

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY



Traditionally the stations of the cross is a service which takes place around different parts the church building. The 'stations' are fixed points, usually with an image of Christ's journey to the cross.

This service is for you to read and meditate on either on your own, or as a family group. It is designed for you to take part around your home. It begins at your front door. You could then designate different parts of your home/ garden to conduct the rest of the worship. If that is difficult, then simply follow the service from the comfort of your armchair. Please feel free to engage with this service as you feel appropriate for your setting. You might also like to light a candle which will be extinguished at the end of the service.

The links take you to videos which might help your reflections.

## HYMN

Singing the Faith 284 - There is a green hill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0ybUpuLn8M>

There is a green hill far away,  
outside a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear,  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven.  
He died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*



## THE FIRST STATION

**Jesus on the Mount of Olives** - Matthew 26:36-41 (NRSV)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'<sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'<sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?'<sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;\* the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

# THE SECOND STATION

## Jesus, betrayed by Judas, Is Arrested - Mark 14:43-46 (NRSV)

<sup>43</sup>Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' <sup>45</sup>So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.



Lord Jesus Christ,  
from human hearts you experienced betrayal and abandonment.  
Have mercy on us.

## HYMN

Singing the Faith 141 - Abide with me  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deJDkU6qiGE>

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness; where  
is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's  
joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine  
through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like myself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

## THE THIRD STATION

### **Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin** - Luke 22:66-71 (NRSV)

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. <sup>67</sup>They said, 'If you are the Messiah,\* tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup>and if I question you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' <sup>70</sup>All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them, 'You say that I am.' <sup>71</sup>Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

### **Peter Denies Jesus** - Matthew 26:69-75 (NRSV)

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' <sup>71</sup>When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.\*' <sup>72</sup>Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

## THE FOURTH STATION



Lord Jesus Christ,  
in human words, you heard arrogance.  
Have mercy on us.

## THE FIFTH STATION

### **Jesus is Judged by Pilate** - Mark 15:1-5 (NRSV)

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.



# THE SIXTH STATION

## Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns - John 19:1-3 (NRSV)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,\* and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' <sup>30</sup>They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

## Jesus Takes Up the Cross - John 19:6, 15-17 (NRSV)

<sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' <sup>15</sup>They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew

# THE SEVENTH STATION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in human eyes, you saw shame.  
Have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

# HYMN

Singing the Faith 361 (Verses 4-5) - Man of sorrows  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJD0inO-vI4>

Lifted up was he to die;  
'It is finished!' was his cry;  
now in heaven exalted high:  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!

When he comes, our glorious King,  
all his ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we'll sing:  
Alleluia! What a Saviour!

*Philipp Paul Bliss (1838-1876)*

## Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross - Mark 15:21 (NRSV)

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

# THE EIGHTH STATION



# THE NINTH STATION

## Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem - Luke 23:27-31 (NRSV)

<sup>27</sup>A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." <sup>31</sup>For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

## Jesus is Crucified - Luke 23:32-34 (NRSV)

<sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

# THE TENTH STATION



Lord Jesus Christ, in human hands you found violence. Have mercy on us.

# HYMN

Singing the Faith 285 - Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4B72Ff3KAY>

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when God raised him from the dead? Were you there when God raised him from the dead?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
were you there when God raised him from the dead?

*African-American traditional song*

## THE ELEVENTH STATION

**Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief** - Luke 23:39-43 (NRSV)

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding\* him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah?' Save yourself and us!' <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' <sup>42</sup>Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into\* your kingdom.' <sup>43</sup>He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Lord Jesus Christ, in our sinfulness, remember us in your Kingdom. Have mercy on us.  
Lord have mercy on us.

# LISTEN

Jesus remember me  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6tVReXsioM>

**Jesus on the Cross, His Mother, and His Disciple**- John 19:25-27 (NRSV)

And that is what the soldiers did.  
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## THE TWELFTH STATION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in human actions, you experienced deep disdain.  
Have mercy on us.  
Lord have mercy on us.

# LISTEN

When I survey – Tim Hughes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=889jL3TsBsU>

## THE THIRTEENTH STATION

**Jesus Dies on the Cross** - Luke 23:44-46 (NRSV)

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land\* until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed,\* and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.



**Jesus is Placed in the Tomb** - Matthew 27:57-60 (NRSV)

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

## THE FOURTEENTH STATION





In the darkness of this hour we are blessed  
In the hope of this hour we are blessed.  
Walk with us Lord in this darkness,  
Until we meet the risen Lord  
And rejoice.  
Amen