

STATIONS OF THE
CROSS

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross on their shoulders, positioned within the letter 'O' of the word 'CROSS'. The background of the image is a textured, aged paper with visible creases and a dark border at the top and bottom.

Welcome to the Stations of the Cross. By walking the stations of the cross we are participating in a historic tradition that has gone on for centuries in the Christian Church. By remembering these 14 stations and retracing the steps of Jesus, we are joining together with the saints of the Church who have taken this same spiritual pilgrimage.

The 14 stations of the cross are a spiritual representation of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which is believed to be the actual path that Jesus took on his way to Calvary. The reason Christians have taken this prayer pilgrimage throughout the centuries is to remember and contemplate on the sacrifice that Christ made out of His great love for us. We look back at what Jesus went through on that very first Good Friday.

All 14 stations are rooted in biblical accounts or historical accounts about what happened to Jesus on his way to Calvary. Our hope is that as you take this spiritual pilgrimage you would take time to read the scriptures and prayers, and take time for your own prayer and reflection on what Christ has done for us. When we take time to contemplate the suffering and death of Christ it is natural to grieve. I firmly believe that when we take this journey through the crucifixion and death of Jesus, we are able to appreciate the good news of resurrection that much more.

Please take as long or as short of a time as you would like walking around the trails, praying, stopping to rest, and spending time in reflection. Today is a day to grieve, but then we count to three...

Sincerely,

Rev. Josh Attaway



Edmond Campus Pastor

STATION 1

Jesus is Condemned

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

- Mark 15:1-15

God, it was through obedience to You that Jesus was able to offer salvation for me. For Jesus, obedience cost His life. For me, it costs an act of will, and yet I sometimes struggle giving that up. Help me surrender my will to You. Help me be obedient to You and You alone. Amen.

STATION 2

Jesus Takes Up the Cross

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. 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.

- John 19:13-17

Jesus, You took up Your cross, without hesitation, thinking of me. You knew what awaited You, and yet You love me enough to go through it all. Forgive me for the times I have not picked up my own cross for Your sake. Forgive me for the things I have done that I should not have, and for the things I have left undone that I should have done. Give me strength to pick up the cross and carry out Your ministry in this world. Amen.

STATION 3

Jesus Falls for the First Time

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Matthew 11:28-30

Holy Spirit, You breathe new life into me each day. You call me into a close relationship with You. You give me all the provision I need to live out Your will, and yet I sometimes still stumble and fall. Thank You for the ways You pick me up. You have given me people in my life who help to bear my burdens. You have offered me peace and rest for my soul. Help me learn to trust in You as Savior. Amen.

STATION 4

Jesus Meets His Mother

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

- John 19:25-27

God, through Your grace, we have been bound together with our family of faith. We have the great responsibility to celebrate with each other in the beautiful moments of life and to share together in the most difficult moments in life. Sometimes it is harder to stand and watch the suffering of those we love or to allow others to see our suffering than it is to just suffer in silence. Yet, we find meaning and hope in knowing that we are not alone. Help us to care for one another as You care for us. Amen.

STATION 5

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

- Mark 15:21

Heavenly Father, thank You for the witness of Simon of Cyrene. His willingness to stop and pick up the cross for one who was weak serves as an example for us all. Each time we clothe the naked, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit the imprisoned and set the captives free, we are living in the same mold as Simon. The kindness we extend to them is the same kindness we really give to You. Amen.

STATION 6

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

- Matthew 25:40

Jesus, You came and lived on this earth as a human to face all the trials, temptations, and suffering that we face in order for us to have a better relationship with You. You showed us how to live by caring for the poor, the outcast, the least, the last, and the lost. In the times where we have the opportunity to care for these, give us the courage and the strength to carry out Your will, so that we might reveal Your glorious face here on earth. Amen.

STATION 7

Jesus Falls for the Second Time

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

- Hebrews 4:15

Holy Spirit, we are grateful for the constant grace You pour into our lives. There are times in life that we feel like we can do nothing right, times that make us think we will always and only be failures. Yet You are the One who lifts us up, offers us forgiveness, and strengthens us in our moments of weakness. You are the One who created us and called us "very good". Let us persevere in doing good as far and as often as we possibly can. Amen.

STATION 8

Jesus Consoles the Women of Jerusalem

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, "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?"

- Luke 23:27-31

God, sometimes we look at the world with all its hurts, pains, and brokenness and we weep. We mourn for the moments where Your love is not shared, and we lament that we have at times been guilty for not doing everything in our power to bring that love to others. Teach me Your compassion. Help me learn to be helpful. Clothe me with meekness and gentleness. Make me kind like You. Amen.

STATION 9

Jesus Falls for the Third Time

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

- John 21:17

Jesus, when we ask how often we must forgive others, You not only tell us to keep forgiving even when it seems impossible, but You also show us what it looks like. You used Peter, the one who hurt You the worst by denying You in Your moment of need, to be the foundation upon which You built Your Church. You offered him forgiveness and You redeemed him. Help us learn to forgive others and seek reconciliation as You have forgiven us. Amen.

STATION 10

Jesus is Stripped

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

- John 19:23-24

Lord, You came into this world as King of all creation, yet You don't resemble any king we have ever known. Rather than being consumed with cravings for wealth, power and prestige; You allowed Yourself to be stripped of Your clothes and any possessions You owned. Through that humility and sacrifice, You exhibited more power than the world has ever seen. Help me offer my all to You. Free me from all envy and covetousness, and put within me a humble spirit that I might find my value in You alone. Amen.

STATION 11

Jesus is Crucified

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- Luke 23:33-43

Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice. You suffered the most gruesome and cruel form of torture this world has ever known so that I might experience Paradise with You. You overcame this brutal violence with the greatest good the world has ever seen just three days later. I can never repay You with anything I do for what You have done for me. Help me to always live with gratitude in my heart because of the grace I have experienced in Your atoning act. Amen.

STATION 12

Jesus Dies

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of 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 had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

- John 19:28-37

God, with three simple words You told us, "It is finished." The saving act of Your Son was finished. The fulfillment of the law and the prophets was finished. But, Your plan for me and for this world was just beginning. Even as I stand here and grieve the death of Jesus, I also remember the new life that comes in death. As I mourn the loss of a loved one, I am comforted by the hope of life eternal. As I remember with fondness what has taken place previously, I anticipate the fulfillment of Your great promises in all that lies ahead. Put within me a new and right spirit that I might live as Your new creation. Amen.

STATION 13

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

After these things, 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. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

- John 19:38-40

Holy Spirit, anoint us with Your healing touch. Prepare us for life here and now as well as life eternal. Wrap us in Your love and pull us close to You. Use us as tools for Your ministry. Help us to be the Body of Christ in the world, bringing a message of hope to others. May we be like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, using the gifts we have to carry out Your will. Amen.

STATION 14

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

- Mark 15:46-47

God, the darkness is upon us. The stone has been rolled over the tomb and we feel engulfed by the grief of this moment. We remember our own sins and offer our repentance. We remember how Your life was stripped away, Your light was extinguished, and You were fully dead. But, may we not stop here. Help us to make it just three more days. Lead us right back here to this place on Sunday to see what You have done...