

# AN ECOLOGICAL WAY OF THE CROSS



*During the Stations of the Cross, we retrace Christ's steps by enacting the biblical record of his Passion, with each station commemorating a stage in Christ's journey to crucifixion. The Ecological Way of the Cross puts the suffering of Christ's Passion in our time by relating it to the suffering of the earth and the poor.*

## STATION I: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross you have  
redeemed the world.

Scripture: This man has done nothing wrong. (Luke 23:42)

### *Prayer*

God of life, many of our sisters and brothers risked and lost their lives working to protect this beautiful world you created. We believe they have fallen asleep in you, Lord.

May their sacrifice be remembered and honoured by those they served. Amen.

## STATION II: Jesus carries his cross

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

Scripture: Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

### *Prayer*

Lord Jesus, just as you embraced the burden of our sins, we pray for those who will be forced to carry the burden of environmental disasters caused by our rampant development. We also pray for those who risk their lives to embrace the call of social and climate justice. Amen.

## STATION III: Jesus falls for the first time

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

Scripture: Ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. (Isaiah 53:4)

### *Prayer*

We pray for our sisters and brothers hidden in the darkness of modern slavery, in factories and homes across the world, forced to work in inhumane conditions and deprived of their freedom. Help us to remember those who suffer for our unsustainable lifestyles and give us a

change of heart so that this evil may be rooted from our world. Amen.

**STATION IV:** Jesus meets his mother

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

Scripture: A sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:35)

*Prayer*

Lord, by the sorrow you felt in meeting your mother, we pray that we can meet with compassion our sister mother earth who sustains all life with air, food, and water. Amen.

**STATION V:** Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

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

Scripture: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. (Matthew 27:32)

*Prayer*

Lord, help us to recognize that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers, and like Simon of Cyrene, help us to alleviate the suffering of those crushed by injustice, poverty, and violence. Amen.

**STATION VI:** Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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

Scripture: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. (Matthew 27:55)

*Prayer*

We pray that we may see the face of Jesus in the faces of all those suffering from illness, particularly those suffering from the coronavirus and conditions exacerbated by climate change such as asthma and heat strokes. Like Veronica, help us to be a source of compassion and comfort. Amen.

**STATION VII:** Jesus falls a second time

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

Scripture: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed by our iniquities. (Isaiah 53:5)

*Prayer*

Lord, as you have fallen a second time, so do we fall to our indifferent consumerism. Help us, we pray, to be conscious of our purchasing decisions, to choose what is ethically and sustainably made, and to stand up for those who carry the heavy burden of unjust economic policies. Amen.

**STATION VIII:** 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.

Scripture: Jesus turned to them and said: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. (Luke 23:28)

*Prayer*

Like the women of Jerusalem, we weep for our children who will bear the brunt of our environmental destruction. God of life, help us to resist the culture of death that seeks only its own gain and to the detriment of all other living beings, including those that are yet to live. Amen.

**STATION IX:** Jesus falls a third time

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

Scripture: Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

*Prayer*

Lord, the weight of the cross caused you to fall a third time. We, too, daunted by unbridled exploitation, fall to anguish and frustration. Give us the strength to rise again and again in our fight for social and climate justice. Amen.

**STATION X:** Jesus is stripped of His clothes

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

Scripture: They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalms 22:18)

*Prayer*

Jesus, You were stripped of your clothing and dignity. So, too, the earth is stripped of its minerals and nutrient rich topsoil. Help us to seek and develop a just transition to renewable forms of energy and to restrain our consumption so that the earth may be restored to its glorious bounty. Amen.

**STATION XI:** 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.

Scripture: When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus. (Luke 23:33)

*Prayer*

Lord Jesus, our misguided models of progress have blinded us to the wonder and sacred destiny of your creation. Conflict over natural resources are the nails with which we crucify you over and over again. Forgive us our greed and awaken your abiding presence in us. Amen.

### **STATION XII: Jesus dies on the cross**

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

Scripture: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and  
breathed his last. (Mark 15:37)

#### *Prayer*

Jesus, by dying on the cross you  
surrendered your will to the Father so that  
we may have life. Help us, we pray, to  
surrender our indifference to the plight of  
people displaced from their homes by  
climate-induced floods, famine, and war.  
Amen.

### **STATION XIII: Jesus is taken down from the cross**

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

Scripture: Pilate gave him permission; so he  
came and removed his body. (John 19:38)

#### *Prayer*

Lord, even as we witness the extinction of  
entire species, help us to hold on to our  
faith, hope, and love. Just as Joseph of  
Arimathea and Nicodemus stepped up to  
care for your lifeless body, give us the  
courage to be a voice for the unheard. Use  
us as instruments of peace for all creation.  
Amen.

### **STATION XIV: 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.

Scripture: So Joseph took the body and  
wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it  
in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in  
the rock. (Matthew 27:59-60)

#### *Prayer*

Creator of all things, to you nothing is  
impossible; to you all are beautiful and  
precious. Help us to see creation as you do.  
Help us to lay aside our differences and  
embrace each other as sisters and brothers.  
Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer**

Divine Love, we choose the path of mercy,  
a new journey of living simply and  
sustainably, so that the earth heals and all  
of humanity and creation rise again.  
We entrust the life of the Church, all  
humanity, and the entire cosmos to you.  
Pour out your mercy upon us like the  
morning dew, so that everyone may work  
together to build a brighter future. Amen.

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