

A Way of the Cross for Victims of Abortion

The Way of the Cross is a popular Christian devotion with its roots in the faith of antiquity. The prayers presented in this booklet are ecumenical in nature, so that Christians of all confessional backgrounds may pray together, meditating on the Passion of Our Lord.

The Way of the Cross for Victims of Abortion is intended for use outside of abortion facilities, especially on Good Friday, though they would be appropriate any time pro-lifers gather to pray for an end to abortion.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemani, and He said to them, "Sit down here, while I go over there 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." (Matthew 26:36-39)

All: 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 we might do all in Union with Christ, our Redeemer. / Amen.

First 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.

Leader: 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)

All: The kings of the earth rise up / and the princes conspire together against the Lord and against his Anointed. / I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; / the Lord said to me: / "You are my Son; this day I have begotten you, / Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance / and the ends of the earth for your possession." (Ps. 2:2,7-8)

Leader: Let us pray. All-powerful and eternal God, for proclaiming the truth Your Son, Jesus Christ, is condemned to death by crucifixion. Have mercy on the thousands of babies who today stand sentenced to crucifixion in the womb, by verdict of their own mothers.

All: Amen

Sing: (to the tune of Stabat Mater)
Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread Your holy Way.

Second 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.

Leader: 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)

All: Who would believe what we have heard? / To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? / He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; / there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, / no appearance that would attract us to him. / He was rejected and avoided by men, / a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, / one of those from whom men turn away, / and we held him in no esteem. (Is. 53:1-3)

Leader: Let us pray. Father in heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ, still carries His cross in His persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Have mercy on the little ones who this very day must receive the cross of rejection and pain in the secrecy of their own mother's womb.

All: Amen.

Sing: Now the Cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The jeweled Cross of Victory.

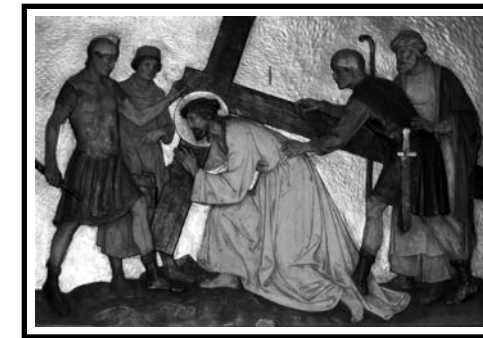


Third Station Jesus Falls The First Time

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You;

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: 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)

All: Why are your clothes red, / and your garments like those of the wine presser? / "The wine press I have trodden alone, / and of my people there was no one with me. / I trod them in my anger, and trampled them down in my wrath; / their blood spurted on my garments and I stained all my clothes. / I looked about, but there was no one to help, / I was appalled that there was no one to lend support; / so my own arm brought about the victory." (Is. 63:2-5)

Leader: Let us pray. O God, to free us from sin and weakness Your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced his fearful passion and crucifixion. Have mercy on the mothers who, overcome with confusion and anxiety, have caved in to the temptation to try to solve their problems by secretly destroying their own baby—that they may have the grace of conversion and repentance, and reverse their decision.

All: Amen.

Sing: Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.

Fourth Station Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You;

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: 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)



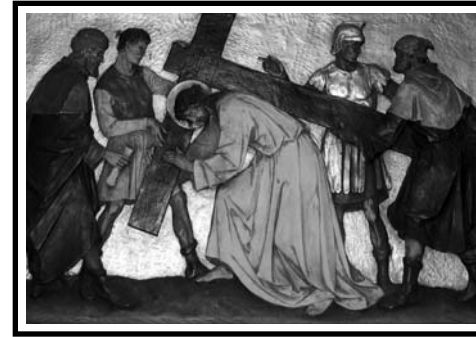
All: To what can I compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? / What example can I show you for your comfort, virgin daughter Sion? / For great as the sea is your distress; / who can heal you? (Lam. 2:13)

Leader: Let us pray. O blessed Lord, at Your passion a sword of sorrow pierced the loving heart of Your mother as Simeon had foretold. Have mercy on all pregnant mothers who are overwhelmed by anxieties over their pregnancy; may they, through the example of blessed Mary, have the grace and courage to accept their baby rather than try to escape the cross by aborting their baby.

All: Amen.

Sing: Jesus met His grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.

Fifth 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.

Leader: 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'. (Mark 15:20-22)

All: With a loud voice I cry out to the Lord; / with a loud voice I beseech the Lord. / My complaint I pour out before him; before him I lay bare my distress, / When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path. / In the way along which I walk they have hid a trap for me, / I look to the right to see, but there is no one who pays me heed. / I have lost all means of escape; / there is no one who cares for my life. (Ps. 141:2-5)

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on all pro-life workers trying to help pregnant women avoid the illusory solution to their problems by seeking to abort their baby, May God grant them the grace of prudence, wisdom, and perseverance in their work.

All: Amen.

Sing: Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of Christ.

Sixth 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.

Leader: “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 brothers and sisters, you did it for Me.” (Mt. 25:37-40)



All: A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; / he who finds one finds a treasure, / A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. / A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; / for he who fears God behaves accordingly, / and his friend will be like himself. (Sirach 6:14-17)

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel Your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Have mercy on the many women who are tempted to avoid embarrassment by aborting their babies. May they valiantly resist the temptation and refuse to mar the image of God they bear in their womb. Give us the courage and dedication to sacrifice and support these women.

All: Amen.

Sing: Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.

Seventh 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.

Leaders: 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)

All: Though he was harshly treated, / he submitted and opened not his mouth; / like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, / he was silent and uttered no cry. / When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, / a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, / though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (Is. 53:7,9)

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You shared in our weaknesses and accepted our guilt. Have mercy on all those guilty of a second abortion, that they might not only come to an acute realization of the awfulness of this wrong but also to a firm conviction of the infinite mercy of God and of His love for the repentant sinner.

All: Amen.

Sing: Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,
Flogged in Body He resembled,
All our brothers poor and scorned.

Eighth 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.

Leader: 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)



All: Come, all you who pass by the way, / look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering, / suffering with which the Lord has afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. / At this I weep, my eyes run with tears: / far from me are all who could console me, / far away are any who might revive me. (Lam. 1:12,16)

Leader: Let us pray. Beloved Jesus, have mercy on all the lonely mothers who, having been deceived into aborting their baby, are now abandoned to bear alone the burden of a tortured conscience—may they realize that, in spite of their sin, they are still objects of God’s overwhelming and merciful love. With tears of repentance, may they quickly return to their Father’s loving embrace.

All: Amen,

Sing: May our sympathy for Jesus,
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.

Ninth 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.



Leader: 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. (Ps. 118:25-28)

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom should I fear? / The Lord is my life’s refuge; / of whom should I be afraid? / When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh, my foes and my enemies themselves stumble and fall. / Though an army encamp against me, / my heart will not fear; / though war be waged upon me, even then will I trust. (Ps. 26:1-3)

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, have mercy on the professional abortionists and their assistants. With a keen realization of the awfulness of their actions, may they, with sincere repentance, strive to atone for their deeds by helping others avoid the trap they have fallen into.

All: Amen.

Sing: Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us,
Through our sorrow and our pain.

Tenth Station Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You;

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: 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 garments they cast lots," (Mt. 27:34-35)



All: Happy is the man whom God chastises! Do not reject the punishment of the almighty. / For he wounds, but he binds up; he smites, but his hands give healing. / Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; / I looked for comforters, and I found none, / Rather they put gall in my food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Job 5:17-18; Ps. 68:21-22)

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on those who are this hour being prepared for an abortion. With a keen awareness of the wrong they are about to commit, may they, even at this last moment, have the grace and courage to reverse their decision and spare their child.

All: Amen.

Sing: Stripped and jeered by His own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all He had to give.

Eleventh 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,

Leader: 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." (Lk, 23:33-34; Jn, 19:18)

All: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? / Far from my prayer, far from the words of my cry? / O my God, I cry out by day, and you answer not; / I cry out by night, and there is no relief for me. / All my bones are racked. / My heart has become like wax melting away within my chest. / My throat is dried up like baked clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws; / they have pierced my hands and my feet; / I can count all my bones. (Ps. 21:2-3, 15-16, 17b)

Leader: Let us pray. Lord and Saviour, have mercy on the little ones who, this day, are being nailed to their cross of pain in their mother's womb. In Your divine providence, may their pain, united with that of Christ, affect not only their own redemption, but gain the grace of repentance for those who inflict this pain upon them.

All: Amen.

Sing: Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.



Twelfth 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.

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. (Lk. 23:44-46; Jn. 19:30b)



All: My people, what have I done to you? / or in what have I offended you? / Answer me. / What more should I have done, and did not do? / I led you out of the land of Egypt, and you prepared a cross for me. / I opened the Red Sea before you, and you opened my side with a lance. / I gave you a royal sceptre, and you have given me a crown of thorns. / With great power I lifted you up, and you have hung me upon a cross. / My people, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? / Answer me. (From the Reproaches of Good Friday)

All: 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.

Sing: Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed His head, the world was silent,
Through His death came life anew.

Thirteenth 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.

Leader: When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that He was already dead so that they did not break His legs,

but one of them opened His side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimathea, because he was a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission. (Jn. 19:33-34, 38a)

All: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, / and I will bring you back to your land. / Then you shall know that I am the Lord. / O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live. / You shall know then that I am the Lord. / I have promised it, / and I will do it, says the Lord. (Es. 37:12-14)

Leader: Let us pray. Beloved Saviour, have mercy on all those who, guilty of the sin of abortion, are tempted to despair of ever being forgiven. May they come to a keen realization that your atonement on the cross is so great that only their refusal to confess their sin and repent their fault can render them unqualified for reconciliation with Your Father.

All: Amen.

Sing: Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother,
In your arms was place our Brother,
"Full of grace" now filled with grief.

Fourteenth 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.

Leader: Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth, he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed. (Mt. 27:59-60)



All: I will praise you, O Lord, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. / O Lord, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me. / O Lord, you brought me from among those going down into the pit. / Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. / For his anger lasts but a moment; his good will is for a lifetime. / At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with dawn comes rejoicing. (Ps. 29:2-6)

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You restored to us the Savior we thought defeated and conquered. Have mercy on all those supporting the abortion industry—the abortionists, politicians, lawyers, journalists, and ordinary citizens—that they might have the grace to realize the magnitude of the sin they promote, repent their fault, and do what they can to stop abortion—in our country and in the whole world.

All: Amen.

Sing: Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days You resurrected,
You did first what we shall do.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Look down with favor, O Lord, we beseech You, on this, Your assembly, for which Our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be delivered to the hands of wicked men and suffer the torment of the cross; Who lives and reigns, world without end.

All: Amen.

