

# **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

A good way of observing Holy Week is to walk the Stations of the Cross. This is a quiet devotion that brings us to the solemnity of Holy Week. Traditionally one walks pausing twelve times. When we've done this at St Martins, we walked through the nave and chancel, stopping at twelve stations. At each station there was a reading, a prayer and, as we moved, we listened and sang along to the beautiful Taize chant '*Jesus Remember Me*

This year we won't be able to walk the stations at St Martin's but this is a lovely quiet service that can be done anywhere. It's best done about 7 or 7:30 just about the time that the sun is setting and evening is coming on. You may do it once during Holy Week, every evening or anything in between.

This year, I walked around the church carrying all of you with me as I paused. You'll find that record service on YouTube. You may join in or just listen. If you'd rather you don't need the video; you can walk or read the stations alone or with your household. You could even 'journey' around your house, apartment or yard.

If you choose to walk or read the stations yourself there are two ways:

### **Sitting**

It is important to find a quiet comfortable space. Light a candle or two. Before you begin, take a moment to collect your thoughts and slow your breath. If you are alone, say aloud the prayer, pause, read aloud the reading. If you are with others, divide up the readings and prayers. At the end of each station, take a moment and if you are able play (on your device) or sing a couple of rounds of '*Jesus Remember me*'.

### **Walking**

If you chose to make this a walking devotion, gather and take a moment to find quiet. Begin the first station where you gather. The subsequent stations could be a circle around the yard or apartment or a journey through the rooms of your house. If you are alone, read through the prayer and reading. If you are sharing this with others, divide them up. As you move between 'stations' sing '*Jesus Remember me*'

## OPENING PRAYER

Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit down here, while I go over yonder and pray." Then he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them, "My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with me." He went forward a little, and falling prostrate he prayed, saying, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; yet not as I will but as you will." (*Mt. 26, 36 to 39*)

(Let us pray)

**Almighty and eternal Father, accept our prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son, our Saviour and Lord. As we recall his Sacred Passion send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, we beg You, so that whether we pray or work we might do all /In union with Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

### **1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Again the high priest began to ask him, and said to him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said to him, "I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and Coming with the clouds of heaven," But 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 liable to death. (*Mark 14:61-64*)

(Let us pray)

**All-powerful and eternal God, for proclaiming the truth your Son, Jesus Christ, is condemned to death by crucifixion. Stir up your love in our hearts so that we might be ever faithful to all that You have told us and fear nothing more than the loss of your friendship through sin. Amen**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **2. JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

And Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!" But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. And so they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself. (*John 19:14-17*)

(Let us pray)

**Father in heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ, still carries his Cross in his persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Make us feel the needs of all persons so that we might as readily help them as we would help Jesus himself. Amen**

♪ *Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **3. JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love what is its own. Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also. (*John 15:18-20*)

(Let us pray)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread**

♪ ♪ *Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

#### **4. JESUS IS MET BY HIS BLESSED MOTHER**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple standing by, 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 19:25-27)

(Let us pray)

**O blessed Lord, at your passion a sword of sorrow pierced the loving heart of your mother as Simeon had foretold. Grant that we who look back on her sorrows with compassion might receive the healing fruits of your sufferings. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

#### **5. THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning "the place of the skull." (Mt. 15:20-22)

(Let us pray)

**Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **6. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

"Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?" And answering the king will say to them, "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me." (Mt. 25:37-40)

(Let us pray)

**Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Give us, we beg You, the courage and dedication to sacrifice and suffer with those who are in need, the least of your people. Amen**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **7. JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

It was our weaknesses that he carried, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one struck by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. (Is. 53:4-6)

(Let us pray)

**Lord Jesus Christ, You shared in our weaknesses and accepted our guilt. Grant us the favor of rejoicing over our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all others. Amen**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **8. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me but weep for yourselves and for your children." (*Luke 23:27-28*)

(Let us pray)

**Beloved Jesus, with tears of pity these women of Jerusalem responded to You, broken, bruised, and beaten, on the road to Calvary. Deepen our faith, we beg You, so that we may see You in our brothers and sisters, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **9. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me with your words.

(Let us pray)

**Almighty and eternal God, You permitted your Son to be weakened, crushed, and profaned so that He might rise from the dead freed from the ravages of sin. Help us to accept our weaknesses and failings as forerunners of our glorious resurrection in union with your Son. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **10. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it, He would not drink. Then, after they had crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garment they cast lots." (Mt. 27:34-35)

(Let us pray)

**Lord Jesus Christ, stripped of everything, You stood exposed to the jeers and contempt of the people whom You loved. Clothe us with genuine love of others, so that nothing we suffer may ever fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:33-35; John 19:18)

(Let us pray)

**Lord and Saviour. You have told us that we too must accept crucifixion if we are to accept resurrection with You. Help us to rejoice in the sufferings that come with the fulfillment of our daily duties, seeing in them the royal road of the cross to resurrection. Amen.**

*♪ Jesus remember me as you go into your kingdom*

## **12. JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then, bowing his head, he died. (*Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30b*)

*Please Kneel or bow your head*

(Let us pray)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 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**

*Please observe a moment silence, pausing or sitting quietly*