

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Priest:** Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory be to You O God, glory be to You.

**People:** Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us (3).

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;  
pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and  
heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy (3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom  
come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from  
evil.

**Priest:** For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, and  
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**THE FIRST STATION  
JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Jesus stands in the most human of places. He has already experienced profound solidarity with so many on this earth, by being beaten and tortured. Now he is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death. His commitment to entering our lives completely begins its final steps. He has said "yes" to God and placed his life in God's hands. We follow him in this final surrender, and contemplate with reverence each place along the way, as he is broken and given for us.

**People:** As I view the scene, I become moved by both outrage and gratitude. I look at Jesus. His face. The crown of thorns. The blood. His clothes stuck to the wounds on his back. Pilate washes his hands of the whole affair. Jesus' hands are tied behind his back. This is for me. That I might be free. That I might have eternal life. As the journey begins, I ask to be with Jesus. To follow his journey. I express my love and thanks.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomyлуй nas!

## THE SECOND STATION JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. It represents the weight of all our crosses. What he must have felt as he first took it upon his shoulders! With each step he enters more deeply into our human experience. He walks in the path of human misery and suffering and experiences its crushing weight.

**People:** I contemplate the wood of that cross. I imagine how heavy it is. I reflect upon all it means that Jesus is carrying it. I look into his eyes. It's all there. This is for me. So I place myself with him in this journey. In its anguish. In his freedom and surrender. In the love that must fill his heart. With sorrow and gratitude, I continue the journey. Moved by the power of his love, I am drawn to him and express my love in the words that come to me.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomylyuy nas!

## THE THIRD STATION JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth! He lays on the ground and knows the experience of weakness beneath unfair burdens. He feels the powerlessness of wondering if he will ever be able to continue. He is pulled up and made to continue.

**People:** I stare at the weakness in his eyes. I can look at his whole body and see the exhaustion. As I behold him there on the ground, being roughly pulled up, I know forever how profoundly he understands my fatigue and my defeats. This is for me. In grief and gratitude I want to let him remain there. As I watch him stand again and gain an inner strength, I accept his love and express my thanks.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
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pomyлуй nas!

## THE FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Jesus' path takes him to a powerful source of his strength to continue. All his life, his mother had taught him the meaning of the words, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord." Now they look into each other's eyes. How pierced-through her heart must be! How pained he must be to see her tears! Now, her grace-filled smile blesses his mission and stirs his heart to its depth. Love and trust in God bind them together.

**People:** As I watch them in this place along the way, I contemplate the mystery of love's power to give strength. She knows the sorrow in every mother's heart, who has lost a child to tragedy or violence. I look at the two of them very carefully, and long for such love and such peace. This is for me. Such incredible freedom. The availability of a servant. I find the words to express what is in my heart.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
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pomyлуй nas!

**THE FIFTH STATION  
SIMON HELPS  
JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Jesus even experiences our struggle to receive help. He is made to experience the poverty of not being able to carry his burden alone. He enters into the experience of all who must depend upon others to survive. He is deprived of the satisfaction of carrying this burden on his own.

**People:** I look into his face and contemplate his struggle. His weariness and fragility. His weakness. I see how he looks at Simon, with utmost humility and gratitude. This is for me. So I feel anguish and gratitude. I express my thanks that he can continue this journey. That he has help. That he knows my inability to carry my burden alone. I say what is in my heart, with deep feeling.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

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**THE SIXTH STATION  
VERONICA WIPES  
THE FACE OF JESUS**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experiences of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. He encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the vulgar spit and mocking blood from his face. On her veil, she discovers the image of his face - his gift to her. And, for us to contemplate forever.

**People:** What does the face of Jesus hold for me? What do I see, as I look deeply into his face? Can I try to comfort the agony and pain? Can I embrace him, with his face so covered with his passion? The veil I behold is a true icon of his gift of himself. This is for me. In wonder and awe, I behold his face now wiped clean, and see the depth of his suffering in solidarity with all flesh.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
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pomyлуй nas!

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**THE SEVENTH STATION  
JESUS FALLS  
THE SECOND TIME**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground. In deep exhaustion he stares at the earth beneath him. "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." He has seen death before. Now he can feel the profound weakness of disability and disease and aging itself, there on his knees, under the weight of his cross.

**People:** I contemplate Jesus brought very low. As I behold him there on the ground, with all the agony taking its toll on him, I let my heart go out to him. I store up this image in my heart, knowing that I will never feel alone in my suffering or in any diminishment, with this image of Jesus on the ground before me. This is for me, so I express the feelings in my heart.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomyлуй nas!

## THE EIGHTH STATION JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** The women of Jerusalem, and their children, come out to comfort and thank him. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. He suffers, knowing he can't remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.

**People:** I look at their faces. So full of love and gratitude, loss and fear. I contemplate what words might have passed between them. I remember all his tender, compassionate, merciful love for me. I place myself with these women and children to support him. This is for me. So, I let this scene stir up deep gratitude.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomyлуй nas!

**THE NINTH STATION  
JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** This last fall is devastating. Jesus can barely proceed to the end. Summoning all this remaining strength, supported by his inner trust in God, Jesus collapses under the weight of the cross. His executioners look at him as a broken man, pathetic yet paying a price he deserves. They help him up so he can make it up the hill of crucifixion.

**People:** I pause to contemplate him there on the ground. The brokenness that makes me whole. The surrender that gives me life. I pause to experience and receive how completely he loves me. He is indeed completely poured out for me. As I treasure this gifted experience, I express what is in my heart.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomyлуй nas!

## THE TENTH STATION JESUS IS STRIPPED

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US

**Priest:** Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. Jesus is completely stripped of any pride. The wounds on his back are torn open again. He experiences the ultimate vulnerability of the defenseless. No shield or security protects him. As they stare at him, his eyes turn to heaven.

**People:** I pause to watch the stripping. I contemplate all that is taken from him. And, how he faces his death with such nakedness. I reflect upon how much of himself he has revealed to me. Holding nothing back. As I look at him in his humility, I know that this is for me, and I share my feelings of gratitude.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomylyuy nas!

**THE ELEVENTH STATION  
JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to fix him on the cross. He is bleeding much more seriously now. As the cross is lifted up, the weight of his life hangs on those nails. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his ability to cling to life slips away.

**People:** I make myself watch the nails being driven through the flesh. And I watch his face. I contemplate the completeness of his entry into our lives. Can there be any pain or agony he would not understand? This is for me. Nailed to a cross to forever proclaim liberty to captives. What sorrow and gratitude fill my heart!

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyu,  
pomyлуй nas!

**THE TWELFTH STATION  
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** Between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath: "Into your hands I commend my spirit. "

**People:** I stand there, at the foot of the cross, side by side with all of humanity, and behold our salvation. I carefully watch and listen to all that is said. And then, I experience the one who gives life pass from life to death, for me. I console Mary and John and Mary. And let them console me. This is the hour to express the deepest feelings within me.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyu,  
pomyлуй nas!

**THE THIRTEENTH STATION  
JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** What tender mourning! Jesus' lifeless body lays in his mother's arms. He has truly died. A profound sacrifice, complete.

**People:** I behold this scene at the foot of the cross. I contemplate touching, caressing his body. I remember all his hands have touched, all who have been blessed by his warm embrace. I pause to let it soak in. He knows the mystery of death. He has fallen into God's hands. For me. That I might love as I have been loved. I pour out my heart to the God of all mercies.

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Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomylyu nas!

## THE FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
THE PASSION FOR US,  
O CHRIST JESUS,  
SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON US!

**Priest:** They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. In this final act of surrender, who would have imagined this tomb would soon be empty or that Jesus would show himself alive to his disciples, or that they would recognize him in the breaking of bread? Oh, that our hearts might burn within us, as we realize how he had to suffer and die so as to enter into his glory, for us.

**People:** I pause to contemplate this act of closure on his life. In solidarity with all humanity, his body is taken to its grave. I stand for a moment outside this tomb. This final journey of his life has shown me the meaning of his gift of himself for me. This tomb represents every tomb I stand before with fear, in defeat, struggling to believe it could ever be empty. In the fullness of faith in the Risen One, given by his own Holy Spirit, I express my gratitude for this way of the cross. I ask Jesus, whose hands, feet and side still bear the signs of this journey, to grant me the graces I need to take up my cross to be a servant of his own mission.

Претерпівий за нас страсти,  
Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй нас!

Preterpivyy za nas strasty,  
Isuse Khryste, Synu Bozhyy,  
pomyлуй nas!

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Higher in honor than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim; as a virgin you gave birth to the Word of God. We exalt you, the true Mother of God!

**Priest:** Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You!

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Armen. Lord, have mercy (3), Bless us.

### **DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** May Christ, our true God, Who for the salvation of the world endured death on a cross, through the intercession of His most pure Mother, of the Holy glorious and praiseworthy Apostles, our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and all the Saints have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

**People:** Amen.

The Stations of the Cross may be concluded by singing  
Претерпівий за нас страсти, Preterpivyy za nas strasty  
or by praying The Prayer of St. Ephrem

## Prayer of Saint Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life,  
keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement,  
lust of power, and idle chatter. (Prostration)

Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being,  
humble-mindedness, patience, and love. (Prostration)

O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins  
and not to judge my neighbour, for You are blessed,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen. (Prostration)

*(Then, with a simple bow, the following is repeated four times.)*

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

O Lord, forgive me; for I have sinned without number.

*(Once more, the entire Prayer of St. Ephrem is recited without the usual prostrations. One prostration is made at the conclusion.)*