

Stations of the Cross
San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Oceanside, CA



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Lent 2021



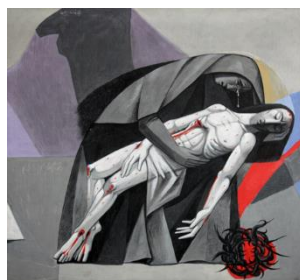
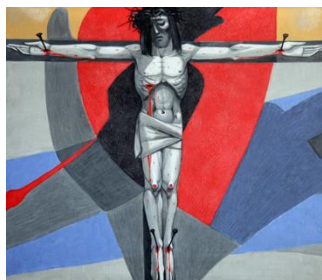
Long ago, Christians wanted to walk in the footsteps of Jesus – from the Praetorium where he was judged by Pilate and unjustly condemned by the angry crowd, to Calvary where he was crucified. Since the early years of Christianity, many of the Faithful went on pilgrimages to the far away Holy Land to walk the Way of the Cross. Eventually, the desire to participate in this devotion was transformed into the more accessible ‘Stations of the Cross’ at our own local parish churches. Praying the ‘Stations of the Cross’ has been a practice highly encouraged by Franciscans for centuries. To prayerfully walk the Way of the Cross and to contemplate Christ’s passion, especially as a community, is to open *our* hearts to be transformed by the experience.



As we experience the Stations of the Cross this Lent, especially in a year where there has been so much suffering and grief felt by so many, let us open *our* hearts to conversion. Let us ask God to forgive our sins as we forgive the sins of others. Through our contemplation of the passion of Christ through the Stations, let us also *hunger* to experience the immeasurable love of Christ for us through the Sacraments, especially in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Let us ask God, that like Francis, we look upon the Crucified Christ - and see God’s immense love.



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Station 1: Jesus is Condemned to Death



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!" They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. Jn 19:14-16

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS DEATH

Jesus, you stand all alone before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for You. Nobody helps defend You. You devoted Your entire life to helping others, listening to the smallest ones, caring for those who were ignored by others. No one seems to remember that, as they seek to put you to death.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the one thing of which we are sure, is that one day our life in this world will come to an end. We know the date of our births. We do not know the date of our deaths. Help us as we continue in this time of such sickness and uncertainty. But also help us to live our lives for others. Grant us the courage to stand with those who stand alone, to defend the defenseless, to have mercy for the imprisoned, to reach out to those on the margins, and to pray for the sick and the dying.

Lord Jesus, Grant us the gift of understanding, to help us to see into our own hearts to recognize the times we prejudge and condemn others, to recognize when we act without love, kindness, and mercy. Jesus teaches us to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

ALL: **Lord, we remember your suffering in your unjust condemnation. We ask that you give us the compassion to treat each other with mercy and love.**

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 2: The Cross is placed on Jesus' Shoulders



Image ID 158841082 © Zatlatic | Dreamstime.com

LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Jesus summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." Mk 8:34-35

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: THE CROSS IS PLACED ON JESUS' SHOULDERS

Jesus, as You accepted Your cross, you knew you would carry it to Your death on Calvary. You knew it would be difficult; you know it would be agonizing - but You accepted it and carried it anyway. You accepted the cross as you accepted everything and everyone.

Prayer: Lord, you take upon Yourself the burden of the cross and all that weighs us down. Grant us the gift of Knowledge, to be able to see suffering from God's perspective. Give us the grace to look back on the stories of our lives and see in them your love for us. Please grant us the strength to walk onward, uncrushed by whatever is placed on our shoulders. May we help others to endure in the trials and sufferings of their lives, with joy undefeated. We pray for all those suffering under the weight of the Cross in the form of the pandemic in the continued separations from those we love, through so much sickness, and through the untimely visit of Sister death to so many.

ALL: Lord, show us how to accept our daily cross with love so we may be worthy of you.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 3: Jesus Falls for the First Time



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard; My face I did not hide from insults and spitting. Is 50:6

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS FALLS

Jesus, the cross You have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and You fall down. Nobody seems to want to offer you help, comfort of encouragement. The soldiers yell at you and torment you.

Prayer: Jesus, when we fall and feel discouraged, may we know that you are especially close to us then, bearing our guilt and giving us the strength to stand up on our feet and begin to walk again. Make our hearts tender and compassionate toward all those who fall under the weight of this cross. Grant us renewed charity and unity. May the desire for holiness burn within us. Give us the courage to get back up when we fall. Lord, be especially near to nurses and medical staff during this pandemic, who tirelessly care for the afflicted, and those that act as a loving bridge via video calls and Facetime, between dying patients in the hospital and their families as they say their final farewells.

ALL: Lord, those who walk will fall. May we know how to rise up and help others follow your path.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 4: Jesus Meets His Mother



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Simon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, to be a sign that will be opposed; And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Lk 2: 34-35

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

All suffering is embraced by God when Jesus and His mother meet on the way of the Cross. Jesus is every child lost prematurely; Mary is every parent grieving for his or her child. Lord, be close to all who lose people they love - or become distant from people they love.

Prayer: Jesus bleeds and his mother's spirit is pierced with pain. This is the moment when two hearts are united as one. People constantly question pain and its purpose in human life. It is possible that we have friends, family members, or people close to us who need our sacrifices as a sign of love and solidarity with them. Let us turn to God in our suffering; above all, let us be sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. Help us always to keep in mind the example of Mary, who accepted the death of her son as a great mystery of salvation. During this pandemic, draw families closer together; let barriers fall down that separate us, let us develop deeper relationships with each other.

ALL: Lord, like the Blessed Mother, may we be a presence of peace and encouragement to those around us as they continue to follow your path.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 5: Simon the Cyrenian Helps Jesus Carry the Cross



Image ID 158841209 © Zatlatic | Dreamstime.com

LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. Lk 23:26

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: SIMON TOOK THE CROSS ON HIS SHOULDERS TO HELP JESUS

Lord Jesus, may I be unashamed to accept help when I need it, and may I be eager to offer assistance when others are in need. By reaching out and helping our brothers and sisters, we take part in the act of Redemption. The Gospel says: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31.

Prayer: May our mutual interdependence be a source of joy and an occasion of grace, knitting us together in the community of your love. Grant that we may see the best in every person, and be open to all different kinds of encounter, as in doing so, we may unexpectedly find ourselves walking at your side. In this time of social division and the illness of the pandemic, we especially pray for our government leaders, medical personnel, priests and religious, armed services, first responders, and all who need extraordinary grace at this moment.

ALL: Lord, may we learn to give lovingly and generously of ourselves to those struggling and in need.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Even as many were amazed at him -- so marred were his features, beyond that of mortals. His appearance, beyond that of human beings. Is 52:14

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: VERONICA, BRAVE WOMAN

Jesus, suddenly a woman came out of the crowd and stands with you. Her name is Veronica. She cares for you as she takes a cloth and wipes the blood and sweat from your face. She offers what help she can.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may we always be alert to those who feel invisible and despised. Grant us the gift of Fortitude, the courage amidst adversity, to step out of the crowd to help the mentally, spiritually, or physically injured. May we help them to recognize that they are your brothers and sisters sharing in your dignity. Grant me the strength to approach others, young or old, poor or rich, friends or strangers, and to see *your* face in **all** those faces – and especially in those faces that may not resemble my own. Jesus, teach us to seek unceasingly your face. Psalms 27:8-9

ALL: Lord, help us to be like Veronica, to be willing to step outside the crowd, and come forward to be in solidarity with those suffer, and to help how we can.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 7: Jesus Falls for the Second Time



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings that he endured. We thought of him as stricken, as one struck down by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. Is 53:4-5

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

This is the second time You have fallen on this bitter road. As the Cross grows heavier it becomes so much more difficult. You struggle, you fall. But despite the pain and suffering, you persevere.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, lift me to my feet when I feel that I can go no further. When I feel battered by the storms of life, with neither the energy nor strength to carry on, then may I know that you, the Son of God, will bear me onward until I arrive at home in God. My Jesus, especially when I fall, help me to trust in you. Lord, especially now, during the pandemic, please help all those struggling with addictions and all afflictions that rip apart the human soul. Help us all to turn to you in our time of need. When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Ps 56:4

ALL: **Lord, may we not get discouraged in the face of failures or weaknesses, but instead may we know how to stand up and continue forward.**

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 8: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children. Lk 23: 27-28

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS DOES NOT ASK FOR COMPASSION FOR HIMSELF

Jesus, you continue along the painful path. You are escorted by soldiers and some weeping women, crying out in lament; women who have come to the holy city of Jerusalem with you and your disciples. They know you and have heard your words of life. They love you as a teacher and a prophet. Did they hope you were the one that would free Israel? Luke 24:21.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give us a new heart so we may rejoice with those who rejoice and share sorrow with those who are sad. Peel away the hard exterior of our selfishness that holds others at a distance, so we may be one with their lives, free to act with your own love and kindness. Lord, inspire us to reach out to the lonely, the sad, the struggling, the grieving – may we be even a loving voice on the phone, a kind letter in the mail, may we offer what help we can – so they know they are not suffering alone.

ALL: Lord, may we know how to accept an attitude of faith, love and hope in the face of our suffering and the suffering of others.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 9: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

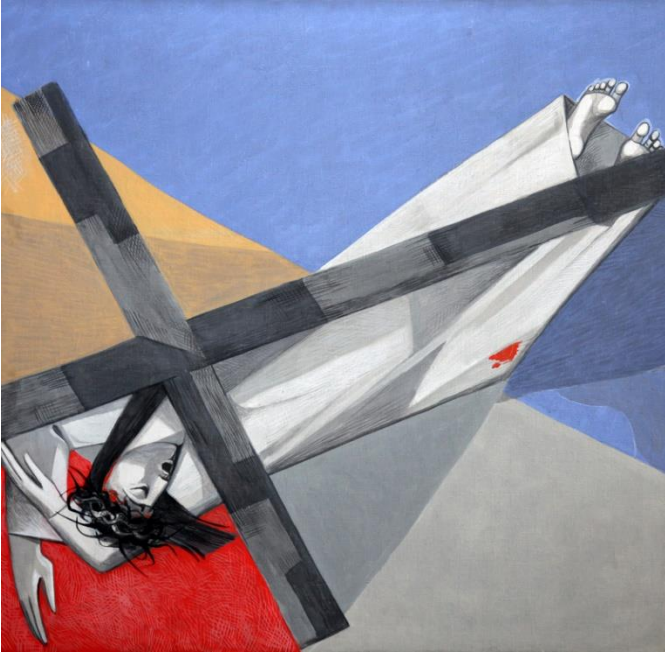


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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves.

Mt 11: 28-29

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS FALL FOR THE THIRD TIME

Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your Cross. You know Your journey is coming to an end. You struggle. You get up and keep going.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, even if the journey is long and we fall many times, let us not lose hope for happiness and holiness. May Your grace arise in the wilderness of our hearts. Grant us a new beginning, even today. Help Your people to arise beyond what we see in the physical world to see the spiritual dynamic at work in our midst. Help us to see all people, of all races and cultures, as our brothers and sisters. May we all be blessed with effective vaccines distributed equitably throughout our communities and world to bring a swift end to this pandemic.

ALL: Lord, on this journey, may we not be a stumbling block for others but rather a channel of your grace.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 10: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

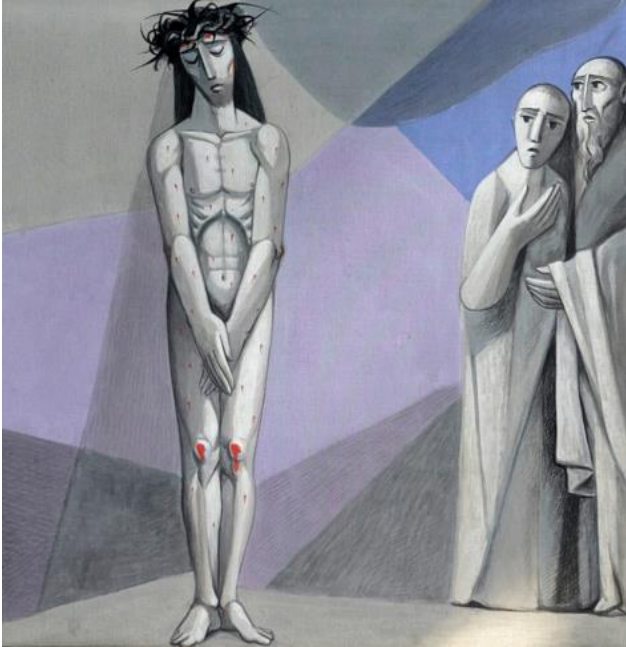


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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: The soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around them. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Mt 27: 27-28.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull) they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments. Mt 27: 33-35

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Consider the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His garments had probably stuck to his battered and torn flesh. He was exposed and vulnerable to all.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I fear to be seen as I am, with my foolish fears and hidden failures. I would be ashamed and wish to hide, like Adam and Eve. But for us, you have been stripped naked and borne the jeers of the world. Comfort those who feel despised. Comfort those suffering from mental illness, depression, and suicidal thoughts. Clothe us with Your love. Clothe all of humanity in your garment of love.

ALL: Lord, when pain touches us and we are stripped of our Wholeness, may we be filled with your love.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: They placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Matthew 27:37-38

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Jesus, you are stretched out on the Cross you have carried so far. The soldiers drive nails into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved. People seem to have gone mad. Yet you pray: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Prayer: Lord Jesus, your life was so full of promise, and yet seemed to end in the disgrace of the Cross. Embrace all those who seem to be utter failures. Embrace also those suffering from physical violence, sexual violence, and especially domestic violence suffered in their own homes and families. And just as you are close to us in these dark moments, so may we share with you in the radiance of Your Resurrection. As we journey our way of the cross now, help us to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel—resurrection.

ALL: Lord, may we always have the courage to forgive others.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 12: Jesus dies on the Cross



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit;" and when he had said this, he breathed his last.
Lk 23: 44-46

(Extended Period of Silence)

LEADER: JESUS ACCOMPLISHES HIS MISSION

As Jesus hung on the Cross, He forgave the soldiers who had crucified Him, and prayed for His mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so He gave all He had for us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, be with us now and at the hour of our death. May those who feel abandoned by God know that He is closer than we can imagine. May those who feel that there is no God at all discover His intimate Presence. Before our death, inspire us to offer contrition for our sins that we may be well prepared for eternal life. With so many suffering throughout the world, and many facing death alone, we pray for a swift end to this pandemic.

ALL: Lord, grant us devotion to the Holy Mass, for in Mass we participate in the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the Cross and Placed in His Mother's Arms



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LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Lk 23:50-53.

(Brief Silence)

LEADER: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Jesus, how brutally you were put to death. How gently you are taken from the Cross. Your suffering and pain are ended, and you are placed in the arms of your mother. The dirt and blood are wiped away. You are treated with love.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, now You are lowered from the Cross into the hands of those who loved you and who stayed by your side through your suffering. Bless us all in this time of so much suffering for so many. Bless all the suffering children, the born and the pre-born, that they may receive your special protection and be treated with compassion and love. Like the women at the foot of the cross, may we have the courage to always remain faithful to you. Grant, us to be faithful to all those whom we love.

ALL: Lord, like the women at the foot of the cross, grant us the grace to always remain faithful to you.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Station 14: Jesus is laid in the Tomb



LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Mt 27:59-60

(Brief Silence).

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LEADER: JESUS DID NOT HAVE A FINAL RESTING PLACE

Jesus needed his friends to provide him with a tomb. There he rested waiting for the glorious resurrection, the end of every sorrowful journey. But, as Jesus had promised, he did not stay in the cold tomb. He has gloriously risen, giving us all a sense of hope for death. Like Jesus, we are not condemned to death, but instead look forward to eternal life through his resurrection.

ALL: Lord, may we not be afraid to die, for death is a step toward life in you.

LEADER: Lord, I have sinned, have mercy on me.

ALL: We have sinned and we are sorry. You suffered for our sake, have mercy on us.

ALL: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY AND GLORY TO THE FATHER...

Conclusion:

As we accompany Jesus through his passion by praying the Stations of the Cross, especially in a year where there has been so much suffering and grief, let us keep our hearts ever open to conversion. Let us keep our hearts open to the immeasurable love of God. Through our contemplation of the passion of Christ, may our minds be illuminated; may we see others through the eyes of God, to see each person as God sees each of us, *as worthy of compassion and love*.

Let us continue to walk in the path of Jesus from this day forward: let us do so by leading a life deeply rooted in prayer – and allowing the grace received in prayer to flow into holy and loving actions, such as: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, showing care for the incarcerated, grieving for the deceased, and giving alms to the poor. Like St. Francis, may we be instruments of God's grace. Like Francis, may we look upon the Crucified Christ - and see God's immense love.

We pray:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction - so that we may be able to share God's love and encouragement with others.

May we provide others with the same encouragement and grace that God so generously offers to us. Just as the abundant grace from the sufferings Jesus experienced on the road to Calvary overflow to us, so to through Christ does our encouragement overflow to others.

ALL: **Lord, may we embrace an attitude of faith, love and hope in the face of our suffering and the suffering of others.**

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us

ALL: Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ALL: AMEN

'Stations of the Cross - Lent 2021'

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Sources:

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[The Way of the Cross – Led by His Holiness Pope Francis](#), Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff,
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Scripture References from the Little Rock Catholic Study Bible, New American Bible, Revised Edition, 2010.