

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Kids' Small Groups
Restoration Anglican Church

FIRST STATION

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him. He began to be sad and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sad. I feel close to death. Stay here. Keep watch with me." He went a little farther. Then he fell with his face to the ground. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

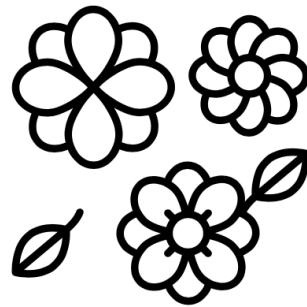
EVERYONE: O Jesus, wake us from our sleep. Help us to face life's difficulties honestly, knowing that we can trust in you. Strengthen us when things are hard. May our prayer always be a way to say all that we are, and all that we do. We love you, Jesus; teach us how to pray.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



SECOND STATION

Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Just as Jesus was speaking, Judas appeared. He was one of the 12 disciples. A crowd was with him. They were carrying swords and clubs. The chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders had sent them. Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, had arranged a signal with them. "The one I kiss is the man," he said. "Arrest him and have the guards lead him away." So Judas went to Jesus at once. Judas said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed Jesus. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. (Mark 14:43-46)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

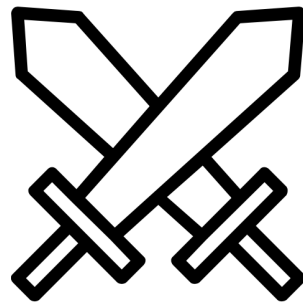
EVERYONE: **O Jesus, we are quick to greet you with kindness in our prayer and worship. But how often do the words we speak and our actions cover up hearts that are easily turned from you? We love you, Jesus, help us to love you with all of our hearts.**

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: **Christ have mercy.**

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



THIRD STATION

Jesus is questioned by the Sanhedrin

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

At dawn the elders of the people met together. These included the chief priests and the teachers of the law. Jesus was led to them. "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me. And if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." They all asked, "Are you the Son of God then?" He replied, "You say that I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more witnesses? We have heard it from his own lips." (Luke 22:66-71)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

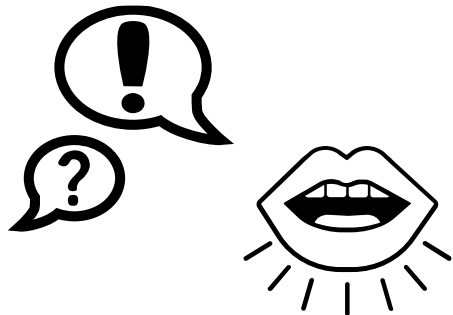
EVERYONE: O Jesus, we can often see you only in small ways but you are so much bigger! Give us grace to understand your words clearly and to follow you in truth. We love you, Jesus; show yourself to us.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



FOURTH STATION

Peter denies Jesus three times before the rooster crows

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Peter was sitting out in the courtyard. A female servant came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But in front of all of them, Peter said he was not. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gate leading into the courtyard. There another servant saw him. She said to the people, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he said he was not. With a curse he said, "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter. "You must be one of them," they said. "The way you talk gives you away." Then Peter began to curse and said to them, "I don't know the man!" Right away a rooster crows. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said. "The rooster will crow," Jesus had told him. "Before it does,

you will say three times that you don't know me." Peter went outside. He broke down and cried. (Matthew 26:69-75)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

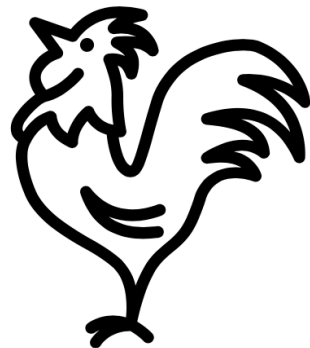
EVERYONE: O Jesus, we set out to follow you but then quickly turn, going our own way. We are afraid to say we know you in front of others, but you speak to us even when we say we don't know you. We love you, Jesus; keep us faithful to you.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



FIFTH STATION

Jesus is judged by Pilate

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people. He said to them, "You brought me this man. You said he was turning the people against the authorities. I have questioned him in front of you. I have found no basis for your charges against him. Herod hasn't either. So he sent Jesus back to us. As you can see, Jesus has done nothing that is worthy of death. So I will just have him whipped and let him go." But the whole crowd shouted, "Kill this man! But let Barabbas go!" Barabbas had been thrown into prison. He had taken part in a struggle in the city against the authorities. He had also committed murder. Pilate wanted to let Jesus go. So he made an appeal to the crowd again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate spoke to them for the

third time. "Why?" he asked. "What wrong has this man done? I have found no reason to have him put to death. So I will just have him whipped and let him go." But with loud shouts they kept calling for Jesus to be crucified. The people's shouts won out. So Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. He set free the man they asked for. The man had been thrown in prison for murder and for fighting against the authorities. Pilate handed Jesus over to them so they could carry out their plans. (Luke 23:13-25)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

EVERYONE: O Jesus, how often we let the voice of the crowd be louder and more important than the voice of what we know to be true. Fill us with compassion for the outcast and help us stay true to the truth. We love you, Jesus; help us to follow you and not just the crowd.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



SIXTH STATION

Jesus is given a crown with thorns

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, "We honor you, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. (John 19:1-3)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

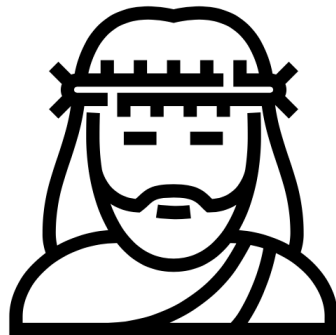
EVERYONE: O Jesus, how often we forget your promise that your kingdom is among us. Help us to see how you are strong when we are weak. Help us to have faith. We love you, Jesus; be in charge of our lives.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



SEVENTH STATION

Jesus carries the cross

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him." But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Should I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called the Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. (John 19: 6, 15-17)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

EVERYONE: O Jesus, you carry a cross, which you do not deserve. You choose to take the punishment for the things we do wrong and take up the cross we deserve. There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. We love you, Jesus; help us to show this love in our lives.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



EIGHTH STATION

Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

After they had made fun of him, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to nail him to a cross. A man named Simon was passing by. He was from Cyrene. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Simon was on his way in from the country. The soldiers forced him to carry the cross. (Mark 15:20-21)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

EVERYONE: O Jesus, strengthen us on our journey. Open our hearts to the help you offer through the kindness of others. Open our eyes to the needs of those who walk beside us. We love you, Jesus; lighten our burdens.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



NINTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem who are sad

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

A large number of people followed Jesus. Some were women whose hearts were filled with sorrow. They cried loudly because of him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children. The time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the women who can't have children! Blessed are those who never gave birth or nursed babies!' It is written,

"The people will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"

They'll say to the hills, "Cover us!""

People do these things when trees are green. So what will happen when trees are dry?" (Luke 23:27-31)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

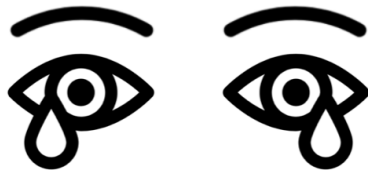
EVERYONE: O Jesus, thank you for your words of comfort and warning. Teach us to treasure them at all times, and especially when we don't understand the things going on in our lives. We love you, Jesus; help us to trust you more.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



TENTH STATION

Jesus is crucified

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

The soldiers brought them to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots. (Luke 23:33-34)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

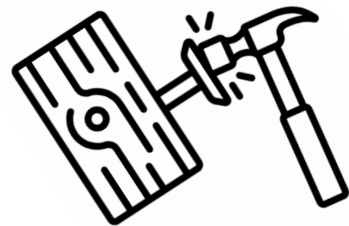
EVERYONE: O Jesus, you were willing to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows, and to have all of our sins laid upon you. May we never forget the gravity and glory of what you have done for us. We love you, Jesus; help us to believe that we have been healed by your wounds, and give us strength to follow you in the way of the cross.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus promises heaven to the thief on the cross

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER: One of the criminals hanging there made fun of Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself! Save us!" But the other criminal scolded him. "Don't you have any respect for God?" he said. "Remember, you are under the same sentence of death. We are being punished fairly. We are getting just what our actions call for. But this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

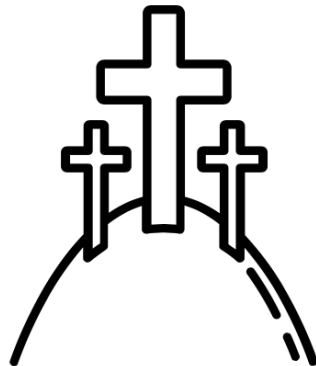
EVERYONE: O Jesus, look upon us now. See us in our need and hear us as we cry out to you. Help us to trust you in difficult situations. Give us eyes to see your power in hopeless times, to see your goodness in all we encounter. We love you, Jesus; remember us.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



TWELFTH STATION

**Jesus tells his mother, Mary,
and John that they will be a family**

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

Jesus' mother stood near his cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home. (John 19:25-27)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

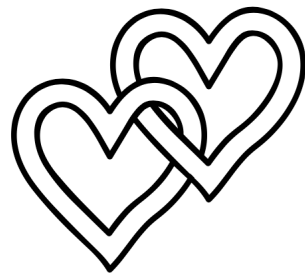
EVERYONE: O Jesus, even in the middle of unimaginable pain, you still cared for those around you. Help us to see that we are the disciples you love, and send your Holy Spirit to give us life as sisters and brothers who care for one another. We love you, Jesus; connect us as one.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus dies on the cross

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

It was now about noon. Then darkness covered the whole land until three o'clock. The sun had stopped shining. The temple curtain was torn in two. Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my life." After he said this, he took his last breath. (Luke 23:44-46)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

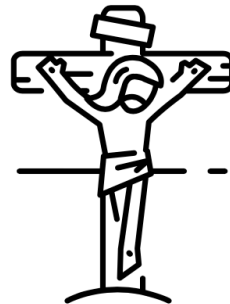
EVERYONE: O Jesus, it's hard to imagine giving one's life for a righteous person. But you have shown us your love in that, while we were still sinners, you died for us. Your sacrifice has covered our disobedience. Your death has brought us life. We love you, Jesus; help us to die to ourselves and live for you.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is placed in the tomb

LEADER:

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

EVERYONE:

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

READER:

As evening approached, a rich man came from the town of Arimathea. His name was Joseph. He had become a follower of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Then he went away. (Matthew 27:57-60)

Please kneel, as you are able.

Pause for silent prayer.

EVERYONE: O Jesus, teach us to rest. Deliver us from thinking that everything depends upon our actions. Help us to be patient in trusting that God will bring about the fixing of this broken world through you. We love you, Jesus; fill us with your peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.

EVERYONE: Christ have mercy.

LEADER: Lord have mercy.



CLOSING

LEADER:

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you." (John 20:19-21)

The Apostles' Creed

EVERYONE:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

WONDERINGS AND DRAWINGS



God knows you!

(Psalm 139:1-4)

He's crazy about you!

(John 10:11)

He goes with you everywhere!

(John 14:16, 26)