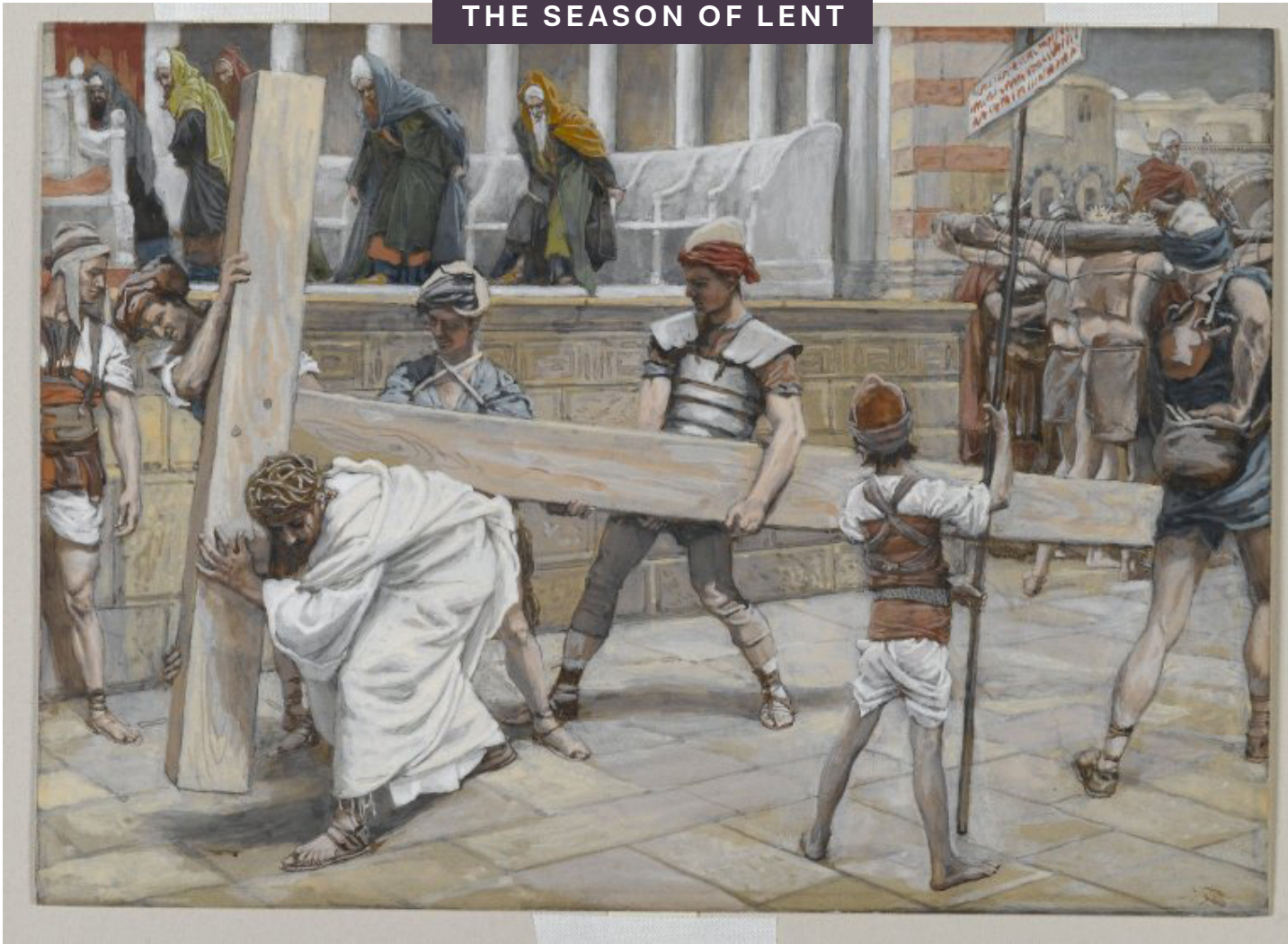


THE SEASON OF LENT



# Way of the Cross

SCRIPTURE WAY OF THE CROSS ✕ BASED ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK



## INTRODUCTION

The Stations or Way of the Cross provides an opportunity for a meditative reflection on Jesus' journey to the Cross. These Stations of the Cross have been prepared for individual and group use and are based on the Gospel of Mark.

For each station a biblical text is offered as a point for meditation, followed by short question for reflection. The biblical text is drawn from the new revised standard version of the bible. A suggested mantra for moving between Stations is the Taizé chant 'Stay here and keep watch with me' (GA 321) which is a reminder of Jesus' plea to his disciples as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mk 414:32-42).

Above image: *What Our Lord Saw from the Cross (Ce que voyait Notre-Seigneur sur la Croix)* by James Tissot. Cover image: *Jesus Bearing the Cross (Jésus chargé de la Croix)* by James Tissot  
(Source: Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain)

## OPENING PRAYER

God of life and living, as we journey with the stations of the Cross, we recall the story of Jesus' life, we retell the story of his suffering and we remember the sacred story of his death on the cross.

Jesus lived, died and rose to help us understand more about you and your love of humanity.

In your graciousness, bless us as we make this solemn pilgrimage and make us holy.

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.



## THE FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

*We remember and recall that Jesus was anointed by God to work in the world and that this came at great cost.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." —Mk 1: 4-11

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

*(Reflect) We think of the times in our lives when we have done something that has caused pain to ourselves or suffering to others...*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*

Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



## THE SECOND STATION: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

*We remember and recall that there were times when  
Jesus was tested.*

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. —Mk 1:12-13

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

*(Reflect) We think about the times in our lives when we have been tested by people or circumstance.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*

Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE THIRD STATION:  
**JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**

*We remember and recall that Jesus challenged his community by the way he cared for the sick, the outcasts and the dispossessed.*

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" —Mk 2:3-12

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

*(Reflect) We think of the people from whom we need to seek forgiveness.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE FOURTH STATION:  
**JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

*We remember and recall that Jesus' family were among those who followed God.*

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." —Mk 3:31-35

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

*(Reflect) We think about what it is that God is asking of us.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE FIFTH STATION:  
**SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS**

*We remember and recall that Jesus invited disciples from all walks of life to follow him.*

He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons.

So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Then he went home. —Mk 3:13-19

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

*(Reflect) We reflect on how we can respond to Jesus' call to follow him.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE SIXTH STATION:  
**VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

*We remember and recall that Jesus inspired faith.*

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." —Mk 14:3-19

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We think of the times when we have neglected the poor and we seek forgiveness.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE SEVENTH STATION:  
**JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

*We remember and recall that Jesus faced rejection.*

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. —Mk 6:1-6a

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We pray for the prophets of the world; we remember those who suffer persecution because of religion or race.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE EIGHTH STATION:  
**JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN  
OF JERUSALEM**

*We remember and recall that women accompanied Jesus in his work.*

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. —Mk 15:40-41

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We pray for the ongoing work toward girls' education in the world.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE NINTH STATION:  
**JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

*We remember and recall that Jesus faced betrayal and death with courage.*

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved,

even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

... And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.” —Mk 14:32-37; 40-42

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We pray for the times when we have not been awake to the needs of those around us.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



#### THE TENTH STATION: **JESUS IS STRIPPED**

*We remember and recall the story of Jesus' suffering.*

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a

crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. —Mk 15:16-20

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We hold in our thoughts all those who have been abused.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



#### THE ELEVENTH STATION: **JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

*We remember and recall the story of Jesus' suffering.*

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it

in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. —Mk 15:23-26

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We hold in our thoughts all those who have been abused.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



#### THE TWELFTH STATION: **JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

*We remember and recall the story of Jesus' death.*

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn

in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"  
— Mk 15: 33-39

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We bow our heads and pray in silence.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE THIRTEENTH STATION:  
**JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN  
FROM THE CROSS**

*We remember and recall that Jesus died.*

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. —Mk 15:42-45

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We pray for all those who die as a result of violence.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION:  
**JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

*We remember and recall that Jesus was laid in a tomb  
and that we await his resurrection....*

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid. —Mk 15:46-47

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

**Response:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

(Reflect) *We pray for all those who have died, especially for those who do not have anyone to mourn them.*

**Sing:** *(chant or recite)*  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
the hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me,  
watch and pray.



**OUR FATHER**



**CLOSING PRAYER**

Loving God, we believe that in Jesus' life, death and resurrection we have the great sign of hope for the world. In this world, people love with compassion, forgive without regret, work for justice without counting the cost.

May we go this day blessed by your great love, inspired by the self-less love of Jesus, and enlivened with the hope of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

