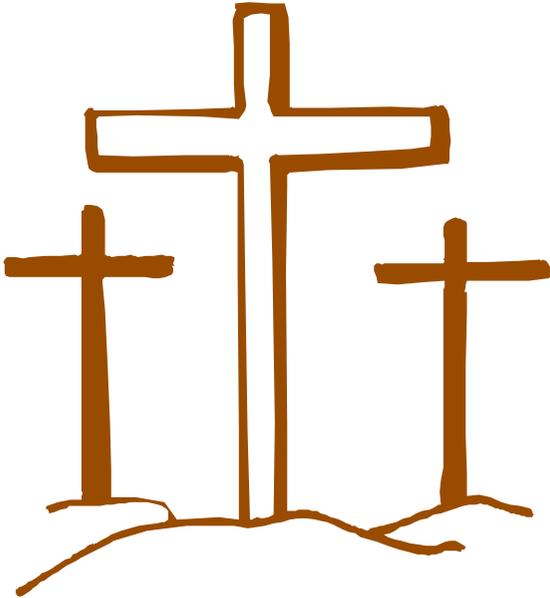


# Stations of the Cross



## Introduction

For many hundreds of years, the friends of Jesus have held a service called “*The Stations of the Cross*”. Some have been able to do this in Jerusalem, where Jesus first carried the cross. Others, who were not able to go to Jerusalem, have done it in their churches or their homes, or other places.

They imagine following Jesus on his last journey to his death, and stopping at various places on the way to think about him. Today we are going to follow Jesus’ journey to his death here, and we are going to imagine the places where Jesus went on his final journey. At each stop along the way, we will hear a short Gospel story, and think about what happened to Jesus. Then we will sing a song as we move to the next station.

We begin with prayer, here in our Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus began his final journey.

Let us pray:

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 us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

## 1. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Reader:* On the night before he died, Jesus took his friends into a garden to pray. He went off a little way by himself. He knelt down on the ground. “Father,” he prayed, “take this suffering away from me. Yet I will do what you want, not what I want.” God gave him the strength he needed. He was in very great distress, and prayed with all his heart. So much sweat poured off him, it was as if he was bleeding. *(Luke 22:39-44)*

*We kneel, as Jesus did, and sing:*

**Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!**

## 2) Jesus on his Own *(we stand)*

*Reader:* As Jesus was praying in the garden, his friend Judas came with a gang, armed with swords. He went straight up to Jesus. “Sir” Judas said, and kissed him. The men grabbed Jesus, and put him under guard. Everybody left him and ran away. *(Mark 14:43-50)*

*Song:*

**Someone’s lonely, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s lonely, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s lonely, Lord, kum ba yah! O, Lord, kum ba yah!**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

R/. **Come let us worship.**

## **Reading**

Jesus said to them “The time has come for the Son of Man to receive his glory. Now I am very troubled. Should I say ‘Father save me from this time’? No I came to this time in order to suffer. Father bring glory to your name.” *(John 12:23, 27-28)*

*(We walk to the Nave Altar, led by the crucifix, where we make our first Reflection)*

**Reflection**

*Reader:* We stand before the cross – the cross on which Jesus died to save the world. As we think about all that he has done we remember that it was for us that he was crucified. May it help us to be sorry for the times when we have failed him and strengthen us to take up our cross and follow him.

V/. Lord Jesus, you came from the Father to redeem us:

Lord have mercy

R/. **Lord have mercy**

V/. Lord Jesus, you showed your love for us on the cross:

Christ have mercy

R/. **Christ have mercy**

V/. Lord Jesus, give us strength to take up our cross and follow you:

Lord have mercy

R/. **Lord have mercy**

*We move to our First Station (2) singing:*

**From heaven you came,  
Helpless babe,  
Entered our world,  
Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served  
But to serve,  
And give Your life  
That we might live.**

*This is our God, the Servant King,*

*He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

## **Station 1 – Jesus receives his cross (2)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

R/. **Come let us worship.**

### **Reading**

He had no special beauty or form to make us notice him; there was nothing in his appearance to make us desire him. He was hated and rejected by people. But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. (*Isaiah 53: 2-4*)

### **Reflection**

The procession to the crucifixion began, and Jesus tired from all the questions and beating was made to carry his own cross. But it wasn't just the heavy cross which Jesus had to carry, it was also all the wrong things which we have ever done as well. Let us be sorry for the times when we have added to what Jesus had to carry.

V/. Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times when we have failed you;

Lord have mercy:

R/. **Lord have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times;

we've turned our backs on you

Christ have mercy:

R/. **Christ have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, help us not to fail any more;

Lord have mercy:

**R/. Lord have mercy.**

*Song:*

**O, Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
When I call, answer me.**

**O, Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
Come and listen to me.**

**Station 2 – Jesus falls (3)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

**R/. Come let us worship.**

### **Reading**

Jesus said to his disciples “Pray for strength against temptation”. He then went a little further and prayed “Father if you are willing take away this cup of suffering. But do what you want not what I want.”

*(Luke 22: 40-42)*

### **Reflection**

A little way down the road Jesus stumbles and falls. He must have felt so utterly exhausted and alone that he could not go on any further. But he had to carry on to do his Father’s will, and so he struggled to his feet and carried on.

Sometimes we feel that things are hopeless, that we can’t go on. But we have God’s work to do as well, and we must carry on believing in God and asking Jesus for his help.

V/. Lord Jesus, you did the will of your Father;

Lord have mercy: **R/. Lord have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you call us to live our lives in your service;

Christ have mercy: **R/. Christ have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, help us not to give up;

Lord have mercy: **R/. Lord have mercy.**

Song:

**So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone him;  
Each others needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving**

*This is our God, the Servant King.  
He calls us now to follow him.  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King*

### **Station 3 – Jesus Meets His Mother (4)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

R/. **Come let us worship.**

### **Reading**

Near the cross on which Jesus hung, his mother was standing with her sister and two other women. Seeing his mother, with the disciple, John, whom he loved near her, Jesus said to her, “Mother, there is your son.” And to John he said, “There is your mother”. And from that moment John took Mary into his home. (*John 19: 26/7*)

### **Reflection**

All his life his mother taught him the meaning of the words, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.” Now Jesus and his mother look into each other’s eyes. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! Now, her grace-filled smile blesses him and stirs his heart to its depth. Love and trust in God bind them together.

V/. Lord Jesus, your mother loved you so much:

Lord, have mercy;

R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you gave your mother to be our mother, too:

Christ, have mercy;

R/. **Christ, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, help us to love one another with a mother’s heart:

Lord, have mercy;

R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Song:*

**Holy Virgin, by God's decree, you were called eternally;  
that he could give his Son to our race.  
Mary, we praise you, hail full of grace.  
*Ave ave, ave, Maria.***

**By your faith and loving accord, as the handmaid of the Lord,  
you undertook God's plan to embrace.  
Mary, we thank you, hail full of grace.  
*Ave ave, ave, Maria.***

#### **Station 4 – The cross of Jesus is carried by Simon (5)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

R/. **Come let us worship.**

#### **Reading**

Jesus said "A man had two sons. He went to the first son and said, 'Son go and work in my vineyard' The son answered 'I will not go'. But later the son changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said 'Son, go and work in my vineyard' the son answered 'Yes, I will go and work' but he did not go. Which of the two sons obeyed his father?"

*(Matthew 21: 28-31)*

#### **Reflection**

Jesus was so weak, that the soldiers were afraid that he might not make it to the place of execution, so they made a passer by carry his cross for him. Only the day before the disciples had promised that they would stay faithful to Jesus, but first they fell asleep in the garden, and then they ran away when Jesus was arrested.

How like the story that Jesus told where the unwilling son did what the father wanted. Words and promises that we don't mean are not enough. We like Simon must take up our cross and follow Jesus in our daily lives.

V/. Lord Jesus, you carried your cross for us:

Lord, have mercy; R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, we are weak and often fail you:  
Christ, have mercy; R/. **Christ, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, help us to take up our cross and follow you:  
Lord, have mercy; R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Come see His hands and His feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.**

*This is our God, the Servant King.  
He calls us now to follow him.  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King*

### **Station 5 – Jesus is nailed to the cross (11)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world:  
R/. **Come let us worship.**

#### **Reading**

Peter came to Jesus and asked “Lord when my brother sins against me, how many times must I forgive him, as many as seven times?” Jesus answered “Not seven times but seventy seven times.”

*(Matthew 18:21-22)*

#### **Reflection**

Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross as a sign of forgiveness for the whole world. Before he died he had two other chances to forgive people. First he forgave the soldiers who hammered the nails into his hands, then he forgave one of the robbers crucified with him.

Just as Jesus forgave them, so he always forgives us when we do things wrong, and so also we must forgive others when they do wrong to us.

V/. Lord Jesus, you came to bring forgiveness to all the world:  
Lord, have mercy; R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you are always ready to forgive us:

Christ, have mercy; R/. **Christ, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, help us to forgive others as you forgive us:  
Lord, have mercy; R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

**I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame;  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;  
And they left me there on a cross to die.**

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

### **Station 6 – Jesus dies on the cross (12)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;  
R/. **Come let us worship.**

#### **Reading**

After this Jesus knew that everything had been done. So that the Scripture would come true, he said “I am thirsty” There was a jar full of vinegar there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a branch of hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus’ mouth. When Jesus tasted the vinegar, he said “It is finished”. Then he bowed his head and died.

*(John 19:28-30)*

#### **Reflection**

Jesus hung on the cross for only a short time – the pain and suffering that he had gone through had taken all his strength. He commended his spirit to his Father and died. It was all over.

But of course it was not all over – it was only the beginning.  
Christ had died that we could live.

V/. Lord Jesus, you died that we could live:  
Lord, have mercy;  
R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you are our life and hope:  
Christ, have mercy;  
R/. **Christ, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, raise us to new life:  
Lord, have mercy;  
R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Song:*

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

### **Station 7 – Jesus is laid in the tomb (14)**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;  
R/. **Come let us worship.**

#### **Reading**

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus' body and wrapped it with spices in pieces of linen cloth, which is how the Jewish people bury the dead. In the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb that had never been used before. The men laid Jesus in that tomb because it was nearby, and the Jews were preparing for their Sabbath day. (*John 19:40-42*)

#### **Reflection**

The body of Jesus was placed in a tomb – but not even death could hold him. Christ had to die before he could rise again. When we are baptised we die to our old life and rise again to new life in him. Let us then try to live that risen life here on earth.

V/. Lord Jesus, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism:

Lord, have mercy;

R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you wash us clean:

Christ, have mercy;

R/. **Christ, have mercy.**

V/. Lord Jesus, you lead to eternal life with you:

Lord, have mercy;

R/. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Song:*

**I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.**

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

### **Conclusion**

#### **Before the Nave Altar:**

V/. Jesus died on the cross to save the world;

R/. **Come let us worship.**

#### **Reading**

We know that Christ was raised from the dead and we know that he cannot die again. Death has no power over him now. When Christ died he died to defeat the power of sin, just once, enough for all time. He now has new life and his new life is with God. In the same way you should see yourselves as dead to sin and alive with God through Jesus Christ. *(Romans 6:9-11)*

#### **Reflection**

We have thought about Christ's journey from when he first took the cross to being buried in a strangers' tomb. We have thought about what it means to

us and have said sorry for the things that we have done wrong, and we have promised to live closer to Christ in the future. Now we must join the first disciples in their waiting through today and tomorrow. As they waited they were sad and afraid, but we wait in hope knowing that Jesus was raised again from the dead on Easter morning

V/. Through the cross you brought joy to the world;

R/. **We worship you Lord, we praise your resurrection.**

*Priest:* Let us pray:

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.  
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.**

**So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone Him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.  
*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King***

*(A bell sounds into the silence)*

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Feel free to stay in the church for further meditation  
and reflection upon The Stations of the Cross.

*Please leave the church quietly.*

**HOLY SATURDAY  
of the LORD'S RESURRECTION**

**THE EASTER VIGIL**

*(Time varies – please check Holy Week notice)*

*(Lighting of the new Fire and Paschal Celebration, Readings,  
Baptismal Re-affirmation and First Mass of Easter)*

**EASTER DAY**

**9.00 am Mass with hymns at S. Agnes'**

**10.30 am Parish Mass at S. Andrew's**

*(Rev. 3 : April 2010)*