

# *The Way of the Cross with St. Paul*

## *Preparatory Prayer*

*Presider* + In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* Amen.

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* Lord our God,  
we are about to walk with Jesus  
on his way of suffering and love.  
Open our hearts and minds to your Spirit  
as we follow in the footsteps of your Son.  
May we come to share  
his courage, his compassion, his forgiveness.  
May this prayer bear fruit in our lives.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
Amen.

*All SING* At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword has passed.

*The First Station*  
*Jesus prays in agony in the Garden of Olives*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Kneeling, Jesus prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. (Luke 22:41-44)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.* (Romans 8:26)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to pray. Help us to trust in the Father's will, / knowing that your Holy Spirit / prays in us. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **O how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blessed  
Of the sole-begotten one!**

*The Second Station*  
*Jesus is betrayed by Judas*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Judas went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" ... And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness." (Luke 22:47-53)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*Our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and... hold your ground.*  
(Ephesians 6:11-13)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to be faithful. / In our  
hours of darkness, / help us to resist the power of  
evil / and to hold fast to our faith in you. In your  
name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Christ above in torment hangs;  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son.**

*The Third Station*  
*Jesus is accused by the Sanhedrin*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Again the high priest asked him and said to him, "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?" Then Jesus answered, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'" At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" And they all condemned him as deserving to die. (Mark 14: 61-64)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath.*  
(Acts 13: 27)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us courage. Help us to  
bear witness to the truth / with gentleness and  
persistence / in all the encounters of our lives. In  
your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear mother to behold?**

*The Fourth Station*  
*Jesus is denied by Peter*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Peter was following at a distance.... Someone saw him and said... "Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean." But Peter said, "My friend, I do not know what you are talking about." Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Luke 22: 54-62)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of  
power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of  
your testimony to our Lord... but bear your share of hard-  
ship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.*  
(2 Timothy 1:7-8)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to see ourselves as we  
really are, / and grant us the gift of tears, / Peter's  
tears of heartfelt repentance. In your name we pray.  
Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that mother's pain untold?**

*The Fifth Station*  
*Jesus is judged by Pilate*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, "Behold, the man!" When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" (John 19: 4-6)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of Saint Paul:  
*We speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (I Cor. 2: 7-8)*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, teach us not to judge those with  
whom we live our lives, / but to learn from you / the  
holiness of silence. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender Child  
All with bloody scourges rent;  
For the sins of his own nation,  
Saw him hang with desolation,  
Till his spirit forth he sent.**

*The Sixth Station*  
*Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (John 19: 1-3)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*A thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12: 7-9)*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to endure. Help us to  
accept our sufferings with patience, / knowing that  
it is in our weakness / that you come to us. In your  
name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **O thou mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
Make my heart with thine accord.**

*The Seventh Station*  
*Jesus carries the cross*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* They took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself, he  
went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in  
Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19: 16-17)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me,  
and I to the world.* (Galatians 6: 14)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to take up our cross /  
and follow after you, / for the way of the cross / is  
the only way to eternal life / in your kingdom. In  
your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ my Lord.**

*The Eighth Station*  
*Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a  
Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the  
father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.  
(Mark 15: 21)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law  
of Christ... Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due  
time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So  
then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all.*  
(Galatians 6:2, 9-10)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to offer our hearts and  
hands in the service of others, / for in serving them,  
/ we are serving you. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Holy mother! pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Savior crucified.**

**Let me share with thee his pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.**

# *The Ninth Station*

## *Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* 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.” (Luke 23: 27-32)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. As Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow.*  
(2 Corinthians 1: 3-7)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us compassion. May we  
feel the pain of others, / and reach out with your  
love / to those who are undergoing trials. In your  
name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.**

*The Tenth Station*  
*Jesus is crucified*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his left, the other on his right. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23: 33-34)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews  
and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews  
and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom  
of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human  
wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human  
strength.* (1 Corinthians 1:23-25)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to forgive. Help us to  
forgive those who have wronged us, and forgive us  
for the times when, by our cruelty or indifference,  
we have crucified you again in our brothers and  
sisters. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **By the Cross with thee to stay;  
There with thee to weep and pray;  
Is all I ask of thee to give.**

**Virgin of all virgins best!  
Listen to my fond request:  
Let me share thy grief divine.**

## *The Eleventh Station*

### *Jesus promises salvation to the good thief*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Presider* Now, one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-42)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:

*If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? (Romans 8: 31-33)*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to hope, / for we believe that nothing on earth or in heaven / can separate us from your love. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Let me, to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death**

*The Twelfth Station*  
*Jesus, Mary, and the beloved disciple*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19: 26-27)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"* (Galatians 4: 4)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to give. When you  
had nothing left to give, / you gave us your Mother  
to be our Mother. Help us to give / and not to  
count the cost. In your name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Wounded with his every wound,  
Steep my soul till it hath swooned  
In his very blood away.**

*The Thirteenth Station*  
*Jesus dies on the cross*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ... Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"  
(Mark 15: 34-39)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.* (Romans 5: 7-8)

*Presider* Our Father...

(STAND)

*All SING* **Virgin, in your love befriend me,  
At the Judgment Day defend me.  
Help me by your constant prayer.**

*The Fourteenth Station*  
*Jesus is laid in the tomb*

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by. (John 19: 40-42)

(KNEEL)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*When they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead.* (Acts 13: 29-30)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to die to self, / and to  
live for you. Grant us the faith and love that  
endure / even when all hope seems lost. In your  
name we pray. Amen.**

(STAND)

*All SING* **Christ, when thou shalt call me hence,  
Be thy mother my defense,  
Be thy Cross my victory.  
While my body here decays,  
May my soul thy goodness praise,  
Safe in Paradise with thee.**

## Concluding Prayer

*Presider* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.  
(GENUFLECT)

*All* **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed  
the world.**

*Presider* After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow.... The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead.'" (Luke 22:41-44)

*Reader* The words of St. Paul:  
*Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.* (Romans 6:3-4)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, / teach us to live. May we who  
have been baptized into your death and resurrec-  
tion / live the new life of love and service / and  
come at last to that kingdom / where you live and  
reign for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Presider* In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**