Follow Mary, the mother of Jesus, and walk the road to Calvary, where Jesus was crucified, feeling her sense of surrender: “I knew it had to be, so I walked on silently.” Enter into this intimate journey of faith and unite with Jesus on the cross, through the sorrowful heart of His Mother. Join us now as we pray Mary’s Way of the Cross...

**FIRST (I) STATION Jesus is Condemned to Die**

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

**MEDITATION:** It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised and bleeding skin sent a sword of pain deep into my heart and tears down my cheeks. Then Pilate, from his chair of judgment, asked the crowd why they wanted my son executed. All around me they shouted, “Crucify him!” I wanted to plead with them to stop, but I knew this had to be. So, I stood by and cried silently.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge...? "Crucify him!" When I judge others...? "Crucify him!" Doesn't this bring tears of anguish to both you and your mother? Forgive me, Jesus.

**SILENT PRAYER:**

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**SECOND (II) STATION Jesus Takes His Cross**

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

**MEDITATION:** Regaining a little strength, I walked with the crowds to the entrance of the square. A door flew open and my son stumbled out, the guards laughing behind him. Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on his shoulders. Then they shoved him down the road. My pain for him was unbearable. I wanted to take the cross from him and carry it myself. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on silently.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, I beg you to forgive me for the many times I have added more weight to your cross by closing my eyes to the pain and loneliness of my neighbor. Forgive me for gossiping about others and for always trying to find excuses to avoid certain people who wish to talk with me. Help me to be like Mary, always seeking to lighten the crosses of others. Forgive me, Jesus.

**SILENT PRAYER:**

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
THIRD (III) STATION Jesus Falls for the First Time

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless you, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: I followed close behind my son as he stumbled toward Calvary. Nothing had ever hurt me more than to see him in such pain. I saw the cross digging into his shoulders. My heart dropped when I saw him fall face to the ground, the heavy cross landing squarely on his back. For a moment I thought my beloved son was dead. Now my whole body began to tremble. Then the guards kicked him. He rose slowly and began to walk again, yet they still whipped him. I wanted to protect him with my own body. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on and wept silently.

PRAYER: Lord, how often have I seen you fall, and, unlike Mary, have left you there without concern? How often have I seen people make mistakes and laughed at them? How often do I find myself getting angry when someone does things differently than I? Mary offered you her support through your entire passion. Help me to do the same for you by the support I give to others. Lord, have mercy on me.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FOURTH (IV) STATION Jesus Meets His Grieving Mother

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless you, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: I had managed to break through the crowd and was walking side by side with my son. I called to him through the shouting voices. He stopped. Our eyes met, mine full of tears of anguish, his full of pain and confusion. I felt helpless; then his eyes said to me, “Courage! There is a purpose for this.” As he stumbled on, I knew he was right. So, I followed and prayed silently.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, forgive me the many times our eyes met and I turned mine away. Forgive me the times things did not go my way and I let everyone know about it. Forgive me the times I brooded over little inconveniences or became discouraged and did not heed your call to courage! Yes, Lord, our eyes have met many times, but fruitlessly.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
FIFTH (V) STATION Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: I could now see almost complete helplessness on the face of my son as he tried to carry his heavy load. Each step looked as if it would be his last. I felt his every pain in my heart and I wanted the whole thing to end. Then I noticed some commotion near Jesus. The guards had pulled a protesting man from the crowd. They forced him to pick up the back of the cross to help lighten my son’s load. He asked the guards why this had to be. I knew, and so followed silently.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I have many times refused to help you. I have been a selfish person who has often questioned your word. Don’t let me remain like Simon, but help me to be like your mother, Mary, who always silently followed and obeyed.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SIXTH (VI) STATION Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: As I continued close by Jesus, a woman pushed past the guards, took off her veil and began to wipe my son’s sweating, bloody face. The guards immediately pulled her back. Her face seemed to say, ”Why are you doing this to him?” I knew, so I walked on in faith, silently.

PRAYER: Lord, this woman gave you the best she could. On the other hand, I have wanted to take more than I give. So many opportunities arise every day for me to give to you by giving to others ---- but I pass them by. My Savior, never let me ask why again, but help me to give all I have to you.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
SEVENTH (VII) STATION Jesus Falls for the Second Time

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: Again my son fell, and again my grief was overwhelming at the thought that he might die. I started to move toward him, but the soldiers prevented me. He rose and stumbled ahead slowly. Seeing my son fall, get up again, and continue on, was bitter anguish to me. But, since I knew this had to be, I walked on silently.

PRAYER: Lord, of all people Mary was your most faithful follower, never stopping in spite of all the pain she felt for you. I have many times turned away from you by my sins and have caused others to turn away from you. I beg you to have mercy on me.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

EIGHTH (VIII) STATION Jesus Speaks to the Women

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: I was walking a few steps behind Jesus when I saw him stop. Some women were there crying for him and pitying him. He told them not to shed tears for him. They had the opportunity to accept him as the Messiah, like many others, they rejected him instead. He told them to shed tears for themselves, tears that would bring their conversion. They did not see the connection between that and his walk to death. I did, and as he walked on, I followed silently.

PRAYER: My Savior, many times have I acted like these women, always seeing the faults in others and pitying them. Yet, very rarely have I seen my own sinfulness and asked your pardon. Lord, you have taught me through these women. Forgive me, Lord, for my blindness.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
NINTH (IX) STATION Jesus Falls for the Third Time

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: This fall of Jesus was agony to me. Not only had he fallen on the rocky ground again, but now he was almost at the top of the hill of crucifixion. The soldiers screamed at him and abused him, almost dragging him the last few steps. My heart pounded as I imagined what they would do to him next. But, I knew this had to be, so I climbed the hill silently behind him.

PRAYER: My loving Jesus, I know that many times I have offered my hand to help people but when it became inconvenient or painful to me I left them, making excuses for myself. Help me, Lord, to be like your mother, Mary, and never take my supporting hand away from those who need it.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TENTH (X) STATION Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: With my son finally relieved of the weight of the cross, I thought he would have a chance to rest. But the guards immediately started to rip his clothes off his blood-clotted skin. The sight of my son in such pain was unbearable. Yet, since I knew this had to be, I stood by and cried silently.

PRAYER: Lord, in my own way I, too, have stripped you. I have taken away the good name of another by foolish talk, and have stripped people of human dignity by my prejudice. Jesus, there are so many ways I have offended you through the hurt I have caused others. Help me to see you in all people.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
ELEVENTH (XI) STATION Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHrist, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: As they threw Jesus on the cross, he willingly allowed himself to be nailed. As they punctured his hands and his feet I felt the pain in my heart. Then they lifted up the cross. There he was, my son, whom I love so much, being scorned as he struggled for the last few moments of earthly life. But I knew this had to be, so I stood by and prayed silently.

PRAYER: Lord, what pain you endured for me! And what pain your mother went through, seeing her only son die for love of me! Yet, both you and she are ready to forgive me as soon as I repent of my sin. Help me, Lord, to turn away from my sinfulness.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TWELFTH (XII) STATION Jesus Dies on the Cross

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHrist, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: What greater pain is there for a mother than to see her son die right before her eyes! I, who had brought this Savior into the world and watched him grow, stood helplessly beneath his cross as he lowered his head and died. His earthly anguish was finished, but mine was greater than ever. Yet, this had to be and I had to accept it, so I stood by and I mourned silently.

PRAYER: My Jesus, have mercy on me for what my sins have done to you and to others. I thank you for your great act of love. You have said that true love is laying down your life for your friends. Let me always be your friend. Teach me to live my life for others, and not fail you again.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
THIRTEENTH (XIII) STATION Jesus Is Taken from the Cross

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: The crowd had gone; the noise had stopped. I stood quietly with one of Jesus' friends and looked up at the dead body of our Savior, my son. Then two men took the body from the cross and placed it in my arms. A deep sorrow engulfed my being. Yet, I also felt deep joy. Life had ended cruelly for my son, but it had also brought life to all of us. I knew this had to be, and I prayed silently.

PRAYER: Lord, your passion has ended. Yet, it still goes on whenever I choose sin over you. I have done my part in your crucifixion and now, my Savior, I beg your forgiveness with all my heart. Help me to live a life worthy of you and your mother.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FOURTEENTH (XIV) STATION Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: We brought Jesus' body to a tomb and I arranged it there myself, silently weeping, silently rejoicing. I took one more look at my loving son, and then walked out. They closed the tomb and before I left, I thought, I knew this had to be ...... it had to be for you! I would wait in faith silently.

PRAYER: Yes, my Lord, this had to be because you love me, and for no other reason. All you ask is that I live a good life. You never said such a life would be easy. I am willing to leave sin behind and live for you alone, in my brothers and sisters.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
FIFteenth (XV) STATION Jesus is RaisEd from the Dead!

OPENING PRAYER: We adore you, O CHRIST, and we bless YOU, because by YOUR holy cross, YOU have redeemed the world.

MEDITATION: I could only be most grateful for the sacrifice of my son for us. Yet, what emptiness I felt trying to live without him whom I loved so! But, only two days later that emptiness was filled beyond belief ---- he had risen! Our Savior had opened the doors to a new life. That is the way it had to be ---- because his undying love for you would not stop at anything less. I could rejoice forever, but not in silence.

PRAYER: My Savior, thank you! Thank you for such endless love that helps me to rise out of my own sinfulness. I will try again to live a better life. Help me to always remember that love. Mary, mother of our risen Savior, teach me to be like you, and in my love for others, love him in return.

SILENT PRAYER:

- 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. Amen.

- Hail Mary, full of Grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- Glory be to the FATHER and to the SON and to the HOLY SPIRIT. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
FIRST READING
ISAIAH 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him--
so marred was his look beyond human semblance
and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man--
so shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless;
for those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.
Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up like a sapling before him,
growing up like a shoot from the parched earth;
there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him,
nor appearance that would attract us to him.
He was spurned and avoided by people,
a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity,
one of those from whom people hide their faces,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.
Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,
our sufferings that he endured,
while we thought of him as stricken,
as one smitten by God and afflicted.
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 his 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;
like a lamb led to the slaughter
or a sheep before the shearers,
he was silent and opened not his mouth.
Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away,
and who would have thought any more of his destiny?
When he was cut off from the land of the living,
and smitten for the sin of his people,
a grave was assigned him among the wicked
and a burial place with evildoers,
though he had done no wrong
nor spoken any falsehood.
But the LORD was pleased
to crush him in infirmity:
If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.
Because of his affliction
he shall see the light in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.
Therefore I will give him his portion among the great,
and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty,
because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;
and he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.

RESPONSORIAL
PSALM 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me.
Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
For all my foes I am an object of reproach,
a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;
they who see me abroad flee from me.
I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;
I am like a dish that is broken.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God.
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stouthearted,
all you who hope in the LORD.

R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
Brothers and sisters:
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL
PHILIPPIANS 2:8-9

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

GOSPEL
THE PASSION OF THE LORD according to JOHN 18:1-19:42
(N = Narrator; V = Voice; C = Crowd; Φ = Christ)

N: The Passion of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ

N: Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So, Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priest and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them,

Φ: “Whom are you looking for?”

N: They answered him,

C: “Jesus the Nazorean.”

N: He said to them,

Φ: “I AM.”

N: Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, “I AM,” they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them,

Φ: “Whom are you looking for?”

N: They said,

C: “Jesus the Nazorean.”

N: Jesus answered,

Φ: “I told you that I AM. So, if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

N: This was to fulfill what he had said, “I have not lost any of those you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Φ: “Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?”

N: So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people.

N: Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter,

C: “You are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?”

N: He said,

V: “I am not.”

N: Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him,

Φ: “I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said.”

N: When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said,

V: “Is this the way you answer the high priest?”

N: Jesus answered him,

Φ: “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

N: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

N: Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him,
C: “You are not one of his disciples, are you?”
N: He denied it and said,
V: “I am not.”
N: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said,
C: “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?”
N: Again, Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed.
N: Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said,
V: “What charge do you bring against this man?”
N: They answered and said to him,
C: “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”
N: At this, Pilate said to them,
V: “Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law.”
N: The Jews answered him,
C: “We do not have the right to execute anyone,”
N: in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him,
V: “Are you the King of the Jews?”
N: Jesus answered,
† “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?”
N: Pilate answered,
V: “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”
N: Jesus answered,
† “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”
N: So Pilate said to him,
V: “Then you are a king?”
N: 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 to him,
V: “What is truth?”
N: When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them,
V: “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”
N: They cried out again,
C: “Not this one but Barabbas!”
N: Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.
N: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wore a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,
C: “Hail, King of the Jews!”
N: And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,
V: “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.”
N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,
V: “Behold, the man!”
N: When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,
C: “Crucify him, crucify him!”
N: Pilate said to them,
V: “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.”
N: The Jews answered,
C: “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”
N: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,
V: “Where are you from?”
N: Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him,
V: “Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?”
N: Jesus answered him,
† “You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”
N: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,
C: “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”
N: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Golgotha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews,
V: “Behold, your king!”
N: They cried out,
C: “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!”
N: Pilate said to them,
V: “Shall I crucify your king?”
N: The chief priests answered,
C: “We have no king but Caesar.”
N: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.
N: So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,


N: Pilate answered,

V: “What I have written, I have written.”

N: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another,

C: “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,”

N: in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vexation they cast lots.

N: This is what the soldiers did.

N: Standing by the cross were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

♀ “Woman, behold, your son.”

N: Then he said to the disciple,

♀ “Behold, your mother.”

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

N: After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

♀ “I thirst.”

N: There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

♀ “It is finished.”

N: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

(Here kneel and pause for a short time)

N: Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe.

N: For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken.

N: And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

N: After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day, for the tomb was close by.
I. FOR HOLY CHURCH
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

II. FOR THE POPE
Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N., that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord’s holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

III. FOR ALL ORDERS AND DEGREES OF THE FAITHFUL
Let us pray also for our Bishop, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

IV. FOR CATECHUMENS
Let us pray also for (our) catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of (our) catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

V. FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS
Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

VI. FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE
Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Prayer in silence.

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.
VII. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST
Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Prayer in silence.
Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

VIII. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD
Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Prayer in silence.
Almighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant, we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

IX. FOR THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE
Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

Prayer in silence.
Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

X. FOR THOSE IN TRIBULATION
Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travelers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Prayer in silence.
Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

XI. FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

Prayer in silence.
Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.