



Station of the Cross

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: May the grace of God,
So rich in mercy and boundless in compassion,
be with your all.

All: **And with your spirit.**





Station of the Cross

1. Jesus' Last Supper

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26: 26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "Take and eat it," he said; "this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it, all of you," he said; 28 "this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

REFLECTION

In receiving the Eucharist faithfully "the Lord leads us to follow his path—that of service, sharing and giving, and that little that we have, the little that we are, if shared, becomes a treasure because the power of God who is love, descends to our poverty and transforms it"

Pope Francis, Feast of Corpus Christi, May 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Do I allow myself to be truly transformed by Christ in the Eucharist?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.

[Refrain: A Trusting Psalm, Kevin Bates]



Station of the Cross

2. Garden of Gethsemane

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26: 36-39

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, and he said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

He went a little farther on, threw himself face downward on the ground, and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want.”

REFLECTION

“In his mercy, he never tires of stretching out his hands to lift us up, to encourage us to continue our journey, to come back and tell him of our weakness, so that he can grant us his strength.”

Pope Francis, On Mercy and Reconciliation, October 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Am I caring in my attitude to those who are suffering or lonely?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.

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3. Before the Sanhedrin

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 14: 58-64

The High Priest stood up in front of them all and questioned Jesus, “Have you no answer to the accusation they bring against you?”

But Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. Again the High Priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?”

“I am,” answered Jesus, “and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!”

The High Priest tore his robes and said, “We don't need any more witnesses! You heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?”

They all voted against him: he was guilty and should be put to death.

REFLECTION

I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think – and I say it with humility – that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy.

Pope Francis, Homily on March 17, 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

How judgmental am I, are those with different opinions to me unacceptable?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.

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4. Jesus before Pilate

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

All: **Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18: 28,33

Early in the morning Jesus was taken from Caiaphas' house to the governor's palace. The Jewish authorities did not go inside the palace, for they wanted to keep themselves ritually clean, in order to be able to eat the Passover meal. Pilate went back into the palace and called Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world; if my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, my kingdom does not belong here!"

REFLECTION

Unlike the Sanhedrin... Jesus attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear the words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation... God does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. "Great is God's mercy," says the Psalm.

Pope Francis, Angelus – March 17, 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Is mercy a word you hear but do not act with?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



5. Jesus is Scourged

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27: 27-30

Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

REFLECTION

The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised.

Evangelii Gaudium 218

REFLECTION QUESTION

When confronted by those being mistreated by society are you righteously angry or do you simply turn away hoping not to be involved?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



Station of the Cross

6. Jesus Carries His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9: 22-24

“The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, but three days later he will be raised to life.”

And he said to them all, “If you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, take up your cross every day, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it.

REFLECTION

Jesus, with his Cross, walks with us and takes upon himself our fears, our problems, and our sufferings, even to the silence of the deepest and most painful. With the cross, Jesus unites himself to the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenceless. Pope Francis, Stations of the Cross World Youth day 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

When asked to take up your cross is there resentful and complaining or do you see it as part of your journey with Jesus?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.

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7. Jesus is Helped by Simon

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15: 21-22

On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull."

REFLECTION

A small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties. Everyone needs to be touched by the comfort and attraction of God's saving love, which is mysteriously at work in each person, above and beyond their faults and failings.

Evangelii Gaudium 44

REFLECTION QUESTION

Many in this world are asked to carry burdens both physical or psychological are you someone who is willing to reach out to help, to be there for them?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



Station of the Cross

8. Jesus Speaks to the Women.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23: 27-31

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, ‘How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!’ That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Hide us!’ For if such things as these are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

REFLECTION

Speaking to women directly, the Pope said they know “how to show the tender face of God, his mercy, which translates in the availability to give time more than to occupy spaces, to welcome rather than to exclude.”

Pope Francis, 2015

REFLECTION QUESTION

Do you turn the “tender face of Christ” on all those you meet?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



9. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27: 34– 42

Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Save yourself if you are God's Son! Come on down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and the elders made fun of him: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Isn't he the king of Israel? If he will come down off the cross now, we will believe in him!"

REFLECTION

On the cross, Jesus is united with those who are persecuted for their religion, for their beliefs, or simply for the colour of their skin;....The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of all, including our own, Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: 'Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life (cf Jn 3:16)

Pope Francis, Stations of the Cross World Youth day 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Unconditional love requires full acceptance. Are you a person who truly knows Jesus as one who unconditional loves you and do you try to love the way he does?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



10. Jesus and the Good Thief.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: “Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, “Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!”

Jesus said to him, “I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me.”

REFLECTION

“Maybe some of us don't like to say this, but those who are closest to the heart of Jesus, are the biggest sinners, because He looks for them, he calls to all “Come, come!” And when they ask for an explanation, he says: “But, those who have good health do not need a doctor; I have come to heal, to save.”

Pope Francis, October 22, 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

The call is to come to Jesus, how hard is this for you to put aside your needs and follow him?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.

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11. Jesus speaks to Mary and John.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19: 25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

REFLECTION

"How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting faith! And how important grandparents are for family life, for passing on human and religious heritage which is so essential for very society! How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogues, especially with the context of family."

Pope Francis, Angelus July 26 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Are you a good family member? Are the people closest to you accepted and supported by your love?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



12. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15: 33-37

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

Some of the people there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!"

With a loud cry Jesus died.

REFLECTION

Dear friends, let us bring to Christ's Cross our joys, our sufferings and our failures, There we will find a Heart that is open to us and understands us, forgives us, loves us, and calls us to bear this love in our lives, to love each person, each brother and sister, with the same love. Amen!

Pope Francis, Stations of the Cross World Youth day 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Is the appearance you give to all you know and meet one that reflects the loving gift of forgiveness given to you by the death of Jesus?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



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13. Jesus is Buried

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27: 57-61, 65-66

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the tomb. "Take a guard," Pilate told them; "go and make the tomb as secure as you can." So they left and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard on watch.

REFLECTION

"Take away the stone of shame" that is keeping you trapped inside a life that is dead or painful and be raised up again by Christ. Christ doesn't give up in front of the tombs we have built by our choosing evil and death, by our mistakes, our sins," the Pope said. "Jesus call us incessantly to get out of the darkness of the prison we've locked ourselves into by making do with a false, egotistical mediocre life."

Pope Francis, Homily April 6, 2014

REFLECTION QUESTION

What are the things in our lives that lead us into deadly darkness away from God?

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.



14. Jesus is Risen from the Dead

Leader: We adore you, O Christ,
And praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20: 1-6,9

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.

REFLECTION

God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-4)...Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too: and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

Pope Francis-Easter Urbiet Orbi message March 31, 2013

REFLECTION QUESTION

Such joy at the resurrection of Christ. Let us be lifted up to new life through care and understanding of those who most need it.

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us pray:

Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.