

The Stations of the Cross

Station 1: Jesus is condemned to death ...they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning... Pilate asked "So you are a king?" Jesus answered "You say I am a king, For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" But they said "Not this man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a bandit. The Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged...

God of the accused and the accusing,
who made the mouths, the ears and hearts
of all in conflict.
May we turn ourselves towards
that which must be heard,
because there we will hear your voice.
Amen. (Prayer by Pádraig O Tuama)

Station 2: Jesus carries his cross ...so Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted "Crucify him!" ... Then he handed him over to be crucified. 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.

Burdened God,
who bore the weight of wood
on torn shoulders,
We pray for the torn and the burdened,
that they may be held together by
guts and goodness.
Because you were held together by
guts and goodness.
Amen. (Prayer by Pádraig O Tuama)

Station 3: Jesus falls for the first time. ...Jesus emptied himself, and took the form of a slave, being born human, he humbled himself, willing to go as far as death on a cross...

The Stations of the Cross

God of the ground,
whose body was — like ours — from dust,
and who fell — like we fall — to the ground.
May we find you on the ground
when we fall.
Oh, our falling fallen brother,
may we find you,
so that we may inhabit
our stories,
our selves.
Amen. (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

Station 4: Jesus meets his mother *Simeon, the old priest and sage, said to Mary the mother of Jesus: “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many... He is a sign that will be opposed. And you yourself shall feel pierced by a sword. The thoughts of many will be laid bare...*

Mary, Mother of Failure,
You met your son at the end,
in a place beyond words,
and must have felt faithless
and empty and alone.
We pray that we may have the grace
to live with our own
stories of failure,
knowing that love can continue
even when things end.
Amen. (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

Station 5: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross *A man named Simon of Cyrene was coming in from the fields. The soldiers, seeing that Jesus could no longer bear the weight of the heavy wood himself, pressed Simon into service, forcing him to carry Jesus’ cross.*

The Stations of the Cross

Simon of Cyrene,
stranger from afar.
You were a help
to an unknown man.
We pray for all who help:
that their help may be helpful;
that their kindness may be kind.
Because yours was,
even though you knew
you couldn't do
enough.

Amen. (*Prayer by Pdraig O Tuama*)

Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus *Tradition tells us that a woman named Veronica stepped into the path of Jesus, defying his Roman guards, and wiped his face with her veil. Hear the words of Jesus: Those who welcome you welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome God who sent me. I promise whoever gives a cup of cold water will not want for a reward.*

Who was Veronica?
She could be me; she could be you.
Such a simple thing:
a cloth, a cup of water, a loving word.
Lord, help us value such small things,
daily acts of kindness and caring,
daily acts of courage and love.
In serving each other, we serve you.

Station 7: Jesus' second fall. *Jesus falls a second time, weakened by the cruelty of others. I am rejected, in their eyes I am no one, the scorn of all, despised, discarded.*

God of the Fall,
You felt the fall
when your body fell to the ground
a second time.
Gather all who fall.

The Stations of the Cross

Gather all our fallings.
Gather the voices.
Gather the breath that's
forced from our bodies.
Because falling, too,
has a story.
Amen. (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

Station 8: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem ...*Many women had also followed Jesus, ministered to by him, and serving him. Seeing him in such suffering on his way to execution, they wept and grieved for him. Seeing them in their distress, Jesus spoke to them: "Weep not for me, but for your children."*

Shall we weep for our own children?
for all the generations of this earth
who face the frailties and failings
of humanity? As you wept and loved,
as your Mother grieved and loved,
as the women who served you lamented and loved,
so we grieve for all who suffer on this earth.
May we seek to follow you,
be transformed in you. May our suffering
be one with your own, so that we may
share in God's redemption and healing
of our world.

Station 9: Jesus' third fall *Tradition tells us Jesus fell a third time, broken in body by the overwhelming forces against him. "I am like water poured out: all my bones are racked. You have brought me down to the dust of death."*

Jesus of the dirt,
you were led to death
because of how you lived.
Help us live like this;
walking and falling, and

The Stations of the Cross

walking and falling,
like you,
in the ways of the living
and the dead.

Amen. *(Prayer by Padraig O Tuama)*

Station 10: Jesus is stripped *Jesus arrives at the place of execution: Golgotha in Hebrew, the Place of the Skull. In the degrading process of crucifixion, he is stripped of his clothes. The soldiers gamble, casting lots for his robes.*

Jesus of the flesh,
Naked you came from the womb
and naked you were made for the cross.
What was designed
for indignity and exposure
you held
with dignity and defiance.
May we do the same
Because you needed it.
Because we need it.
Amen. *(Prayer by Padraig O Tuama)*

Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross *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, King of the Jews"... The soldiers took his tunic and said "Let's cast lots for it to see who will get it."... Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene (who Jesus named "The Tower")...*

Jesus of Nazareth,
This cross was a torture.
It only gives life
because you made it hollow.
Bring life to us, Jesus,
especially when we
are in the places

The Stations of the Cross

of the dead.

Because you brought life
even to the instruments of death.

Amen. (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross. ...*when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty," A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Jesus of the imagination,
you never grew old, always a young man,
and most of us grow older than you did.
When lives are cut short
the living question the meaning of living.
May we live with meaning
even when the meaning fades,
making meaning
so that we
have something to live for.
Amen (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

Station 13: Jesus is taken from the cross and placed in his Mother's arms

The Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath... so they asked Pilate to have the ... bodies removed...

Mary, Mother of Death,
You held the corpse of your young son
— the worst of your fears —
in your arms,
as he went where we have not yet gone.
We mark this
with Silence and Art.
May we also learn from fear,
because fear
won't save us from anything.
Amen. (*Prayer by Padraig O Tuama*)

The Stations of the Cross

Station 14: Jesus is placed in the tomb *Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

Lord, you are wounded,
no longer divided
between inside and out,
knowing in your flesh and soul
the deadly violence that kills what it fears.
Take us this day with you
through the narrow gate from which
an endless river of life flows,
lead us through our own wounds,
from our own fear and darkness into
courage, love, forgiveness of ourselves and others,
into your light and resurrection life.
May we walk with you this day
within the passionate heart of God.