

# **PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**A Lenten Service  
of Selected Readings and Prayers**

Readings and Prayers Excerpted from:

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## Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

O Lord God, whose mercy is over all your works, be present in power and great blessing on those who would walk this Way of the Cross in pilgrimage. them; as they bear burdens others thrust upon them, lift them up. You only are high and lofty; you alone eternal; you alone the goodness and life of all the living. Bend down your ear to your creatures' cries. Lift up the lowly, O Lord, and make this earth once again the paradise of your creation, where the leaves of every tree are for the healing of the nations, and where every spring is a river of life. Above all, we pray, make us to know your Son, his passion, and his passionate life. Break open our hearts to be as his, moved with pity, consumed by zeal for righteousness, a prisoner of hope, waiting and searching for the risen life that opens every grave and makes all things new.

All this we ask in the name of the crucified and risen One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **I — Jesus is condemned to death**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'

John 19:1-5

*Silence is observed.*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.

Lamentations 1:12

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those  
for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for all who are imprisoned, justly or unjustly;  
for those who hold others prisoner;  
for all those who are tortured or who torture;  
for those held prisoner by disease, poverty, famine, or disaster;  
for those bound by fear or loneliness.

We pray also for all those we name now, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who became prisoner for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## II — Jesus takes up his cross

Then Pilate handed Jesus 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 19:16-17

*Silence is observed.*

Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,  
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;  
he reproaches us for sins against the law,  
and accuses us of sins against our training.  
He professes to have knowledge of God,  
and calls himself a child<sup>l</sup> of the Lord.  
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;  
the very sight of him is a burden to us,  
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,  
and his ways are strange.  
We are considered by him as something base,  
and he avoids our ways as unclean;  
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,  
and boasts that God is his father.  
Let us see if his words are true,  
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;  
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,  
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.  
Let us test him with insult and torture,  
so that we may find out how gentle he is,  
and make trial of his forbearance.  
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,  
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.

Wisdom 2:12-20

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who bore sins to the grave, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### III — Jesus falls for the first time

Then [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again...He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

Mark 8:31, 34-35

*Silence is observed.*

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53:8-9

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for all those whose tasks and sorrows are beyond what they can bear;  
for those carrying the burden of illness;  
for those fallen beneath the weight of poverty or homelessness;  
for those stricken by shame, guilt, or fear;  
for those suffering from violence, oppression, or degradation.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who falls under the cross of sorrow, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## IV — Jesus meets his grieving mother

What can I say for you, to what compare you,  
    O daughter Jerusalem?  
To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you,  
    O virgin daughter Zion?  
For vast as the sea is your ruin.

Lamentations 2:13

*Silence is observed.*

“Call me no longer Naomi,  
    call me Mara,  
    for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.  
I went away full,  
    but the LORD has brought me back empty.”

Ruth 1:20-21a

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for all who witness the suffering of those they love;  
for all those who watch beside a sickbed;  
for all those who keep vigil with the dying;  
for those who fear for a missing or wounded child;  
for those who grieve for a loved one in danger.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who grew and became strong in his mother’s loving care, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **V — The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene**

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Luke 23: 26

*Silence is observed.*

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for those who carry our burdens;  
for those who stand beside us in times of sickness and danger;  
for those who shield us from harm for those whose love supports us  
and carries us across dark places;  
for those whose hands prepare for us food and warmth and shelter;  
for ourselves, that we may have the grace to allow others to assist us.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

## **VI — A woman wipes the face of Jesus**

My eyes flow with rivers of tears  
    because of the destruction of my people.  
My eyes will flow without ceasing,  
    without respite,  
until the LORD from heaven  
    looks down and sees.  
My eyes cause me grief  
    at the fate of all the young women in my city.

Lamentations 3:48-51

*Silence is observed.*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
    a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
    of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
    the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
    the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
    he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
    and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
    for the LORD has spoken.  
It will be said on that day,  
    Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
    This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
    let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those  
for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

    for those who comfort the suffering;  
    for those who minister to the sick and dying;  
    for those who support the unlovely and the unloved;  
    for those who go into dark places to bring them light;  
    for those who know in us the goodness and beauty we do not see.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our  
hearts. Amen.



We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who is comfort in sorrow and life out of every grave, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## VII — Jesus falls a second time

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:10-12

*Silence is observed.*

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

Psalms 31:11-12

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for all those stricken and afflicted;  
for those who have fallen over and over again;  
for those felled by pain and illness;  
for those struggling with addiction;  
for those immobilized by fear;  
for those who struggle to stand upright beneath their burdens.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

## VIII — Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
    When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
    through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
    he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
    and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
    and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
    and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
    and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:10-12

*Silence is observed.*

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
    a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
    those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
    I have become like a broken vessel.

Psalm 31:11-12

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

    for all those stricken and afflicted;  
    for those who have fallen over and over again;  
    for those felled by pain and illness;  
    for those struggling with addiction;  
    for those immobilized by fear;  
    for those who struggle to stand upright beneath their burdens.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

## **IX — Jesus falls a third time**

Then deep from the earth you shall speak,  
    from low in the dust your words shall come;  
your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,  
    and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Isaiah 29:4

*Silence is observed.*

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
    yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
    and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those  
for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

    for those who are brought low;  
    for those who imprisoned by despair;  
    for those who have no hope for recovery or healing;  
    for those who are ground down by poverty, fear, or illness;  
    for those who are beaten by oppression, violence, or degradation.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our  
hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who went down to the  
dust that we might be exalted, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **X — Jesus is stripped of his garments**

Then deep from the earth you shall speak,  
from low in the dust your words shall come;  
your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,  
and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Isaiah 29:4

*Silence is observed.*

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those  
for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for those who are brought low;  
for those who imprisoned by despair;  
for those who have no hope for recovery or healing;  
for those who are ground down by poverty, fear, or illness;  
for those who are beaten by oppression, violence, or degradation.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our  
hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who went down to the  
dust that we might be exalted, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **XI — Jesus is nailed to the cross**

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.

Luke 23:33

*Silence is observed.*

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

Genesis 22: 6-8

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for all those who are pierced by fear;  
for those immobilized by poverty or disease;  
for those chained by anger, hatred, or self-loathing;  
for those held hostage by oppression or prejudice.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who accepted the cross and its shame for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **XII — Jesus dies on the cross**

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

Luke 23:46

*Silence is observed.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
Who, though he was in the form of God  
Did not regard equality with God  
As something to be exploited,  
But emptied himself,  
Taking the form of a slave,  
Being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
He humbled himself  
And became obedient to the point of death;  
Even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for those who are crucified;  
for those held in solitary confinement;  
for all those tortured and slain by perversion of justice;  
for those executed;  
for those who torture;  
for those who kill.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who was a prisoner and died between thieves, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **XIII — Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul also."

Luke 2:33-35

*Silence is observed.*

A voice is heard in Ramah,  
    lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
    she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
    because they are no more.

Jeremiah 31: 15

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

    for those who mourn the death of one they loved;  
    for those who hold in their arms the body of a loved one;  
    for those who feel their lives broken and shattered;  
    for those who cannot see their life beyond this death;  
    for those who cannot grieve or weep.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One born of Mary and borne by her at the end, Jesus Christ. Amen.



## **XIV — Jesus is laid in the tomb**

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 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 15:42-47

*Silence is observed.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home<sup>1</sup> of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.

Revelation 21:1-5

Lord Christ, as we meditate on your Passion, may we remember also those for whom you died.

Hear our prayers this day:

for those with lives cut short;  
for those who died unmourned, outliving everyone they loved;  
for those who died in peace and hope;  
for those who died in fear or pain or suffering;

for those who stand watch at the grave;  
for those who fear the finality of this loss.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Amen.

We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who went down to the dust that we might rise, our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Concluding Prayer**

O Lord, God, our times are in your hands. You alone know in full the seasons of our lives, the days of joy and strength renewed, the night seasons of sorrow and aching loss, the quick exaltation of gifts given and received, the light restored after sickness or wrong. You encompass them in your greatness, O Lord; you alone make them small, at rest in the palm of your hand.

Bring us, we pray, into your presence where this pilgrimage of ours will end. Let this Way of the Cross rise up to your throne, and may we even now glimpse our little deaths turned over into life, even as your Son went down among the lost to bring up the prisoners and set them free. Make his way a blessing and guide for us, and grant us grace to be light along this way for those who have wandered away, and to welcome them home, as you have welcomed us.

All this we ask in the name of the One who is Lord of all seasons and days, the Man of Sorrows and Lord of Glory, even Jesus Christ. Amen.