

The Stations of the Cross



Following the footsteps of Christ

These icons were painted in 1993 by Sister Barbara Anne of the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Wantage, and are displayed in St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh. They draw upon the riches of the Eastern Orthodox spiritual tradition. As explained in the Gospel of St John, Jesus goes to his death, not as a helpless victim, but as a king. He makes the journey of the Passion knowing that he is the Christ

These stations will be used by the Priest at 6pm on Wednesday and Sunday. Please do join in.

Opening Prayer

PRAYER God of power and mercy,
in love you sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with you forever.
Bless us as we gather to reflect
on his suffering and death
that we may learn from his example
the way we should go.
We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

First Station: The Last Supper

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.
(Luke 22: 14-18)

Lord, grant us hospitality to the friend, to the stranger, to the traitor
Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Second Station: The Agony of the Garden

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Matthew 26:36-41)

Lord, grant us your strength and wisdom, that we may seek to follow
your will in all things

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Third Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas... [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified.

(Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

Lord, grant us discernment that we may see as you see, not as the world sees.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Fourth Station: Jesus Bears the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'

(John 19: 7-19)

Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Fifth Station: Jesus meets his mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

(Luke 23: 27-31)

Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Sixth Station: Simon of Cyrene takes the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

(Mark 15: 21)

Lord, grant us willing spirits that we may be your instruments on earth.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Station Seven: Jesus Stumbles

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Tradition tells us that weakened from loss of blood, and from the pain, Jesus stumbles and falls under the weight of the cross. He who had walked the roads of Palestine, ministered tirelessly to those who needed him, and often prayed long into the night is now at his last gasp, and publicly humiliated – accepting and enduring to the end the pain of our human nature.

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Lord help us to share our weakness, to know our strength in communion with you.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Eighth Station: Jesus is Disrobed

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

(John 19: 23-25)

Lord, grant us courage to seek and see you in the dispossessed that we may love all your children

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Ninth Station: Jesus is Crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."]

(Luke 23: 33-34)

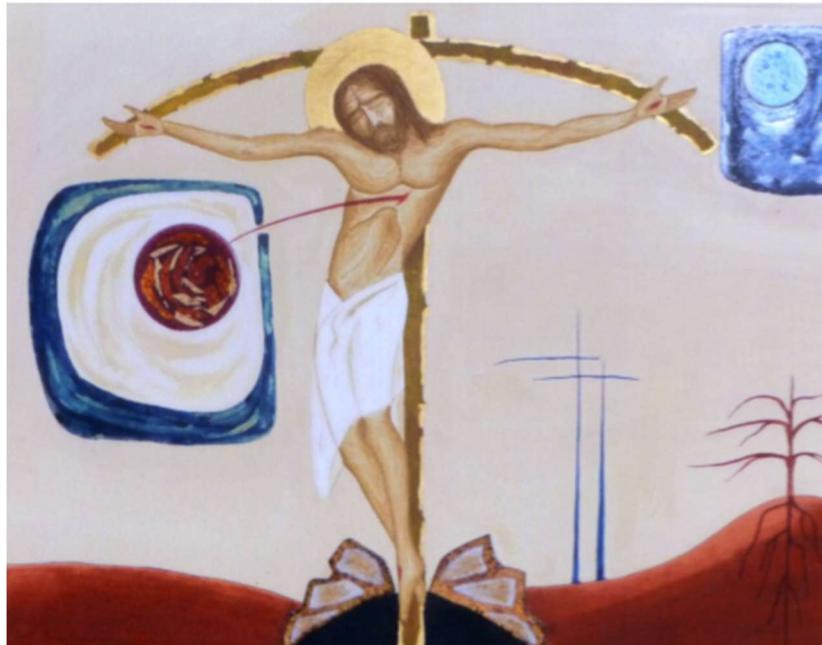
Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Tenth Station: Jesus on the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)

Lord, grant us perseverance that we may never stop seeking you.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Eleventh 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.



It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

(Luke 23: 44-46)

Lord, grant us trust in you that when our time on earth is ended our spirits may come to you without delay.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Twelfth Station: Jesus is placed in the Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

(Matthew 27: 57-60)

Lord, grant us your compassion that we may always provide for those in need.

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
your passion and death is the sacrifice
that unites earth and heaven
and reconciles all people to you.
May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries
follow in your steps
and so come to share your glory in heaven
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.