

Script for Scriptural Stations

In the Name of the Father.....

Father, direct our steps along the Way of the Cross by the light of Your grace, so that we, who walk in the footprints of Christ, may arrive in Your home of glory where He has prepared a place for us. Amen.

FIRST STATION: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

SCENE:

They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, "Stay here while I pray." Then He took Peter and James and John with Him. And a sudden fear came over Him, and great distress. And He said to them, "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake." And going on a little further, He threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass Him by. "But let it be as You, not I, would have it."

MEDITATION:

Gethsemane, hour of fear and anguish, of sadness and a sweat of blood, of friends who fall asleep and do not understand
Gethsemane, hour of the supreme temptation to seize again the divine glory of the Son and abandon humanity to its fate.
Gethsemane, hour of deepest prayer and of filial dialogue, of acceptance, of love, of the bitter chalice

LET US PRAY:

Please respond: Lord, have mercy.

O Friend of humanity, Who in the Garden of Olives is the hope beyond all hope, to You we pray,

Response: Lord, have mercy.

O Friend of humanity, Your abandonment to the Father's will encourages us to base our choices on the Gospel, amid the difficulties of life.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

O Friend of humanity, make us strong in our journey of faith and give us courage to make the gift of our life for the love of eternal life.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

SECOND STATION: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

SCENE:

“Even while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up with a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus and said, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. The others seized Him and took Him in charge.”

MEDITATION:

The violence of swords and clubs and the kiss of betrayal envelop the Son of Man, the Master of the greatest love and of the truth that leads to life. He hands Himself over to fulfill the Scriptures, gives Himself up to prolong the gift of the supper. When the enemy and the violence seem to prevail, the life, which is love’s gift, becomes the seed of salvation and of renewed hope.

LET UP PRAY:

You remain, O Jesus, the Master of Life, even in the face of treachery and outrage. Sustain us with Your Spirit. Unmask the mystery of Judas, which we carry in our flesh and continue in our history. Give us the certainty that nothing but love and the free gift of self can liberate and save. Amen.

OUR FATHER.....

THIRD STATION:

Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

SCENE:

“The High Priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus,....’What is this evidence these men are bringing against You?’ But He was silent. The High Priest put a second question to Him, ‘Are You the Christ?’ he said, ‘the Son of the Blessed One?’ ‘I am,’ said Jesus, ‘and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.’....And they all gave their verdict, He deserved to die.”

MEDITATION:

Jesus, an innocent man, condemned. Throughout the centuries, He can be recognized in the victims of all degraded and corrupt tribunals.

Jesus, an innocent man, condemned. His silence, meek and strong, - is the voice which still denounces sentences which are unjust, and false reasoning which suffocates the truth.

Jesus, an innocent man, condemned. In Him shines out that supreme act of justice – to tear the mask off the real blasphemy – off every profanation of the dignity of man or woman.

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, by the violent word which condemned You, make our judgments kind and patient.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, by the cry of blasphemy which rejects You, make what we say an instrument of communion and harmony.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

FOURTH STATION: Jesus is Denied by Peter

SCENE:

“At that moment, the cock crowed for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.’”

And he burst into tears.”

MEDITATION:

Denied by His ardent disciple, rejected by the rock foundation on which He had chosen to build His Church, Jesus seems alone in the whirlpool of violence and death.

Peter, you remind us still, with your weeping, that Jesus of Nazareth is bigger than any denial; His glance gives reason for hope to any heart, which once sorry, does not close itself off in discouragement and despair.

LET US PRAY:

Thank You, Jesus, for the look You gave Peter in the dark hour of his denial. By that look, the fisherman’s face is flooded with tears. You have put strength again into the weakened rock.

Look also on us, O Jesus, in our moments of fear and weakness, so that our tears of repentance may put new life into our profession of faith, new meaning into our commitment of love. Amen.

OUR FATHER.....

① Pilate

FIFTH STATION:

Jesus is Judged by Pilate

SCENE:

“...But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify Him!’” So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed Him over to be crucified.”

MEDITATION:

Jesus is innocent. Pilate is clear on that. He knows the Chief Priests have handed Him over out of jealousy. But he cannot figure out in what way that poor, meek man, standing before him, can be a king.

He is astounded. He would like to release Jesus, but the threatening cry of the mob is pressuring him. “Crucify Him!” A cry of all times and generations, and each one of us can recognize his or her voice in the chorus.

- jealousy on the part of the priests,
- hostility on the part of the people they have manipulated,
- self-interest and cowardice on the part of a politician unwilling to live up to his responsibility.

Jesus is given over to execution, and Barabbas, the murderer, walks free.

LET US PRAY:

Lord Jesus, Who having come to save not to condemn, lovingly accepts the judgment of condemnation, to You our prayer

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, do not allow us to wash our hands in cowardice, self-interest or hypocrisy when some innocent stands accused and defenseless.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

SIXTH STATION:

Jesus is Crowned with Thorns and Scourged

SCENE:

“They dressed Him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on Him. And they began saluting Him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’” They struck His head with a reed and spit on Him.....”

MEDITATION:

Misunderstood in the most absolute way, He is the King of truth, that truth which contradicts the illusion of a dominant and revenging Messiah and reveals Him as a servant of life. As it is written, “...despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and familiar with suffering,... And yet, ours were the sufferings He bore, ours the sorrows He carried...”

A King because He serves, a King because He assumes the limitations of the human condition while infusing it with the hope of salvation .

LET US PRAY:

Hail to You, King of peace! Hail, Servant of life! May Your passion convert our hearts at last. Give us strength to burst the chain of involvement, which makes us all responsible for delaying the coming of the kingdom.
We beg that we may recognize Your face in every human and Your presence in each one poor and persecuted. Amen.

OUR FATHER.....

SEVENTH STATION:

Jesus Takes Up the Cross

SCENE:

“And when they had finished making fun of Him, they took off the purple and dressed Him in His own clothes. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.”

MEDITATION:

The soldiers have had their fun with Him. But enough now. He has been condemned to death; now to carry out the sentence. They place the cross upon Him and lead Him outside the city walls.

With the cross – out there – Jesus begins the great return of humanity to the Father’s house.

With the cross – out there – Jesus shows God’s lost children the way to salvation.

With the cross – out there – Jesus awaits every last man, every last woman, to carry with them the burden of life.

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, Master of truth, You climb the mountain of heavenly revelation. Unveil for all people the mystery of salvation.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, Holy Priest, You climb the hill of sacrifice. Unite with Your offering the pain of all the nations.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, You climb the holy mountain. Gather all people around the tree of life.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

EIGHTH STATION:

Jesus is Helped by Simon to Carry the Cross

SCENE:

“They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry His cross.

MEDITATION:

First of a multitude of future disciples, Simon is obliged to carry the cross of Jesus as far as Golgotha. Silently he enters into the drama of the passion, and for him the words of the Master are realized, “...If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow Me.”

One follows Christ with no security at all, nor can one ever tell when there will be an end to the path one has to climb. There are many unknowns on the way of the cross.

One thing only gives us hope. The Simons of this world are never alone. The Son of Man walks by their side.

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, on the shoulders of Simon rests Your cross. On Your shoulders rest the crosses of all the men and women of yesterday, of today, of all time.

Lord, we pray to You
You in us and we in You -
Our crosses in Your cross -
So that the weight of human striving may be one -
And one the path of sorrow which becomes a path of communion and peace. Amen.

OUR FATHER.....

✓

NINTH STATION: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

SCENE:

“Large numbers of people, including women who mourned and lamented for Jesus, followed Him. But Jesus turned to the women and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children.’”

MEDITATION:

The daughters of Jerusalem weep for the fate of Jesus. They are well aware of the injustice, which is being done to Mary’s Son.

Their motherly hearts are deeply upset. Their sons have condemned the Son of Man.

The eyes of Jesus meet the eyes of the weeping women. To them He reveals the meaning of His death. They must weep, as He Himself has wept, over Jerusalem, the beloved city, which has not known “the things that are for its peace.

LET US PRAY:

O Compassionate One, Who takes upon Yourself the sins of the world and has compassion upon Your creatures, to You our thanks and our prayers.

Response: Lord, have mercy

O Compassionate One, Your passion makes known the mystery of life and reveals to eyes and hearts the passion of humanity.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

TENTH STATION: Jesus is Crucified

SCENE:

“Then they crucified Him, and shared out His clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get.”

MEDITATION:

Jesus crucified, raised up between heaven and earth. In human reasoning it is madness, a scandal for the ancient faith.

The cross is raw crudeness and horror, barbarity and utter shame, the place on which atrociously dies the Incarnate Son of God.

Let no one violate or cover up the atrocity of pain – the place in which love reveals itself and life gushes forth in abundance – the icon of mercy without limit and beyond all human expectation..

O cross of Christ, rising above the place of the skull, putting new life in the dry bones of dead humanity, you display the One most beautiful among all men and women, Who, free now of the worn garments for which lots have been cast, leads humanity back to its original splendor.

LET US PRAY:

Christ Jesus, our Brother, born of the Virgin Mary, on the cross, we acknowledge You as the Son of God. We proclaim You Author of Reconciliation between heaven and earth. We invoke You as Savior and Redeemer. Hear the prayer of the Church, born from Your side. Renew her life. Make her mission fruitful. Amen.

OUR FATHER.....

ELEVENTH STATION:

Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

SCENE:

“One of the criminals hanging there abused Him, ‘Are You not the Christ?’ he said. ‘Save Yourself and us as well.’ But the other spoke up and rebuked him, ‘Have you no fear of God at all?’ he said. ‘You got the same sentence as He did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this Man has done nothing wrong. ‘Jesus’ he said, ‘remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’”

MEDITATION:

The hands of Jesus and of the thief are nailed. They cannot clasp hands in a gesture of friendship.

But the gaze is free. The thief discovers in the wounded body of Jesus the mystery of His regal glory. Jesus perceives in the features of the wrongdoer the glorious image of the Father. The voices of those two dying men are free. “Today you will be with me in paradise.

LET US PRAY:

With the good thief we say to You, in the hour of anguish and tribulation, of darkness and iniquity,

Response: Jesus, remember us.

In the hour of useless destruction, of hatred and of discord,

Response: Jesus, remember us.

In the hour of falsehood and of contempt for life, in the hour of oppression and of violence,

Response: Jesus, remember us.

OUR FATHER.....

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

SCENE:

“Seeing His mother and the disciple He loved standing near her, Jesus said to His mother, ‘Woman, this is your son.’ Then to the disciple He said, ‘This is your mother.’ From that moment, the disciple made a place for her in his home.”

MEDITATION:

Around the Crucified the community of believers regroups itself.

Caiaphas (kai-a-fus) prophesied, “...that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.” It was as High Priest that he made this prophesy that

Jesus was to die for the nation – and not for the nation only, but to gather together in unity the scattered children of God.”

Mother Mary, you gather all of us to yourself and in sorrow you become mother to us all. We, your children, reborn of blood and of water, take you for our own as John did.

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, on the infamous and glorious tree, so that man may be able always to eat of the tree of life and drink from the fount of salvation –

Mary, Your Mother by Your side, so that in faith and in sorrow she may be the mother of all men and women generated by Your blood and by the Spirit –

The disciple by your side, so that the Church in every age may render You the witness of its strong and faithful love

OUR FATHER.....

THIRTEENTH STATION:

Jesus Dies on the Cross

SCENE:

“At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘My God, my God, why have You deserted Me?’”

Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to Him to drink.

But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.”

MEDITATION:

Twice a loud cry as Christ died.

The first, a mysterious cry, an indication of the atrocious suffering, a voice of hope against every hope, a song of victory over the powers of evil.

Jesus, the faithful Son, crushed by mortal anguish, proclaims from the cross His total adherence to the Father’s design for salvation.

The second, a powerful cry, an appeal to the life that is being torn from Him, the yell of the birthing moment, the immense outcry of the new creation born from the death of Christ.

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, in Your death, You have reconciled all things, You have restored peace between heaven and earth. To You, our thanks and our prayer

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, Your two mighty cries comfort us in the face of the suffering of the innocent and the groaning of all creation

Response: Lord, have mercy.

OUR FATHER.....

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

SCENE:

“Joseph of Arimathea.....bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped Him in the shroud and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock.”

MEDITATION:

It seems that all is finished. The body of Jesus is engulfed in the solid rock, and the last hope seemingly is made void.

There is silence.

The sky remains dark and impenetrable. The women prepare the rites of death for a mourning that appears to have no dawn.

It is the silence of God.

It is hard to remember, “...unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.”

From the silence of God comes again the sound of creation. In the silence of the tomb, the meeting of the Father’s love with the Son’s life matures the new creation.

LET US PRAY:

Holy Mary, Virgin of silence, you wait by the tomb where lies the Holy One of God.
You await the hour of the birth of the new humanity.

You wait to see in your Risen Son the new face of humanity redeemed, to sing a new song of glory.

Virgin of the Spirit, beg for us your faith in the Word, your hope in the kingdom, your love for God and for mankind.

Glorious Mother of God, blessed because you believed, our endless praise and thanks.
AMEN.

OUR FATHER.....

In the Name of the Father,.....