

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

~ Luke 9:23-24

Stations of the Cross

(prison/inmate version)

- Sign of the Cross
- Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit and aided by all your angels and saints, may we who are imprisoned undertake this sorrowful journey with you. May our hearts, thoughts, and spirits embrace all that you endured for us as you suffered. When the journey is over, let us all rest in your loving embrace. Amen.

optional — • One "Our Father", three "Hail Mary", and one "Glory Be".

Station I. Jesus is condemned to death.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

we, too, have stood before the judge. We have faced those who wanted nothing but our pain and suffering. The feeling at the moment of our sentencing was a hollowness of our souls. Still, we must pay for our transgressions. You, Oh Lord, were innocent.

L) When I face condemnation,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I face uncertainty,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station II. Jesus carries his cross.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, upon your sacred shoulder you bore the cross. But it was not the heavy wood that was a burden, it was my sins. I need a renewal of my faith in order that I can bear the crosses in my life.

L) When I am burdened,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I need faith,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station III. Jesus falls the first time.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Your enemies rejoiced as you fell, my Lord. Still, it was your intention to get up, continuing to suffer. Lord, at times I also have good intentions, yet I stumble and fall.

L) When I fail to stand for you,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When those who want me to suffer are rejoicing,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station IV. Jesus meets his sorrowful mother.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

O Lord Jesus, how your heart and your mother's heart ached.

No words were spoken, just a reflection of love and sorrow in your faces. Help me to find the words for my family, to be a reflection of your love, to let them know you are with me and them.

L) When my family aches for me,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When the sorrow of my family is heavy,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

You, the Son of Man, are struggling with the cross, and one among the crowd helps you. How often does my pride and ego get in the way of those who want to help me.

L) When I fail to see your help,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) That I may accept help,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Veronica displayed courage in coming to aid you. Amid all the hatred, she showed love and compassion, and was not ashamed to serve her Lord. Grant me courage to truly serve you, especially here inside the walls of prison, where being a Christian is not easy.

L) When I need courage,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I need to show love,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station VII. Jesus falls the second time.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus, you fall again. I fall again. I ask for renewed strength and faithfulness. I can't bear my crosses without your help.

L) When I grow weary,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I am falling,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station VIII. Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Your beloved followers shed tears of anguish and sorrow. Yet, you seek to comfort them. In prison, it is seen as weakness to shed tears. Give me strength ~~me strength~~ to be weak for love of you and your sufferings.

L) When I am ashamed to cry,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I need to cry,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station IX. Jesus falls the third time.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The constant pain and suffering cause you to grow weary and fall. May I be reminded that it is my lack of repentance that causes me to fall.

L) When I need to repent,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I feel like quitting,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station X. Jesus is stripped of his garments.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lord, those who think they have power over you take away your last possessions. We in prison are also stripped of possessions. More than that, we are stripped of dignity and human quality. Let me remember that earthly possessions and earthly dignity are not important in your eyes.

L) When I am stripped of all I own,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I need to regain self-worth,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lord, I cannot even begin to imagine the pain you endured. I have inflicted pain on others who were innocent, as you were. Give me a new heart that seeks to give love, not pain.

L) When I think of my sins,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I am suffering,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station XII. Jesus dies on the cross.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

My Lord Jesus, you commended your spirit to your Father.

By your death, Lord, renew my spirit and free me to serve and love you through others.

L) When I think of your Holy Cross,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I need your spirit,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station XIII. Jesus' body is taken down from the cross.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The grief is overwhelming. Your mother holds your lifeless body in her trembling arms. Help me to take you down from the cross by keeping from sin. May your Blessed Mother hold all prisoners. May I pray for my fellow prisoners' and my own concerns.

L) When I feel helpless,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When I am tempted,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Station XIV. Jesus' body is laid in the tomb.

L) We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you.

R) Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Your lifeless body is placed in a lonely tomb. But the grave will not hold you. Afterward there will be joy. Help me to endure my journey in this place. Then after all the pain, tears, and loneliness are over, let me rejoice in the freedom your cross has given me.

L) When I am lonely,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

L) When the journey is over,

R) Jesus, I trust in you.

Prayer After The Stations:

Jesus, You became an example of humility, obedience and patience; and preceded me on the way of life bearing Your cross. Grant that, inflamed with Your love, I may cheerfully take upon myself the sweet yoke of your Gospel together with the mortification of the Cross, and follow You as a true disciple so that I may be united with You in Heaven. Amen.