Stations of the Cross
*Bold print = All

Opening Prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Our Father, who art in heaven...Amen.

We will glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:
In whom is our salvation, our life, and our resurrection.

Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you O Christ and we bless you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A Syrian government soldier walks in the damaged al-Farafira souk in the government-held side of Aleppo’s historic city center. Let us meditate on this station and on all those throughout God’s creation who are sentenced to die each day. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: Who are the condemned in our own backyard/in the world? Who condemns them and why? Do we have an obligation to stand up for them? Why, why not? How can we stand up for them? Does the image for this station speak to you? How? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
2. Second Station: Jesus carries his cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Syrian refugees cross the border near Sanliurfa in Turkey. Jesus, who willingly took up the Cross for humanity’s sake, also commanded us to take up our own crosses and follow him. Let us meditate on Jesus’ command and this second station. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: What cross have you been carrying lately? What crosses do you see others close by and far away bear? How have you helped others bear their cross? Does the image for this station speak to you? Why, why not? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

3. Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Search and rescue team members carry a man after Syrian regime airstrikes targeted the Meshed neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria. Let us meditate on this station. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: How/where have you fallen short lately (especially in relation to others)? What crushing burdens do people close to you face? What burdens does humanity and the planet face? Does the image for this station speak to you? How? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): O God, to free us from sin and weakness your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced his fearful passion and crucifixion. Strengthen us to our baptismal resolutions by which we renounced sin and Satan, so that through the passion of this...
life's sufferings we might rise to a new life of joyful service free of all selfishness. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

4. **Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother**

![Image](image1.jpg)

We adore you O Christ and we bless you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A Syrian refugee cleans a boy's face outside a tent at Bab al-Salam refugee camp in Azaz, near the Syrian-Turkish border. Jesus tells us: ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.’ Let us meditate on how we comfort people and on this station. [Silence]

**Reflection Questions:** Who do you ‘parent’ in your life? Does anyone ‘parent’ you? Who do you make sacrifices for? Who has made sacrifices for you? What is of recent note in these relationships? What have you learned from your mother (or others) about comforting those who hurt and about making sacrifices for others? How does the image for this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

5. **Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross**

![Image](image2.jpg)

We adore you O Christ and we bless you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Syrian refugees cross the border into the Kurdish region of northern Iraq—where they find temporary refuge. Let us meditate on what it means to help someone carry their cross. [Silence]
Reflection Questions: Who have been your ‘Simons’ in your life? Who most recently? What burden(s) did they help you with? How have you been a ‘Simon’ to someone recently? How can we help people ‘cross borders’ (literally & figuratively)? How does the image for this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

6. Sixth Station: 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.

Amjad Al-Saleh, whose family fled their home in Marea due to Syrian government shelling, is comforted by his mother as they take refuge at the Bab-Al Salamed border crossing, in hopes of entering one of the refugee camps in Turkey. Let us meditate on this station. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: What holds you back from reaching out to others in need? How have you welcomed the stranger? How and where have you managed to be a participant rather than a spectator? Have you observed someone else making the transition from spectator to participant? How does the image for this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
7. Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A boy collects items amidst the rubble of destroyed buildings on October 3, 2016, following air strikes in Douma, Syria. Let us meditate on this station, on perseverance, and the will to survive. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: How is your level of perseverance? Do you easily quit when things get difficult? What can you (or do you do) to help yourself keep going? Whose tenacity do you admire? How does the image for this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

8. Eighth Station: 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.

Syrian refugee women and children cross into Jordan from southern Syria. Let us meditate on this station and on women in our lives who carry the burdens of and for others. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: What has been your personal experience with gender inequality? Who has noticed when you were ‘broken’ in life? What types of brokenness have you experienced in life? Have you noticed the brokenness of others? Did you help/react? How? How does the image for this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?
Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

9. Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.

A boy rides on a tricycle along a damaged street in the besieged area of Homs, January 1, 2014. Let us reflect on this station and on what it means to repeatedly fall down. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: When/where have you seen the face of Christ in the weak & downtrodden? When have you witnessed someone ‘give up.’ How did you react/what did you do? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

10. Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Leader: We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.
A father reacts after the death of two of his children by shellfire in Aleppo. Let us reflect on this station.

[Silence]

Reflection Questions: How have you experienced/witnessed disempowerment in your life? What recent instance of humiliation have you witnessed/been subjected to? Which societal victims should we protect? What has been stripped out of your life? Has this experience been strictly negative? How? Why/why not? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): 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.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

11. Eleventh Station: The Crucifixion, 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.

A Syrian Kurd holds his hand on to the barbed wire fence that marks the Turkey-Syria border on the outskirts of Kobani, seen from the Turkish side of the border outside the village of Yumurtalik. Let us reflect on this station. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: What are your thoughts on redemptive suffering? Do you have any personal experience with it? Which human behaviors of callousness and cruelty need to be called out and changed? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): Lord and Savior. 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.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

12. Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A Syrian man cries while holding the body of his son near Dar El Shifa hospital in Aleppo, Syria, Oct. 3, 2012. The boy was killed by the Syrian army. Let us reflect on this station and on the meaning of the cross. [Silence]

Reader/leader: 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)

Reflection Questions: Are you afraid of death and dying? What does the image of the cross mean to you? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection 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; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

13. Thirteenth Station: The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A Syrian woman carries her injured son, who was shot by the border guards as the pair crossed a river from Syria to Lebanon. Let us reflect on this station and on a mother’s grief. [Silence]
Reflection Questions: Do you recognize God’s presence in grief? How do you respond to and deal with grief? Where have you observed grief in the lives of others? Who and how have you comforted others in their grief? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): Beloved Savior, You returned to the Father all that He had given You, so that He might restore all to You a hundred-fold in the glorious resurrection. Help us, to give generously of ourselves in all that we do for You, so that like You we might be made perfect in a new resurrection. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

14. Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

We adore you O Christ and we bless you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

People lower the body of what activists say is a victim of a gas attack in the suburbs of Damascus. Let us reflect on this station. [Silence]

Reflection Questions: How can you/we bring life in the midst of death? Why is honoring our dead important? How have you honored loved ones who have died? What should we do for those who currently cannot bury/honor their dead? How does the image of this station speak to you? Which other current image/situation could illustrate this station?

Let us pray (silence): Almighty and eternal God, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You restored to us the Savior we thought defeated and conquered. Help us, we beg You, so to empty ourselves of self concern that we might see your hand in every failure and your victory in every defeat. These things we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

ALL: I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, I cried to you for help
and you, my God, have healed me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
Restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones,
give thanks to God’s holy name.
God’s anger lasts a moment; God’s favor all through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.
(Ps 30:1-6)

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Let us pray. We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the
dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray
that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal
joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. Amen.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a
kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever
and ever. People: Amen.