

WAY OF THE CROSS FOR TODAY

STAND

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hail to our King, obedient to His Father.

Philippians 2/8

PEOPLE: HE WENT TO HIS CRUCIFIXION LIKE A GENTLE LAMB.

Isaiah 53/7

KNEEL

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus, by your Cross and Resurrection You have set us free.
Help us, that we may become aware of Your Spirit,
and strive to order our lives in accord with it.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

Leader: I. JESUS RECEIVES THE SENTENCE OF DEATH

Luke 23/1-2, 23-24



Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought Jesus before Pilate. They brought charges against him, saying, "We found this man misleading our people; and maintains that he is the Christ, a king." With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.

ALL: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON,
SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

John 3/16

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

II. JESUS ACCEPTS THE CROSS

Matthew 27/27-31



They stripped off Jesus' clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

ALL: YET IT WAS OUR INFIRMITIES THAT HE BORE,
OUR SUFFERINGS THAT HE ENDURED.

Isaiah 53/4

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

III. JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Isaiah 53/4-7



But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following their own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth;

ALL: GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST
AND ENTRUSTING TO US THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.

2 Cor. 5/19

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

IV. JESUS MEETS MARY, HIS MOTHER

Isaiah 66/10, 12-14



Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her; exult, exult with her, all you who were mourning over her! For thus says the Lord: As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the Lord's power shall be known to his servants.

ALL:

**YOU WILL WEEP AND MOURN WHILE THE WORLD REJOICES;
BUT YOUR GRIEF WILL BE TURNED INTO JOY.**

John 16/20

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

V. SIMON HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

Lk. 23/13, 26-27; Mk. 15/21



As they led Jesus away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus.

ALL:

**WHOEVER SERVES ME MUST FOLLOW ME, SAYS THE LORD;
AND WHERE I AM, THERE ALSO WILL MY SERVANT BE.**

John 12/26

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

VI. VERONICA CLEANSSES JESUS' FACE

Sirach 6/14-17



A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; the one who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance their worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as they who fear God finds; for they who fear God behave accordingly, and their friend will be like themselves.

ALL:

**AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE
LEAST BROTHERS OR SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.**

Matthew 25/40

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

VII. JESUS FALLS AGAIN UNDER THE CROSS

Jeremiah 1/17-19



Be not crushed on their account, as though I would leave you crushed before them; for it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass, against the whole land: against Judah's kings and princes, against its priests and people. They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

ALL:

**CHRIST BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH,
EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.**

Philippians 2/8

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

VIII. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Luke 23/27-28



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."

ALL:

I GIVE YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT, SAYS THE LORD:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

John 13/34

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

IX. JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

John 12/25-26



Whoever loves their life loses it, and whoever hates their life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

ALL:

WHOEVER WISHES TO COME AFTER ME MUST DENY THEMSELVES,
TAKE UP THEIR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.

Matthew 16/24

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

X. SOLDIERS REMOVE JESUS' ROBE

Mark 15/22-24



The crowd brought Jesus to the place of Golgotha, which is translated Place of the Skull. They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take.

ALL:

THOUGH HE WAS HARSHLY TREATED,
HE SUBMITTED AND OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH

Isaiah 53/7

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

XI. SOLDIERS CRUCIFY JESUS

Luke 23/33-34



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."

ALL:

GOD LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON
AS EXPIATION FOR OUR SINS.

1 John 4/10

Leader:

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

PEOPLE:

BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

XII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Mark 15/33-34,37



At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

ALL: NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME!
NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION!

2 Corinthians 6/2

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

XIII. JESUS' BODY IS LOWERED FROM THE CROSS

Luke 23/50-52



Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

ALL: COME, ALL YOU WHO PASS BY THE WAY, LOOK AND SEE WHETHER
THERE IS ANY SUFFERING LIKE MY SUFFERING.

Lamentations 1/12

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

XIV. JESUS' BODY IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Matthew 27/59-60



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.

ALL: WITH YOUR BLOOD YOU PURCHASED FOR GOD THOSE OF EVERY RACE
AND TONGUE, OF EVERY PEOPLE AND NATION.

Revelation 5/9

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

PEOPLE: BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Leader:

XV. JESUS RISES VICTORIOUS OVER DEATH

Matthew 28/1-2, 5-6



After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

ALL: "I SHALL SEE YOU AGAIN; YOUR HEARTS WILL REJOICE WITH A JOY NO
ONE CAN TAKE FROM YOU.

John 16/22

Leader: Dying you destroyed our death.

PEOPLE: RISING YOU RESTORED OUR LIFE. LORD JESUS, COME IN GLORY.