

# The Way of the Cross

*Behold the Savior of Mankind – Charles Wesley (text), Henry Purcell (music)*

*Behold the Savior of mankind nailed to the shameful tree;  
How vast the love that him inclined to bleed and die for thee.*

In the name of God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

God have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

God have mercy.

**V.** We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**R. In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.**

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy-filled hearts upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The First Station      Jesus is condemned to death

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

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation: and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called the Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

**V.** Jesus was not spared by God:

**R. But delivered him up for us all.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.**

## The Second Station      Jesus takes up his cross

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

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the Place of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

**V.** God has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

**R. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross because of his great love for us: Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.**

## The Third Station      The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. "If you would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me. Take my yolk upon you, and learn from me: for my yolk is easy, and my burden is light."

**V.** Whoever does not bear their own cross and come after me:

**R. Cannot be my disciple.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose blessed son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others: that with wisdom, patience, and courage, we may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.**

## The Fourth Station      Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented them. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

**V.** Those who sowed with tears:

**R. Will reap with songs of joy.**

Let us pray.

Teach your church O God, to mourn the errors of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardon, when we stray like lost sheep, your grace, mercy, and love may bring us back into the fold; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.***

## The Fifth Station      Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

***Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing."

**V.** They gave me gall to eat:

***R. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.***

Let us pray.

Lord, God, whose blessed son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us strength to face our own sufferings, confident of the glory that is revealed in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

***Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.***

## The Sixth Station      Jesus is nailed to the cross

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

***Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.***

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was numbered with the transgressors."

**V.** They pierce my hands and my feet:

***R. They stare and gloat over me.***

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

**Amen.**

***Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.***

## The Seventh Station      Jesus dies on the cross

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

***Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, standing near, he said to his mother, "Mother, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, "God, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

**V.** Christ for us became obedient unto death:

***R. Even death on a cross.***

Let us pray.

O God, who gave your only-begotten son to death on the cross for us, and by his glorious resurrection showed your abiding and unfailing love; Grant that we may recognize our errors, and may evermore live with Jesus in the joy of our resurrection life; who lives and reigns now and for ever. ***Amen.***

***Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.***

## The Eighth Station      Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

***Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, from Arimathea, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to the plan and action against Jesus. He was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and layed it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned home, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath, they rested according to the commandment.

**V.** You will not abandon me to the grave:

***R. Nor let your Holy One see corruption.***

Let us pray.

O God, your blessed son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been born anew in the waters of baptism may find our perfect happiness in the eternal and glorious kingdom; where Jesus lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

***O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*The Blessing:*

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us, so be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And may God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity bless you and be with you for ever more. ***Amen.***

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***Thanks be to God.***

***Be Still and Know that I am God – Rick Sowash***

*Be still and know that I am God.*

*Be still and know God.*