

# The Way of the Cross

*The ministers enter in silence.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.' *Matthew 16.24,25*

Let us pray. *A brief moment of silence follows.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

*First Station: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 14.32-36*

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear and faced the agony of your impending death: be with those who share that agony and face death unwillingly this day. You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity: give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing. To you, Jesus, who sweated blood, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

*Second Station: Jesus betrayed by Judas and arrested*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 14.43-46*

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend: be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused. You knew the experience of having your love thrown back in your face for mere silver: be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation. To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Third Station: Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 14.55-64*

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry: be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority. You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts: deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the experience and wisdom of others. To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Fourth Station: Peter denies Jesus*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 14.72*

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you, you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied: be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society. You understood the fear within Peter: help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future. To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Fifth Station: Jesus judged by Pilate*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.14,15*

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency: be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice: change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace. To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**



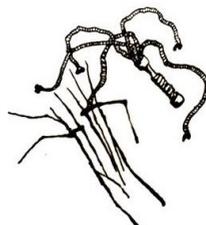
### *Sixth Station: Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.17-19*

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue: be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress. You endured unbearable abuse: be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today. To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**



### *Seventh Station: Jesus carries the cross*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.20*

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem: be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength. You bore the weight of our sins when you



carried the cross: help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us. To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Eighth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.21*

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue: be with those from whom life drains all energy. You needed the help of a passing stranger: give us the humility to receive aid from others. To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. *Luke 23.27-31*

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you: move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world. You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace': bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace. To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.24*

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh: transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer. To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**



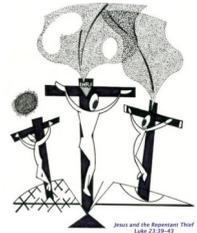
*Eleventh Station: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. *Luke 23.39-43*

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief: hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears. You spoke words of love in your hour of death: help us to speak words of life to a dying world. To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**



*Twelfth Station: Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to John. *John 19.26,27*

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end, yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them: be with all broken families today and care for those who long for companionship. You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes: give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of death. To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

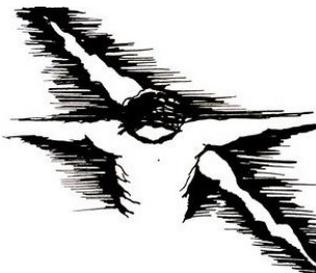


### *Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.34-37*

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross and entered the bleakest of all circumstances: give courage to those who die at the hands of others. In death you entered into the darkest place of all: illumine our darkness with your glorious presence. To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *Fourteenth Station: Jesus laid in the tomb*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. *Mark 15.46*

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us: be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes. You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight: be with all who suffer and die in secret, hidden from the eyes of the world. To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

### *The Conclusion*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God.  
**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**  
To him who loves us  
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and made us a kingdom of priests  
to stand and serve before our God;  
**All to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**All And also with you.**

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.  
**All Amen.**

