."

They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

## **Reflection Question**

In this scene, a crowd yells crucify; the one with the power gave in; and the One who is innocent was condemned. Reflect on times you've been each of those groups.

- 1. In a crowd, ready to condemn...
- 2. Having power and caving to the pressure by giving in...
- 3. Being innocent and condemned for something you did not do...

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you taught, and now show, that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Because of the burden of my sin, your yoke carries a cross. You carry my cross. For this, you have my unending devotion. Amen.



# 8. Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene to Carry the Cross

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

## The Sacred Story

Mark 15:21

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. How difficult is it for you to ask people for help?
- 2. The Holy Spirit has the name "Helper"—when was a time you sensed the Holy Spirit helping you?
- 3. "Then Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" Reflect on this truth from Jesus in light of Simon of Cyrene and our own call to bear the cross.

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you cried out to your Father in your moment of greatest need. Form us in such a way that we, too, might cry out to our heavenly Father during our times of distress. And give us faith to follow you in obedience. Amen.



## 9. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Luke 23:27-31

And there followed Jesus a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are 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 these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. When was the last time you wept?
- 2. In these days of social distancing and as everything has changed around us, how have you managed to cope with the extra stress?
- 3. Why does helping others help you get out of your own suffering?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the midst of your struggle and pain your eyes were open to see and your heart to bring dignity to the cries of others. In the midst of our pain and sadness, open our eyes to see those around us and our ears to hear their cries. For the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



10. Jesus is Crucified

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Luke 23:33-34

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. "...Having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross." Colossians
- 2. Reflect on forgiven debts.
- 3. For the next several minutes, read over and over again the Words of Christ: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you took our sin, our cross, and our shame. You, Lord Jesus, took my sin, my cross, and my shame. All my failings have been nailed to your cross. May you be glorified as you are lifted up. May all eyes be drawn to the King of kings. Amen.



# 11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Reflect upon the confession: "since you are under the same condemnation." What does this mean for you?
- 2. Hear the promise of Christ to the thief as his promise to you—you will be with me in paradise. How does this promise make our current pain more manageable?
- 3. Let the plea of the criminal become your plea this day.

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for the power of your memory. Remember us, we pray, as you establish your kingdom on heaven and earth. Remember us, O Lord. Amen.



# 12. Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Beloved Disciple

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

## The Sacred Story

John 19:25-27

but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Reflect on a time you won a trophy or prize.
- 2. While a crown of thorns is heartbreaking, why is this a fitting crown for our savior?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, we confess that we get caught up in the grandeur of your sacrifice. I see you saving the world and I forget that you are saving me too. I hear your call to take this Good News to the world–help me start by taking it to my neighbor, my dear friends, and my loved ones. In the name of Christ. Amen.



# 13. Jesus Dies on the Cross

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Why do you think the sun's light failed?
- 2. "He said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." John 19:30 What all do you think is finished?
- 3. How can you, like Jesus, commend your spirit unto the Father in this moment and going forward?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are wounded for our transgressions and nailed to a cross by our rebellion. Now your side is pierced. Adam's side was split open to bring forth his bride. May we, your Church and bride, always know that we are born out of your side and that in your dying we find our life. Amen.



# 14. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

## **Opening Prayer**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Help us to walk in your steps. Amen.

#### The Sacred Story

Matthew 27:57-60

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 cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

## **Reflection Questions**

- 1. Contemplate the tomb of Jesus. In this moment there is broken hearts and dashed dreams. When was a time your hope was lost—only to be restored a short while later?
- 2. Think of a loved one you have buried-what was it like to walk away from the cemetery?
- 3. The Disciples were scared and hiding after Jesus' death. Reflect on these times and how they scare you as we "hide" away in our homes. What does it look like to await the Lord in our current state of mind?

## A Prayer

Lord Jesus, as your body is laid in the tomb, our hearts cry out. The light of the world is extinguished. All hope seems lost. We pray, in this moment, that you would give us space to grieve and to mourn. We know the day of resurrection is coming—and for this we long. But, for now, with all that is going on in the world around us, we weep as your light goes out and our hope seems lost. We look to the coming dawn through watery eyes and burdened hearts. Stay with us Lord, for it is evening. In the name of Christ. Amen.