

Walk of Witness

On Good Friday many Christians make a Walk of Witness. A short pilgrimage to remember the path that Jesus followed on the way to the Cross. You may want to pause to remember all the Stations of the Cross or just use the beginning and opening prayer. However you use this resource, may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you on your walk and always.

A prayer for the beginning of your walk:

Father God, you were the first to live the Way of the Cross. You felt every pain and every humiliation. Take my hand as I make this walk. inspire me with your love and fill me with your Holy Spirit as I walk. In Jesus' name. Amen

Station	Scripture	Prayer
1: Jesus is condemned to death	Matthew 27:22-26 ²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.	O, Lord Jesus, when have I seen you hungry, or sick, or in prison, or without clothing, or alone, and not helped you? Help me to remember how you came to us, and how we have so often responded to your coming with words of condemnation or with silence. Grant me, the grace to reach out to you when you next come, to reach out with words and deeds of love and justice. Amen
2: Jesus receives his cross	Mark 15:16-20 ¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.	Lord Jesus, you accepted the cross even though it did not belong to you, even though you did not deserve it. You carried the burden that belongs to us. Teach us how to bear each other’s burdens. Amen
Station 3: Jesus falls for the first time	John 12:23-25 ²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.	Lord Jesus, so much of our wickedness rises out of our selfishness and fear. Help us to be less fearful and to trust in you. Amen

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Station 4: Jesus meets his mother	<p>Luke 2: 22,25,34,35 ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, help us to remember Mary your mother as she stood alone in grief. Help us to remember all the other Marys of this world when they suffer. May we be a true source of grace and comfort, to them, comforted as we are, by you. Amen</p>
Station 5: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus	<p>Luke 23:26 ²⁶ As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, we thank you for strangers in our midst, who often unwittingly, even unwillingly, show us what to do and how to do it. Open our eyes and hearts; enlarge our vision, that we may be ones who help you and others to bear the unbearable load. Amen</p>
Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus	<p>Matthew 25: 35 - 40 ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’ ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’</p>	<p>Increase, O Lord our courage and our compassion. Help us wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who are oppressed even when it may cost us to do so. Amen</p>
Station 7: Jesus falls for a second time	<p>Isaiah 53: 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.</p>	<p>Lord, we have offended greatly. We have shrugged off the burdens of others so carelessly. We have neglected mercy and loving kindness. We think only of ourselves. Forgive us. Amen</p>

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Station 8: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem	Luke 23: 27 – 28 ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.”	Help us Lord in our tears to remember that it is not you that we must weep for, but ourselves. And show us what we may do to save our world, our children from suffering as you have suffered. Amen
Station 9: Jesus falls for a third time	John 15: 18 – 20 ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”	Lord Jesus, you have put up with so much from us. How great your despair must have been that day. Teach us Lord, by your example, not to add to the pain of this world. Amen
Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his garments	Mark 15: 22 – 24 ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.	Dear Lord, we reach out and grasp greedily for so much, searching for what will satisfy. We do not know how to let go of things and let you in. Even when we want to bring healing and wholeness, we get caught up in deeds that bring the opposite. Forgive us. Amen
Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross	John 19: 19 - 22 ¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”	O God, our God, we have forsaken you, fled from the crosses you ask us to bear, turned to endless distractions to numb our pain. That day you did not flee. Help us to turn to you, to embrace you and the yoke you have offered us. Amen
Station 12: Jesus dies	Luke 23: 44 – 46 ⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.	Father God, teach me how to pray. Amen.

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8Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross	Mark 15: 42 – 45 ⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen.	Loving God, comfort us in our distress. Amen.
Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb	Mark 15: 46 – 47 ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.	Loving God, it says in your word that you did not withhold nor spare even your own Son, but gave him up for all of us. Teach us what this means. Give us new hope for we ask it in his name. Amen.
Final prayer Loving God, thank you for being with me as I have travelled the way of your cross. Help me to hear your call on my life and give me the strength to respond to you. Thank you for all that you have done for me. Guide and protect me and those that I love. In your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ's name Amen.		

*Prayers adapted from material by Rev. Richard J. and Charlene E. Fairchild
 Bible readings from New International Version from Biblegateway.com
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