

# Stations of the Cross



+ An Ancient Lenten Devotion +

With Reflections by John Henry Cardinal Newman

## FOREWORD

Tracing the footsteps of Our Blessed Lord as He walked the Way of Sorrows, whether at the actual sites, in our Churches, or privately with crucifix in hand, can be of great devotional help in meditation on, and participation in, those mighty whereby Jesus obtained for us our salvation. The devotions contained within are in keeping with the directive of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*no. 13*) that popular devotions seek to reflect the Liturgy of the Church. This version of the Stations of the Cross contains the two emphases upon Holy Scripture and Liturgical Prayer. May every grace be ours, as we walk the Way of the Cross with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Preparation at the Altar

### JESUS IS BETRAYED

In the Name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen*

**THE READING:** (St. Mark 14:26, 32, 45; St. Luke 22:41-42; St. John 18:12-13)

They went out into the Mount of Olives. And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane. And Jesus was withdrawn from the disciples about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done... As soon as Judas was come, he goeth straightway to Jesus, and saith, Master, Master: and kissed him. Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, and led him away.

Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation that we may enter with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given unto us life and immortality; through

Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come, thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven:

**R.** *Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

**V.** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus:

**R.** *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

**V.** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

**R.** *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

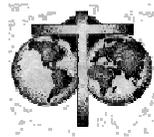
**V.** Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

**R.** *Have mercy upon us.*

**V.** May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**R.** *Amen.*

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

## Stations of the Cross

### The First Station



Jesus is Condemned to Death

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Mark 14:61-64)

The high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am... And then all condemned him to be guilty of death.

**V.** Oh my people, what have I done unto thee, or wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against me.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; Mercifully grant that we, walking the Way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

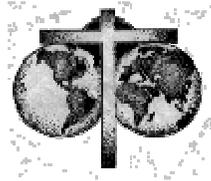
**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

Leaving the House of Caiphas, and dragged before Pilate and Herod, mocked, beaten, and spit upon, His back torn with scourges, His head crowned with thorns, Jesus, who on the last day will judge the world, is Himself condemned by unjust judges to a death of ignominy and torture.

Jesus is condemned to death. His death warrant is signed, and who signed it but I, when I committed my first mortal sins? My first mortal sins, when I fell away from the state of grace into which Thou didst place me by baptism; these it was that were Thy death warrant, O Lord. The innocent suffered for the guilty. Those sins of mine were the voices which cried out, "Let Him be crucified." That willingness and delight of heart with which I committed them was the consent which Pilate gave to this clamorous multitude. And the hardness of heart which followed upon them, my disgust, my despair, my proud impatience, my obstinate resolve to sin on, the love of sin which took possession of me--what were these contrary and impetuous feelings but the blows and the blasphemies with which the fierce soldiers and the populace received Thee, thus carrying out the sentence which Pilate had pronounced?

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in  
blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest  
iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

## Stations of the Cross

### The Second Station



### Jesus Receives the Cross

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (genuflect)

**R.** *Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

**THE READING:** (St. John 19:14-17)

Pilate saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priest answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth...

**V.** Because I brought thee forth from the land of Egypt, thou hast prepared a cross for thy Savior.

**R.** *Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.*

Let us pray:

O God, who by the passion of thy blessed Son didst make an instrument of shameful death to be unto us the means of life: Grant us to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

**Reflection:**

A strong, and therefore heavy Cross, for it is strong enough to bear Him on it when He arrives at Calvary, is placed upon His torn shoulders. He receives it gently and meekly, nay, with gladness of heart, for it is to be the salvation of mankind.

True; but recollect, that heavy Cross is the weight of our sins. As it fell upon His neck and shoulders, it came down with a shock. Alas! what a sudden, heavy weight have I laid upon Thee, O Jesus. And, though in the calm and clear foresight of Thy mind--for Thou seest all things--Thou wast fully prepared for it, yet Thy feeble frame tottered under it when it dropped down upon Thee. Ah! how great a misery is it that I have lifted up my hand against my God. How could I ever fancy He would forgive me! unless He had Himself told us that He underwent His bitter passion in order that He might forgive us. I acknowledge, O Jesus, and anguish in the agony of my heart, that my sins it was that struck Thee on the face, that bruised Thy sacred arms, that tore Thy flesh with iron rods, that nailed Thee to the Cross, and let Thee slowly die upon it.

*Sing my tongue the glorious battle  
Sing the winning of the fray:  
Now above the cross, the trophy,*



*Sound the high triumphal lay:  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
As a Victim won the day.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The  
Third  
Station**



**Jesus  
Falls the  
First Time**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. John 15:18-20)

Jesus said to his disciples: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hated you. Remember the word that I said unto you: The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

**V.** Because I led thee through the desert forty years, and fed thee with manna, and brought thee into a land exceeding good: thou hast prepared a cross for thy Savior.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who hast given thy Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

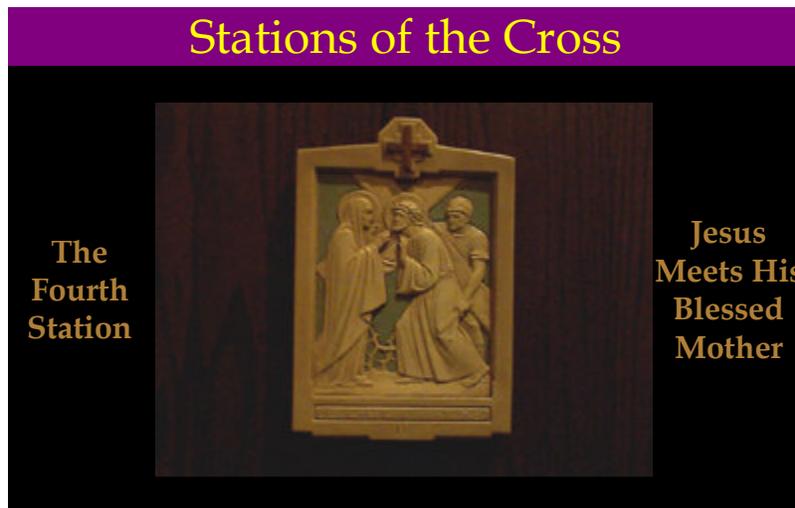
Jesus, bowed down under the weight and the length of the unwieldy Cross, which trailed after Him, slowly sets forth on His way, amid the mockeries and insults of the crowd. His agony in the Garden itself was sufficient to exhaust Him; but it was only the first of a multitude of sufferings. He sets off with His whole heart, but His limbs fail Him, and He falls.

Yes, it is as I feared. Jesus, the strong and mighty Lord, has found for the moment our sins stronger than Himself. He falls--yet He bore the load for a while; He tottered, but He bore up and walked onwards. What, then, made Him give way? I say, I repeat, it is an intimation and a memory to thee, O my soul, of thy falling back into mortal sin. I repented of the sins of my youth, and went on well for a time; but at length a new temptation came, when I was off my guard, and I suddenly fell away. Then all my good habits seemed to go at once; they were like a garment which is stripped off, so quickly and utterly did grace depart from me. And at that moment I looked at my Lord, and lo! He had fallen down, and I covered my face with my hands, and remained in a state of great confusion.

*God in pity saw man fallen,  
Shamed and sunk in misery,  
When he fell on death by tasting*



*Fruit of the forbidden tree:  
That another Tree was chosen  
Which the world from death would free.*



**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (genuflect)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. John 19:25-27)

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

**V.** What more could I have done unto thee that I have not done? I indeed did plant thee, O my vinyard, with exceeding fair fruit: and thou art become very bitter unto me.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O God, the King of Saints, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear; for the Blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all thy other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our

Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

Jesus rises; though wounded by His fall, He journeys on, with His Cross still on His shoulders. He is bent down; but at one place, looking up, He sees His Mother. For an instant they just see each other, and He goes forward.

Mary would rather have had all His sufferings herself, could that have been, than not have known what they were by ceasing to be near Him. He, too, gained a refreshment, as from some soothing and grateful breath of air, to see her sad smile amid the sights and the noises which were about Him. She had known Him beautiful and glorious, with the freshness of Divine Innocence and peace upon His countenance; now she saw Him so changed and deformed that she could scarce have recognized Him, save for the piercing, thrilling, peace-inspiring look He gave her. Still, He was now carrying the load of the world's sins, and, all-holy though He was, He carried the image of them on His very face. He looked like some outcast or outlaw who had frightful guilt upon Him. He had been made sin for us, who knew no sin; not a feature, not a limb, but spoke of guilt, of a curse, of punishment, of agony.

Oh, what a meeting of Son and Mother! Yet there was a mutual comfort, for there was a mutual sympathy. Jesus and Mary--do they forget that Passion-tide through all eternity?

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The Fifth  
Station**



**The Cross  
is Laid  
Upon  
Simon of  
Cyrene**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Mark 15:16, 20-22)

The soldiers...led him out to crucify him. And they compel one Simon, a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. And they bring him unto a place Golgatha, which is, being interpreted, The place of the skull.

**V.** I did scourge Egypt with her first-born for thy sake, and thou hast scourged me and delivered me up.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption; Give us courage, we beseech thee, to take up our cross and follow him, even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

At length His strength fails utterly, and He is unable to proceed. The executioners stand perplexed. What are they to do? How is He to get to Calvary? Soon they see a stranger who seems strong and active-- Simon of Cyrene. They seize on him, and compel him to carry the Cross with Jesus. The sight of the Sufferer pierces the man's heart. Oh, what a privilege! O happy soul, elect of God! he takes the part assigned to him with joy.

This came of Mary's intercession. *He* prayed, not for Himself, except that He might drink the full chalice of suffering and do His Father's will; but *she* showed herself a mother by following Him with her prayers, since she could help Him in no other way. She then sent this stranger to help Him. It was she who led the soldiers to see that they might be too fierce with Him. Sweet Mother, even \*do\* the like to us. Pray for us ever, Holy Mother of God, pray for us, whatever be our cross, as we pass along on our way. Pray for us, and we shall rise again, though we have fallen. Pray for us when sorrow, anxiety, or sickness comes upon us. Pray for us when we are prostrate under the power of temptation, and send some faithful servant of thine to succour us. And in the world to come, if found worthy to expiate our sins in the fiery prison, send some good Angel to give us a season of refreshment. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God.

*Thus the scheme of our salvation  
Was of old in order laid,  
That the manifold deceiver's*



*Art by Art might be outweighed;  
And the lure the foe put forward  
Into means of healing made.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The Sixth  
Station**



**Veronica  
Wipes the  
Face of  
Jesus**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: *(genuflect)*

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Matthew 24:8, 9, 30, 40-41)

Jesus said unto his disciples, All these are the beginning of sorrows, Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my Name's sake. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

**V.** I led thee forth out of Egypt, drowning Pharoah in the Red Sea, and thou hast delivered me up to the chief priests.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days: that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world; in favor with thee our God, and in perfect

charity with the world; all of which we as through Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

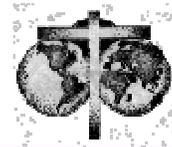
**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

As Jesus toils along up the hill, covered with the sweat of death, a woman makes her way through the crowd, and wipes His face with a napkin. In reward of her piety the cloth retains the impression of the Sacred Countenance upon it.

The relief which a Mother's tenderness secured is not yet all she did. Her prayers sent Veronica as well as Simon--Simon to do a man's work, Veronica to do the part of a woman. The devout servant of Jesus did what she could. As Magdalen had poured the ointment at the Feast, so Veronica now offered Him this napkin in His passion. "Ah," she said, "would I could do more! Why have I not the strength of Simon, to take part in the burden of the Cross? But men only can serve the Great High Priest, now that He is celebrating the solemn act of sacrifice." O Jesus! let us one and all minister to Thee according to our places and powers. And as Thou didst accept from Thy followers refreshment in Thy hour of trial, so give to us the support of Thy grace when we are hard pressed by our Foe. I feel I cannot bear up against temptation, weariness, despondency, and sin. I say to myself, what is the good of being religious? I shall fall, O my dear Saviour, I shall certainly fall, unless Thou dost renew for me my vigor like the eagle's, and breathe life into me by the soothing application and the touch of the Holy Sacraments which Thou hast appointed.

*Therefore when th' appointed fullness  
Of the holy time was come,  
He was sent, who maketh all things,*



*Forth from God's eternal home;  
Thus he came to earth, incarnate,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The  
Seventh  
Station**



**Jesus  
Falls the  
Second  
Time**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (Isaiah 53:3, 5-6)

He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**V.** I did open the sea before thee: and thou hast opened my side with a spear.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death: Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; for thy tender mercies' sake (who livest and reignest with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

The pain of His wounds and the loss of blood increasing at every step of His way, again His limbs fail Him, and He falls on the ground.

What has He done to deserve all this? This is the reward received by the long-expected Messiahs from the Chosen People, the Children of Israel. I know what to answer. He falls because I have fallen. I have fallen again. I know well that without Thy grace, O Lord, I could not stand; and I fancied that I had kept closely to Thy Sacraments; yet in spite of my going to Mass and to my duties, I am out of grace again. Why is it but because I have lost my devotional spirit, and have come to Thy holy ordinances in a cold, formal way, without inward affection. I have become lukewarm, tepid. I thought the battle of life was over, and became secure. I had no lively faith, no sight of spiritual things. I came to church from habit, and because I thought others would observe it. I ought to be a new creature, I ought to live by faith, hope and charity; but I thought more of this world than the world to come--and at last I forgot that I was a servant of God, and followed the broad way that leadeth to destruction, not the narrow way which leadeth to life. And thus I fell from Thee.

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

## Stations of the Cross



**The  
Eighth  
Station**

**Jesus  
Greeted the  
Holy  
Women**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: *(genuflect)*

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Luke 23:27-28, 31)

There followed him a great company of people, and of women which bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus, turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in a dry?

**V.** I did go before thee in the pillar of cloud, and thou hast led me unto the judgment hall of Pilate.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

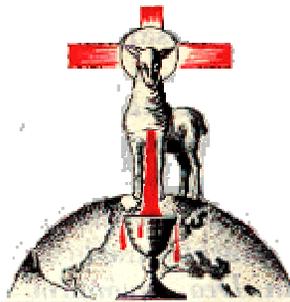
**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

At the sight of the sufferings of Jesus the Holy Women are so pierced with grief that they cry out and bewail Him, careless what happens to them by so doing. Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not over Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Ah! can it be, O Lord, that I shall prove one of those sinful children for whom Thou biddest their mothers to weep. "Weep not for Me," He said, "for I am the Lamb of God, and am making atonement at My own will for the sins of the world. I am suffering now, but I shall triumph; and, when I triumph, those souls for whom I am dying, will either be my dearest friends or my deadliest enemies." Is it possible? O my Lord, can I grasp the terrible thought that Thou really didst weep for me--weep for me, as Thou didst weep over Jerusalem? Is it possible that I am one of the reprobate? possible that I shall lose by Thy passion and death, not gain by it? Oh, withdraw not from me. I am in a very bad way. I have so much evil in me. I have so little of an earnest, brave spirit to set against that evil. O Lord, what will become of me? It is so difficult for me to drive away the Evil Spirit from my heart. Thou alone canst effectually cast him out.

*Thirty years he dwelt among us,  
His appointed time fulfilled;  
Born for this he met his passion,*



*This the Savior freely willed:  
On the cross the Lamb was lifted,  
Where his Precious Blood was spilled.*

**Stations of the Cross**

**The  
Ninth  
Station**



**Jesus  
Falls a  
Third  
Time**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (genuflect)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (Hebrews 10:10, 19-23)

We are sanctified through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the Blood of Jesus, by a new and living way... that is to say, his Flesh; and having an high priest over the House of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.

**V.** I did feed thee with manna in the desert, and thou hast stricken me with blows and scourges.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy precious death and passion; Grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption (who livest and reignest with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

Jesus had now reached almost to the top of Calvary; but, before He had gained the very spot where He was to be crucified, again He fell, and is again dragged up and goaded onwards by the brutal soldiery.

We are told in Holy Scripture of three falls of Satan, the Evil Spirit. The first was in the beginning; the second, when the Gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven were preached to the world; the third will be at the end of all things. The first is told us by St. John the Evangelist. He says: "There was a great battle in heaven. Michael and his Angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought, and his angels. And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And that great dragon was cast out, the old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan." The second fall, at the time of the Gospel, is spoken of by our Lord when He says, "I saw Satan, like lightning, falling from heaven." And the third by the same St. John: "There came down fire from God out of heaven, ... and the devil ... was cast into the pool of fire and brimstone."

These three falls--the past, the present, and the future--the Evil Spirit had in mind when he moved Judas to betray Our Lord. This was just his hour. Our Lord, when He was seized, said to His enemies, "This is your hour and the power of darkness." Satan knew his time was short, and thought he might use it to good effect. But little dreaming that he would be acting in behalf of the world's redemption, which our Lord's passion and death were to work out, in revenge, and, as he thought, in triumph, he smote Him once, he smote Him twice, he smote Him thrice, each successive time a heavier blow. The weight of the Cross, the barbarity of the soldiers and the crowd, were but his instruments. O Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, the Word Incarnate, we praise, adore, and love Thee for Thy ineffable condescension, even to allow Thyself thus for a time to fall into the hands and under the power of the Enemy of God and man, in order thereby to save us from being his servants and companions for eternity.

Or this, This is the worst fall of the three. His strength has for a while utterly failed Him, and it is some time before the barbarous soldiers can bring Him to. Ah! it was His anticipation of what was to happen to me. I get worse and worse. He sees the end from the beginning. He was thinking of me all the time He dragged Himself along, up the Hill of Calvary. He saw that I should fall again in spite of all former warnings and former assistance. He saw that I should become secure and self-confident, and that my enemy would then assail me with some new temptation, to which I never thought I should be exposed. I thought my weakness lay all on one particular side which I knew. I had not a dream that I was not strong on the other. And so Satan came down on my unguarded side, and got the better of me from my self-trust and self-satisfaction. I was wanting in humility. I thought no harm would come on me, I thought I had outlived the danger of sinning; I thought it was an easy thing to get to heaven, and I was not watchful. It was my pride, and so I fell a third time.

*He endured the nails, the spitting,  
Vinegar, and spear, and reed;  
From that holy Body broken*



*Blood and water forth proceed:  
Earth and stars and sky and ocean  
By that flood from stain are freed.*

## Stations of the Cross



**The  
Tenth  
Station**

**Jesus is  
Stripped  
of His  
Raiment**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (genuflect)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (Hebrews 10:10, 19-23)

They gave Jesus vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

**V.** I did give thee to drink the water of life from the rock: and thou hast given me to drink but gall and vinegar.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smitters and hid not his face from shame; Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

At length He has arrived at the place of sacrifice, and they begin to prepare Him for the Cross. His garments are torn from His bleeding body, and He, the Holy of Holiest, stands exposed to the gaze of the coarse and scoffing multitude.

O Thou who in Thy Passion wast stripped of all Thy clothes, and held up to the curiosity and mockery of the rabble, strip me of myself here and now, that in the Last Day I come not to shame before men and Angels. Thou didst endure the shame on Calvary, that I might be spared the shame of the Judgment. Thou hadst nothing to be ashamed of personally, and the shame which Thou didst feel was because Thou hadst taken on Thee man's nature. When they took from Thee Thy garments, those innocent limbs of Thine were but objects of humble and loving adoration to the highest Seraphim. They stood around in speechless awe, wondering at Thy beauty, and they trembled at Thy infinite self-abasement. But I, O Lord, how shall I appear if thou shalt hold me up hereafter to be gazed upon, stripped of that robe of grace which is Thine, and seen in my own personal life and nature? O how hideous I am in myself, even in my best estate. Even when I am cleansed from my mortal sins, what disease and corruption is seen even in my venial sins. How shall I be fit for the society of Angels, how for Thy presence, until Thou burnest this foul leprosy away in the fire of Purgatory?

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

**Stations of the Cross**



**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Luke 23:33-34; St. John 19:19)

When they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do... And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

**V.** I did smite the kings of the Canaanites for thy sake, and thou hast smitten my head with a reed.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the Cross, that he might draw the whole world unto himself; Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

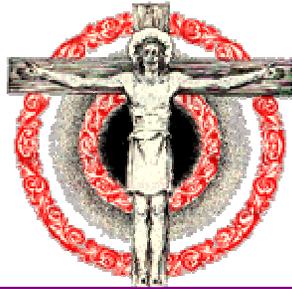
**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

The Cross is laid on the ground, and Jesus stretched upon it, and then, swaying heavily to and fro, it is, after much exertion, jerked into the hole ready to receive it. Or, as others think, it is set upright, and Jesus is raised up and fastened to it. As the savage executioners drive in the huge nails, He offers Himself to the Eternal Father, as a ransom for the world. The blows are struck--the blood gushes forth.

Yes, they set up the Cross on high, and they placed a ladder against it, and, having stripped Him of His garments, made Him mount. With His hands feebly grasping its sides and cross-woods, and His feet slowly, uncertainly, with much effort, with many slips, mounting up, the soldiers propped Him on each side, or He would have fallen. When he reached the projection where His sacred feet were to be, He turned round with sweet modesty and gentleness towards the fierce rabble, stretching out His arms, as if He would embrace them. Then He lovingly placed the backs of His hands close against the transverse beam, waiting for the executioners to come with their sharp nails and heavy hammers to dig into the palms of His hands, and to fasten them secure to the wood. There He hung, a perplexity to the multitude, a terror to evil spirits, the wonder, the awe, yet the joy, the adoration of the Holy Angels.

*Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory!  
Thy relaxing sinews bend;  
For a while the ancient rigor*



*That thy birth bestowed, suspend;  
And the King of heavenly beauty  
On thy bosom gently tend!*

## Stations of the Cross

**The  
Twelfth  
Station**



**Jesus Dies  
on the  
Cross**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. Matthew 27:45-46; St. John 19:28, 30)

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (*all kneel*)

**V.** I did give thee a royal scepter, and thou hast given unto my head a crown of thorns.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross (who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

Jesus hung for three hours. During this time He prayed for His murderers, promised Paradise to the penitent robber, and committed His Blessed Mother to the guardianship of St. John. Then all was finished, and He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.

The worst is over. The Holiest is dead and departed. The most tender, the most affectionate, the holiest of the sons of men is gone. Jesus is dead, and with His death my sins shall die. I protest once for all, before men and Angels, that sin shall no more have dominion over me. This Lent I make myself God's own for ever. The salvation of my soul shall be my first concern. With the aid of His grace I will create in me a deep hatred and sorrow for my past sins. I will try hard to detest sin, as much as I have ever loved it. Into God's hands I put myself, not by halves, but unreservedly. I promise Thee, O Lord, with the help of Thy grace, to keep out of the way of temptation, to avoid all occasions of sin, to turn at once from the voice of the Evil One, to be regular in my prayers, so to die to sin that Thou mayest not have died for me on the Cross in vain.

*Thou alone was counted worthy  
This world's Ransom to uphold,  
For a shipwrecked race preparing*



*Harbor, like the Ark of old,  
With the Sacred Blood anointed  
From the smitten Lamb that rolled.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The  
Thirteenth  
Station**



**Jesus is  
Taken  
Down  
From the  
Cross**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. John 19:33-34, 38)

When the soldiers came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. After this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

**V.** I did raise thee on high with great powers, and thou hast hanged me on the gibbet of the cross.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

The multitude have gone home; Calvary is left solitary and still, except that St. John and the holy women are there. Then come Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, and take down from the Cross the body of Jesus, and place it in the arms of Mary.

O Mary, at last thou hast possession of thy Son. Now, when His enemies can do no more, they leave Him in contempt to thee. As His unexpected friends perform their difficult work, thou lookest on with unspeakable thoughts. Thy heart is pierced with the sword of which Simeon spoke. O Mother most sorrowful; yet in thy sorrow there is a still greater joy. The joy in prospect nerved thee to stand by Him as He hung upon the Cross; much more now, without swooning, without trembling, thou dost receive Him to thy arms and on thy lap. Now thou art supremely happy as having Him, though He comes to thee not as He went from thee. He went from thy home, O Mother of God, in the strength and beauty of His manhood, and He comes back to thee dislocated, torn to pieces, mangled, dead. Yet, O Blessed Mary, thou art happier in this hour of woe than on the day of the marriage feast, for then He was leaving thee, and now in the future, as a Risen Saviour, He will be separated from thee no more.

*Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom*



*None in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron!  
Sweetest weight is hung on the.*

## Stations of the Cross

**The  
Fourteenth  
Station**



**Jesus is  
Laid in  
the  
Tomb**

**V.** We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: (*genuflect*)

**R.** Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

**THE READING:** (St. John 19:40-42)

Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre wherein never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus.

**V.** O my people, what have I done unto thee, or wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against me.

**R.** Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy passion, cross, and death between thy judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory (who livest and reignest with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us:

**R.** Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

**Reflection:**

But for a short three days, for a day and a half--Mary then must give Him up. He is not yet risen. His friends and servants take Him from thee, and place Him in an honorable tomb. They close it safely, till the hour comes for His resurrection.

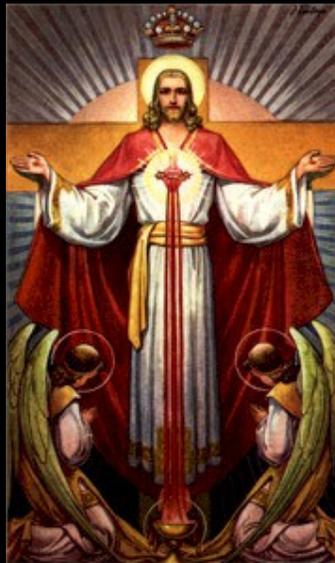
Lie down and sleep in peace in the calm grave for a little while, dear Lord, and then wake up for an everlasting reign. We, like the faithful women, will watch around Thee, for all our treasure, all our life, is lodged with Thee. And, when our turn comes to die, grant, sweet Lord, that we may sleep calmly too, the sleep of the just. Let us sleep peacefully for the brief interval between death and the general resurrection. Guard us from the enemy, save us from the pit. Let our friends remember us and pray for us, O dear Lord. Let Masses be said for us, so that the pains of Purgatory, so much deserved by us, and therefore so truly welcomed by us, may be over with little delay. Give us seasons of refreshment there; wrap us round with holy dreams and soothing contemplations, while we gather strength to ascend the heavens. And then let our faithful guardian Angels help us up the glorious ladder, reaching from earth to heaven, which Jacob saw in vision. And when we reach the everlasting gates, let them open upon us with the music of Angels; and let St. Peter receive us, and our Lady, the glorious Queen of Saints, embrace us, and bring us to Thee, and to Thy Eternal Father, and to Thy Co-equal Spirit, Three Persons, One God, to reign with Them for ever and ever.

*To the Trinity be glory  
Everlasting, as is meet:  
Equal to the Father, equal*



*To the Son, and Paraclete:  
God the Three in One, whose praises  
All created things repeat. Amen.*

## Stations of the Cross



## Concluding Prayer

Let us pray:

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy; Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord (who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end). *Amen.*

**V.** May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**R.** *Amen.*