

The Way of the Cross
First Station
Jesus is Condemned to Die

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus stands before those who hold his earthly life in their hands. He knows suffering lies ahead. He could lie about himself and escape that suffering. He tells the truth, though, because he loves us, and Love stands for truth.

Prayer

Jesus, so many times trying to be truthful seems just too hard. If I'm completely truthful about my sins, I will have to suffer consequences for my wrongdoing. If I'm completely honest about my plans, I may face restrictions that will keep me from doing what I want. If I'm really open about who I am and what I think, some people might change the way they think of me. They might decide I'm not very good or something.

In this first station, I see you stand before your accusers in truth, out of love. Help me be led by love, too. May knowing that you love me as I am strengthen me to be honest about myself. May my love for others help me see that they deserve the truth from me.

**Station I – Jesus Is Condemned
What About Now - Daughtry**

Shadows fill an empty heart
As love is fading,
From all the things that we are
But are not saying.
Can we see beyond the scars
And make it to the dawn?

Change the colors of the sky.
And open up to
The ways you made me feel alive,
The ways I loved you.
For all the things that never died,
To make it through the night,
Love will find you.

What about now?
What about today?
What if you're making me all that I was meant to be?
What if our love never went away?
What if it's lost behind words we could never find?
Baby, before it's too late,
What about now?

The sun is breaking in your eyes
To start a new day.
This broken heart can still survive
With a touch of your grace.
Shadows fade into the light.
I am by your side,
Where love will find you.

Second Station
Jesus Carries His Cross
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has been beaten and mocked by the Roman guards. Now a huge, heavy beam is laid brutally on his shoulders. Jesus carries the great weight of sin as he begins his journey to Golgotha, where they would crucify him. He bears it willingly, for love bears all things.

Prayer

Jesus, I may be young, but I've already learned that life brings many challenges and burdens. In a way, these burdens are our own crosses that all people must carry through life.

Sometimes, I condemn myself to carry a cross. I get myself into tough situations that have tough consequences. But at other times, life just lays a heavy cross on my shoulders. I didn't ask for it. I don't want it. But it's there, and it's hard to bear – especially because I don't understand why it's there.

I see you carry your cross out of love. Help me see a purpose in the cross I'm carrying today. Help me find a loving way to bring good out of this cross.

**Station II – Jesus Takes Up His Cross
Better Days – Goo goo Dolls**

And you asked me what I want this year
and I try to make this kind and clear
just a chance that maybe we'll find better days
'cause I don't need boxes wrapped in strings
and designer love and empty things
just a chance that maybe we'll find better days

So take these words and sing out loud
'cause everyone is forgiven now
'cause tonight's the night the world begins again

Third Station
Jesus Falls the First Time

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The streets of Jerusalem are narrow and winding. Crowds have gathered to watch Jesus make his way to the place of crucifixion. Under the weight of the cross and pressed by the crowds, Jesus stumbles and falls.

Prayer

Jesus, the cross you carry is not just made of wood. It is made of the sadness of the world's sin and all its consequences in human suffering. That is a heavy burden to carry, and under its weight, you fall.

Sin brings me down to the ground, too. I may think I can handle it at first, but after a while, I find that my lies or my casual cruelty or my closed heart is making it hard for me to walk upright. I fall.

I see you fall under all the weight, but I also see that you refuse to let the heaviness of the world's sin keep you down. You rise and keep walking out of love. Help me to rise, too, and find the path of love once again.

Station III – Jesus Falls
What If I stumble? – DC Talk

"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

Is this one for the people? Is this one for the Lord?
Or do I simply serenade for things I must afford?
You can jumble them together, my conflict still remains
Holiness is calling, in the midst of courting fame
Cause I see the trust in their eyes
Though the sky is falling
They need Your love in their lives
Compromise is calling

What if I stumble, what if I fall?
What if I lose my step and I make fools of us all?
Will the love continue when my walk becomes a crawl?
What if I stumble, and what if I fall?

What if I stumble, what if I fall?
You never turn in the heat of it all
What if I stumble, what if I fall?

Fourth Station
Jesus Meets His Mother

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

When Jesus was a baby, his parents took him to the temple. There, a prophet told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul. Seeing her beloved son now wounded, weak and walking to an unjust death, Mary feels that sword tear at her heart.

Prayer

Jesus, amid the crowd filled with mocking, curious and indifferent faces, one face stands out. It is the face of your sorrowful mother, Mary. She held you close as a baby, searched for you when she thought you were lost in Jerusalem and was there with you as you changed water into wine.

As she has so often in the past, Mary stands near you now. But this moment is different from all the others. She can do nothing for you now; she can only watch in grief because she loves you so very much.

I suppose all parents must sometimes look at their own children with this same kind of sadness. When we are sick, when we are running down harmful paths, when we refuse to listen, our parents feel it, because they love us.

I see you stop to give your mother comfort. Help me stop on my journey and let my parents in to give me comfort. Help me love them by being open to their love and support.

Station IV – Jesus Meets His Mother
Let It Be – Paul McCartney

When I find myself in times of trouble, mother Mary comes to me,
speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me,
speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be.
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree,
there will be an answer, let it be.
For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they will see,
there will be an answer. let it be.

Let it be, let it be,

Fifth Station
Simon Helps Jesus

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The cross only gets heavier with every step. The guards pull a man named Simon out of the crowd and put the crushing weight of the cross on his shoulders. Not that they care about Jesus, but they have a job to do. They have to get him to the place of crucifixion.

Prayer

Jesus, I wonder if the man named Simon knew you at all. He wasn't one of the twelve disciples. Maybe he had never even heard of you before that day.

He didn't volunteer to help you, either; he was forced into it by armed soldiers. But despite all that – despite being a stranger pulled in to help against his will, for a moment, a burden on you was lifted.

Every day, my life puts me in the presence of people I've never met before and never will see again – at school, at work, at the mall, at a game. As I see your burden lifted by a stranger, help me remember that every action and word I speak to a stranger can either lighten their daily load or make it heavier. Help me approach them with love. And help me gratefully accept any kindnesses that are offered to me.

Station V – Simon Carries the Cross
"Bridge Over Troubled Water" clay Aiken

When You're Weary Feeling Small
When Tears Are In Your Eyes I Will Dry Them All
I'm On Your Side Oh When Times Get Rough
And Friends Just Can't Be Found

Like A Bridge Over Troubled Water
I Will Lay Me Down

When You're Down And Out When You're On The Street
When Evening Falls So Hard I Will Comfort You
I'll Take Your Part Oh When Darkness Comes
And Pain Is All Around

Like A Bridge Over Troubled Water
I Will Lay Me Down

Like A Bridge Over Troubled Water
I Will Lay Me Down

Sixth Station
Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

After Jesus was arrested, the guards put a crown of thorns on his head. The long, sharp thorns pierced the skin on his scalp and drew blood. Now hours later, the blood, sweat and filth have covered Jesus' face. Veronica reaches out in love.

Prayer

Jesus, I must admit that suffering frightens me. I don't mean just the idea of my own suffering, but it's the suffering of others that I find difficult to face.

I don't like to see people I love in pain. When someone I know endures great suffering, it is hard to know what to say or do. Sometimes when I'm faced with that kind of suffering, I just want to go far away until it's all over. Sometimes people are changed by illness or the pains of age or grief. It's hard to recognize them under the scars of their pain.

I see Veronica reaching out to you. Others are frightened off by your suffering. Some don't know what to do or say. Veronica sees through the blood and the dirt. She does a simple thing. She cleans your face. Help me reach out as Veronica did and not be overcome by my fear. Help me be strengthened by love to recognize your face in the suffering of others

Station VI – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
My Immortal – Evanescence

I'm so tired of being here, suppressed by all my childish fears
And if you have to leave, I wish that you would just leave
Your presence still lingers here and it won't leave me alone

These wounds won't seem to heal, this pain is just too real
There's just too much that time cannot erase

When you cried, I'd wipe away all of your tears
When you'd scream, I'd fight away all of your fears
And I held your hand through all of these years
But you still have all of me

You used to captivate me by your resonating light
Now, I'm bound by the life you left behind
Your face it haunts my once pleasant dreams
Your voice it chased away all the sanity in me

These wounds won't seem to heal, this pain is just too real
There's just too much that time cannot erase

When you cried, I'd wipe away all of your tears
When you'd scream, I'd fight away all of your fears
And I held your hand through all of these years
But you still have all of me

I've tried so hard to tell myself that you're gone
But though you're still with me, I've been alone all along

Seventh Station
Jesus Falls the Second Time
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Just a few days ago, people were cheering when Jesus entered this city. The feeling is different now. Now Jesus is condemned as a criminal and hardly anyone seems to be on his side. He falls again. Does anyone care?

Prayer

Jesus, I see people fall every day. Kids I know struggle in school. They make mistakes. They lose games and forget their lines on stage. They have family problems and dread going home at night.

My parents get stressed out because of all they things they have to do. They lose their temper with me. Sometimes I deserve it, sometimes I don't.

When I think about all of this, sometimes I feel let down by the way people disappoint me. I watch them fall, and it makes me angry or feel superior or even laugh at them.

I see you surrounded by pressures and cruelty, falling down under the weight of all of it. I'm sorry to see you fall. When I see other people fall in my life, help me remember you and be more understanding with them. When those I know fall, help me react with compassion and desire to help. May love move me to care.

**Station VII – Jesus Falls for the Second Time
Stand Rascal Flatts**

You feel like a candle in a hurricane
Just like a picture with a broken frame
Alone and helpless
Like you've lost your fight
But you'll be alright, you'll be alright

Cause when push comes to shove
You taste what you're made of
You might bend, till you break
Cause its all you can take
On your knees you look up
Decide you've had enough
You get mad you get strong
Wipe your hands shake it off
Then you Stand, Then you stand

Eighth Station
Jesus Meets the Women
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

As Jesus preached and taught during his ministry, his apostles were at his side. Now, they are gone, nowhere to be seen. But along the sad road, a small group follows Jesus. It is a cluster of women from Jerusalem, walking behind him in tears for what he has endured and for his death that comes closer with every step.

Prayer

Jesus, although you are exhausted and weak, you have strength enough to speak to the women who are weeping for you. You tell them not to shed tears for you, but for themselves and for their children. Following you can sometimes be difficult.

I know that real love can be hard sometimes. Forgiving is hard. Putting up with someone's mistakes and weakness is hard. It is hard being faithful to a friend or family member and supporting them when I have other things to do or when the situation makes me feel uncomfortable. Being you friend, Jesus, can be a challenge.

I see you gently warning the women of hard times ahead. I listen to those words and understand what they mean for me. Help me to be faithful, and to keep following you in love.

**Station VIII- Jesus Meets the Women
Calling On Angels – train**

I need a sign to let me know you're here
All of these lines are being crossed over the atmosphere
I need to know that things are gonna look up
'Cause I feel us drowning in a sea spilled from a cup

When there is no place safe and no safe place to put my head
When you feel the world shake from the words that are said

And I'm calling all angels
I'm calling all you angels

I won't give up if you don't give up

I need a sign to let me know you're here
'Cause my TV set just keeps it all from being clear
I want a reason for the way things have to be
I need a hand to help build up some kind of hope inside of me

When children have to play inside so they don't disappear
And private eyes solve marriage lies cause we don't talk for years
And football teams are kissing Queens
and losing sight of having dreams
In a world that what we want is only what we want until it's ours

Calling all you angels

Ninth Station
Jesus Falls a third Time
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has been arrested, unjustly condemned, whipped and beaten. He has been forced to bear the means of his own death on his back. His friends have disappeared. He falls again.

Prayer

Jesus, your journey on this hard road is a journey of pain and struggle, but most of all, it is a journey of love. It is hard to see this from the outside. Someone who doesn't understand sees nothing but a shattered man falling under a terrible load on a Jerusalem street.

But there is more to it than this, I know. There is love. You endure all of this because you love us. You suffer because you love me. It's hard for me to fully realize that love involves suffering. I doubt anybody truly understands the mystery of how love and suffering are joined. But through your journey, I see how true this connection is.

I see you fall, broken and weak. But in this pain, I also see a love that astonishes me and gives me hope. Help me love as you love. Help me accept the suffering that comes with real love.

Tenth station
Jesus is Stripped of His Garments
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has passed through the city gates, out to the place of the crucifixion called Golgotha. Wooden beams are stuck in the ground, awaiting the crosspiece that he has been carrying on his back. On this hill that means "skull place," he is stripped of his clothes. All is ready.

Prayer

Jesus, you came into the world to share the Good News of God's love. You forgave sins, healed the sick and brought the dead back to life.

And now you stand, God made human, totally exposed to the world, the world that came into being through your own word, a world that has now turned on you and is preparing to put you to death on a cross.

How could they not have recognized you? How can people be so blind to goodness and love? Why does it scare us so?

I see you, the Lord of Creation, standing weak and vulnerable before your own creation which has closed its eyes to truth. Open my eyes to your love. Help me be open to the many ways you are acting in my life every day. Help me to respond to your voice as it calls me to love.

**Station IX – Jesus Falls a Third Time
Love Will Find A Way – Lionel Ritchie**

Are you feeling down, and lonely.
Feeling like you can't go on.
Just remember love will find a way.

Tell me are you going through changes.
Time seems like it's passing by.
Just believe that love will find a way.

I see the tears you cry.
I see the pain that's in your eyes.
So many times you were so lonely.
And no one seemed to care.
But if your hopes, for your tomorrows.
Are drowning in your sorrows.
Know your heart will show you the way.

**Station X – Jesus is Stripped of His Garments
Measure of a Man, lyrics**

If one day you discover him
Broken down he's lost everything
No cars, no fancy clothes to make him who he's not
The woman at his side is all that he has got
Why do you ask him to move heaven and earth
To prove his love has worth?

Would he walk on water
Would he run through fire
Would he stand before you
When it is down to the wire
Would he give his life up
To be all he can
Is that, is that, is that how you measure a man?

If by chance all he had to give you
Was three words wrapped around your finger
Would that be deep enough at the end of every day
And how will you ever know
If a man is what he says?

Why do you ask him to move heaven and earth
To prove his love has worth
Would he walk on water
Would he run through fire
Would he stand before you
When its down to the wire
Would he give his life up to be all he can
Is that, is that, is that how you measure a man?

Eleventh Station
Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The noonday sun burns down on Golgotha. Nails are pounded through Jesus' wrists. Ropes quickly pull the crosspiece up into place. More nails pierce Jesus now through his feet. The cross is in place, bearing love.

Prayer

Jesus, is this really what love looks like? That's not what the world tells me. The world outside tells me that love is about happy feelings, romance and pleasure. As you hang on the cross, surrounded by people mocking you, gambling for your clothes, giving you vinegar when you say you are thirsty, it changes the way I think about love.

I see you suffering on the cross, suffering so much that you cry out to the Father. I also see you are suffering for one reason only: you love us. You want to pour out forgiveness of sins and open the doors to eternal life – for us. So you accepted this cup of suffering, out of love. Help me see love in this cross. Help me see how much I need this love. Teach me, through your cross, how to love as you have loved. Teach me that true love is what I have been made for.

**Station XI – Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross
Were You There**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Twelfth Station
Jesus Dies on the Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus hangs on the cross as the hours creep by. It is harder and harder for him to breathe. One of the thieves crucified alongside mocks him; the other defends him. Jesus promises this good thief that today, he would be in paradise with him. After three hours, Jesus breathes his last.

Prayer

Jesus, forgive me for my sins. All along the way, there were many people involved in bringing you to this point. Some betrayed you, others arrested, tried and convicted you, some whipped you or nailed you to the cross. Hundreds stood by and watched. All but a few of your friends abandoned you and hid.

But beyond all this, a whole ungrateful world brought you to Golgotha. And, sadly, I have to admit that I'm a part of that world.

I see you collapsed and lifeless on the cross. Sin is there with you. But your response to sin was not anger or rejection of the world. You accepted the whole world and everything about it, even its sinfulness, in order to heal it. I'm a part of that world. Help me see that through your cross, I am healed and set free.

**Station XII – Jesus Dies On the Cross
Praying For Time – Carrie Underwood**

These are the days of the open hand
They will not be the last
Look around now
These are the days of the beggars and the choosers
This is the year of the hungry man
Whose place is in the past
I guess somewhere along the way He must have let us all out to play And
turned his back And all God's children Crept out the back door
And its hard to love There's so much to hate
Hanging onto hope When there is no hope to speak of
And the wounded skies above Say its much too late
Oh maybe we should all be praying for time This is the year of the empty
hand Oh you hold onto what you can And charity is a coat you wear twice a
year These are the days of the guilty man The television takes a stand
And you find that what was over there Is over here
So you scream from behind your door Say what's mine is mine and not
yours I may have too much But I'll take my chances cause God stopped
keeping score And you'll cling to the things they sold you
Did you cover your eyes when they told you That he cant come back
Cause he has no children to come back for
And its hard to love when there's so much to hate
And hanging onto hope
When there is no hope to speak of
And the wounded skies above
Say its much, much too late
Mm, well maybe we should all be praying for time
Hand in hand with ignorance and legitimate excuses
The rich declare themselves poor
And most of us are not sure
If we have too much but we'll take our chances
Cause God stopped keeping score

Thirteenth Station
Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

For a moment, the world went dark. Thunder rolled across Jerusalem and the earth shook. Something had happened. The world had changed. But now, no one knows that. The guards have left the crucified to his family. A tomb is made ready. In deep sadness, those remaining watch Mary cradle her son in her arms.

Prayer

Jesus, this moment at Golgotha is even more dark and bleak than the others.

Those who were caring for your lifeless body probably had many thoughts just at this moment. They might have been thinking of your laughter and wisdom, of a time they had shared a meal with you, or of a moment when you had assured them that their sins – even their worst sins – were forgiven. Your mother Mary must have thought about all that had been promised – and once again, the sword pierced her heart.

All of them were probably confused and hurt, wondering what would, what could happen next. But in the midst of this enormous pain, they continued to serve you, quietly, out of love.

I see you cared for by those who love you. Help me do the same. Help me serve humbly and quietly, out of love.

Fourteenth Station
Jesus is Laid in the Tomb
We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

In a cave in the side of a hill, Jesus' body, wrapped in linens, is laid on a shelf carved from the rock, and a stone is rolled across the opening of this tomb. Guards are stationed, and the mourners drift away. Night falls with a heavy silence.

Prayer

Jesus, dying is a scary thing. It is sad to reflect on your unjust death. It is scary to think about my own death and the deaths of those around me. I just don't like to think about such things. Could a stone rolled across a tomb, darkness and silence, could this really be the end?

Your journey to the cross seems to end in sadness. Sometimes when I am trying to understand and to follow your way of love, I feel frustrated and sad, too. It's hard for me to see the point, or to see how good could come out of it.

I see you lying in the tomb, and faith tells me that death is not the end. As I watch in sadness, help me remember your promise of eternal life. Help me live, trusting that in your love lies joy and peace.

Station XIII – Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross Anyway – Martina McBride

You can spend your whole life building something from nothing
One storm can come and blow it all away
Build it anyway
You can chase a dream that seems so out of reach and you know it might not ever come your way
Dream it anyway

Chorus:

God is great, but sometimes life ain't good
And when I pray it doesn't always turn out like I think it should
But I do it anyway, I do it anyway

This world's gone crazy and it's hard to believe that tomorrow will be better than today
Believe it anyway
You can love someone with all your heart, for all the right reasons, and in a moment they can choose to walk away
Love them anyway.

Station XIV – Jesus is Buried in the Tomb No Greater Love –Rachel Lampa

Before I knew your name
You knew my every breath
Before I found my way
You knew my every step
Before I knew everything that I need
You gave it all to me

No greater love than this
That you should lay down your life
For someone such as me
I'd spend a life time wondering why
The beauty of heaven is here in my heart
And I know there can be
No greater love
Than this

I never understood
How merciful love could be
Until I felt His flame
Light every part of me
And I would give everything that I am
Cause I have been saved
Yes I have been saved

No greater love than this
That you should lay down your life
For someone such as me
I spend a life time wondering why
The beauty of heaven is here in my heart
And I know there can be
No greater love

Station XV – The Resurrection
Go The Distance – Michael Bolton

I have often dreamed
Of a far-off place
Where a great warm welcome
Will be waiting for me
Where the crowds will cheer
When they see my face
And a voice keeps saying
This is where I'm meant to be

I will find my way
I can go the distance
I'll be there someday
If I can be strong
I know every mile
Will be worth my while
I would go most anywhere
to feel like I belong

I am on my way
I can go the distance
I don't care how far
Somehow I'll be strong
I know every mile
Will be worth my while
I would go most anywhere
to find where I belong.