

Gontcharuk
Dion

Walking In the Footsteps of Jesus

Opening Prayer

**O God, we are about to walk with your Son
through the stages of
His suffering and death.**

**We know that Jesus' sacrifice
gave us the name Christian.**

**We know that Jesus saved us
and brought us new life
through His sacrifice on the cross
and His rising from the dead
three days later.**

**Help us to understand a little better
and to love a little more.**

Help us to live more unselfish lives.

**Open our minds to help us see
how we can better follow
in Jesus' footsteps.**

**We ask this through
Christ, our Lord,
Amen.**

Stations of the Cross


(Deacon Bob)

1st Station
Jesus is condemned to death.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Sullivan)



Reader: Jesus, you stand all alone before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for you. Nobody helps defend you. You devoted your entire life to helping others, listening to the smallest ones, caring for those who were ignored by others. They don't seem to remember that as they prepare to put you to death.

Reflection: Have I "joined the crowd" because it's cool to make fun of or condemn someone? Do I make up excuses saying, "It's not my fault!"? Do I try to hide behind my behavior and justify my guilt instead of simply saying, "I was wrong."

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, many times people don't seem to understand me. Sometimes too, I feel like the criticism of others is unfair. Help me accept the mistakes of others as you accept me when I make mistakes. Help me be big enough to ask forgiveness for the mistakes I make and to forgive as Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

2nd Station
Jesus carries his cross.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mrs. Davanzo)

Reader: Jesus, as you accepted your cross, you knew you would carry it to your death on Calvary. You knew it wouldn't be easy, but you accepted it and carried it just the same.

Reflection: Do I accept the annoyances of this life, things that are not fair, or a difficult cross to bear? Or do I find ways to get out of my responsibilities? Not really wanting to carry my own weight. Am I grateful for what I have or do I complain about what I don't have? Am I willing to trust God with my whole being? Do I try to make the world a better place for everyone, not just myself?

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, my problems may seem small to those around me, but you know how hard they are for me to carry sometimes. Help me remember and pray for those who are handicapped and those whose problems are severe. When I'm tempted to complain, help me remember Jesus and the cross He carried for me.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.


(Deacon Bob)

**3rd Station
Jesus falls the first time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. DiNubila)



Reader: Jesus, the cross you have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and almost ready to faint, and you fall down. Nobody seems to want to help you. The soldiers are interested in getting home, so they yell at you and try to get you up and moving again

Reflection: What are some of the things that cause me to stumble and fall? How do I handle it when I "fall"? Do I just quit instead of getting up and going on? Jesus, even though you have been beaten, whipped, crowned with thorns, and given a heavy cross to carry, you got up when you fell. Inspire me please, to get up when I fall.

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, I know there are many times when I give up before I should. I need to think of the cross Jesus carried, and how he got up again and kept moving. Help me to do my work as well as I can and to finish what I have started. When I fall, help me get up again and keep going.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.


Song: Here I Am Lord

(Deacon Bob)

**4th Station
Jesus meets his mother.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Boyce)



Reader: Jesus, you feel so alone with all those people yelling and screaming at you. You don't like the words they are saying about you, and you look for a friendly face in the crowd. You see your mother. She can't make the hurting stop, but it helps to see that she is on your side, that she is suffering with you. She does understand and care.

Reflection: Am I able to console those who are suffering? Do I become impatient with my parents when they ask something of me? Do I face family and friends during hard times? I need to appreciate more of what my parents try to do for me; I know they love me but, like me, are not perfect.

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, you gave me my parents. Nobody can take their place. I thank you for that gift. Help me to show my love and appreciation to them. Help me to remember to pray for them often. If they have died, help me be challenged by the love they shared with me. When I feel alone, help me to realize that you are my parent, the friendly face that I can depend upon to give me the help I need.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

5th Station

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Shikapwashya)

Reader: Jesus, the soldiers are becoming impatient. This is taking longer than they wanted it to. They are afraid you won't make it to the hill where you will be crucified. As you grow weaker, they grab a man out of the crowd and make him help carry your cross. He was just watching what was happening, but all of a sudden he is helping you carry your cross.

Reflection: Am I embarrassed to accept help from others; do I always want to be able to "do it myself" so that no one will think I am weak? When someone offers to help do I resent them thinking they might judge me incapable? When I see someone who could use some assistance, have I tried to lend a hand or do I just ignore them, not wanting to get involved? Do I offer help grudgingly, out of misplaced obligation or because I sincerely want to do the right thing?

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, help me notice the needs of those around me. Help me do more than just stand there and watch. Help me see the needs of others as opportunities for me to reach out and help as you did.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

6th Station
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Miss Carneiro)

Reader: Jesus, suddenly a woman comes out of the crowd. Her name is Veronica. You can see how she cares for you as she takes a cloth and begins to wipe the blood and sweat from your face. She can't do much, but she offers what little help she can.

Reflection: Do I always do all that I can to ease someone's suffering or do I just walk away if I can't instantly "fix" everything for that person? Do I give myself freely but grumble when I seem to get no reward or appreciation? When I give to my friends and family but seem to get no thanks, am I really just wrapped in my own concerns?

Prayer: Let us pray.
God, help me see the needs of others as being as important as my own needs. Remind me to go out of my way to be helpful, even if I'm not asked. Help me not be concerned about what others may think of me. Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Song: **Peace Prayer**

(Deacon Bob)

**7th Station
Jesus falls the second time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Miss Velazquez)

Reader: This is the second time you have fallen on the road. As the cross grows heavier and heavier it becomes more difficult to get up. But you continue to struggle and try until you're up and walking again. You don't give up.

Reflection: Even when I am put down by others do I struggle to overcome their negativity? Do I take care of my health and respect my body as Your temple or do I treat it poorly by the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and excessive behavior of any type? Am I mindful of the times and places and people who can tempt me to sin against You; to sin against my own better judgement.

Help me when things seem difficult for me. Even when it's hard, help me get up and keep trying as you did. Help me do my best without comparing myself with others.

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, sometimes life is hard. Sometimes I grow impatient with myself, and even take that impatience out on others. Help me realize how much you love me, just as I am. Help me keep trying when things get hard and when I fall, just like Jesus did.
Through Christ, our Lord.


Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

8th Station
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mrs. Miklus)



Reader Jesus, as you carry your cross you see a group of women along the road. As you pass by you see they are sad. You stop to spend a moment with them, to offer them some encouragement. Although you have been abandoned by your friends and are in pain, you stop and try to help them.

Reflection: Is my compassion real or just a matter of "telling them what they want to hear?" When I go to church is it because I want to be seen? Are my prayers genuine or just for show?

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, many times I am selfish. I expect others to serve me while doing very little for them. Help me notice and respond to the needs others have, even when I have problems of my own.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

(Deacon Bob)

**9th Station
Jesus falls a third time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Hegarty)

Reader: Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross.
You know your journey is coming to an end. You struggle and struggle.
You get up and keep going.

Reflection: Has the presence of evil in this world caused me to fall, to become cynical
and cruel, making fun of other people and what they believe in? Am I
sometimes indifferent to even you despite all good things I receive from
You daily? Do I take my faith for granted? Do I give enough time to the
praise and worship of God?

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, many times I feel like giving up. Sometimes I grow impatient with
myself, especially when I make the same mistakes over and over again.
Help me use this awareness to become more compassionate toward
others. Help me get up and keep going, as Jesus did.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Song: Via Dolorosa


(Deacon Bob)

10th Station
Jesus clothes are taken away.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Law)



Reader: The soldiers notice you have something of value. They remove your cloak and throw dice for it. Your wounds are torn open once again. Some of the people in the crowd make fun of you. They tease you and challenge you to perform a miracle for them to see. They're not aware that you'll perform the greatest miracle of all!

Reflection: Do I hang on to material things? Are my worldly possessions and my social status more important to me than Jesus? Have I always been honest in the way I have come about having things that I have? Am I willing to acknowledge God as being what I need most?

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, help me be aware of the prejudices I have against others. Help me value those around me, rather than degrading them by telling unclean stories. Help me strive to be pure in my thoughts, words and deeds. Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

**11th Station
Jesus is nailed to the cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mrs. Ross)

Reader: You are stretched out on the cross you have carried so far. The soldiers take big nails and drive them into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved so much. People seem to have gone mad. You have done nothing but good, yet they drive nails through your hands and feet.

Reflection: Am I forgiving of those who "nail" me? And what about the nails I drive into others? Jesus I am amazed at how You always forgave people, no matter how much they hurt you. Were you aware of the pain You were going through? Of course You were. Help me to choose not to nail others, and learn your willingness to forgive those who nail me.

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, sometimes I act without thinking. I can be easily led, just like the soldiers and the crowd that put Jesus to death. Never let me drive a nail into another by my prejudice or hatred.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

**12th Station
Jesus dies on the cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mrs. Karim-Elbanhawy)

Reader: As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

Reflection: After the wrongs done against You, how could You go to the cross and die for my salvation? Am I worth that much to God? Do I recognize all that He has given me in You? Or do I still look with envy at the other things people have? Can I ask for help from God in freeing my soul to do His will?

Prayer: Let us pray.
Jesus, let me take a few moments now to consider your love for me. Help me thank you for your willingness to go to your death for me. Help me express my love for you!

Response: Amen.

Song: Were You There

(Deacon Bob)

13th Station

The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Andrieilo)

Reader: Jesus, how brutally you were put to death. How gently you are taken from the cross. Your suffering and pain are ended, and you are put in the lap of your mother. The dirt and blood are wiped away. You are treated with love.

Reflection: Do I fail to see Your action in my life? Have I always kept my promises and seen my commitments through? Do I forget You in the crush of school, homework, problems, chores? Have I maintained a high standard with regard to the quality of life? Do I recognize the sanctity of all human life from birth to death?

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, I never know how many more days I will live. Perhaps it will be many years, perhaps not too many days. Help me make this a better day for those around me. Help me say kind things to the ones I love while they are with me, and while I am with them. It can make my life fuller and their lives happier when I do.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

**14th Station
Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

(Mr. Aquiviva)

Reader: Jesus, your body is prepared for burial. Joseph gave you his own tomb. He laid your body there and rolled a large stone in front of it, then went home. What a sad day it has been for so many people.

Reflection: Am I overwhelmed when everything seems to be going wrong? When I feel like I have no hope and can't stand another day, do I call on God to make everything alright? But then do I forget to offer thanks when He restores my peace? Have I let Jesus into my heart as he has taken me into His?

Prayer: Let us pray:
God, how uncomfortable it can make me to see the loving and generous way Jesus gave all he had for me. How selfish I can feel to hear of the generosity of Mary, Simon, Veronica, the women of Jerusalem, and Joseph of Arimathea. Help me to share my life and love more fully, out of gratitude for the great love you have shown for me.
Through Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

(Deacon Bob)

Closing Prayer

Jesus,
You walked and died this way of the cross
because You loved me more than life itself.
Your body was beaten,
bruised and broken for me.
You were laid in the tomb,
but even death could not end Your life.

Your death and Your resurrection
gives me hope,
and belief,
that I too can deal with anything that life hands me,
as long as You and I share the cross together.
I do not stand alone.
I know that Your risen body lives within me
and in those around me.
Now I am Your body here on earth.
My arms are Your arms reaching out to others.

Remembering the way You went to the cross
gives me enough hope to get back after falling,
and the realization that,
as I walk my own way,
You and others give me strength,
and walk it with me.

Song: How Great Thou Art