

(For use with finger labyrinth)

Prayers & Stations of the Cross

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Begin stations at entrance to Labyrinth

1. Jesus Prays in the Garden *(Matthew 26: 36 to 39)*

Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit down here, while I go over yonder and pray." Then he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them, "My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with me." He went forward a little, and falling to the ground he prayed, saying, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; yet not as I will but as you will."

† *Almighty and eternal Father, accept this prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son. As we recall his Sacred Passion, send the Spirit into our hearts so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. Amen.*

2. Abandoned by Friends *(Mark 14:66-72)*

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept.

† *God of love, you remain a faithful even when we turn away. Give grace to those who are betrayed and abandoned; and courage to us to be true friends to our neighbours, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

3. **Jesus is condemned to death** (*Mark 14:61-64*)

Again the high priest began to ask him, and said to him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said to him, "I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and Coming with the clouds of heaven," But the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" And they all condemned him as liable to death.
† *All-powerful and eternal God, for proclaiming the truth your Son is condemned to death by crucifixion. Stir up your love in our hearts so that we might boldly proclaim the truth, and stand fast with those who are persecuted for speaking the truth, for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen.*

4. **Jesus carries His Cross** (*John 19:14-17*)

And Pilate said to them, "Behold, your king!" But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. And so they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself.

† *Father in heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ, still carries his Cross in his persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Make us feel the needs of all persons so that we might as readily help them as we would help Jesus himself. Amen.*

5. **Jesus meets his afflicted mother** (*John 19:25-27*)

Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

† *O blessed Lord, at your passion a sword of sorrow pierced the loving heart of your mother, as Simeon had foretold. Grant your comfort to all families that endure grief and conflict, for the sake of the mother you chose to care for Jesus. Amen.*

6. **Jesus Struggles to Carry the Cross** (*Is 53:4-6*)

It was our weaknesses that he carried, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one struck by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment 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.

† *Lord Jesus Christ, Your beaten and broken body struggled to carry our guilt. Grant us peace in our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all others. Amen.*

7. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross (Mt. 15:20-22)

And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a passer-by from the countryside, Simon of Cyrene, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning "the place of the skull."

† *Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Give us the courage and dedication to sacrifice and suffer with those who are in need, the least of your people. Amen.*

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-28)

There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me but weep for yourselves and for your children."

† *Beloved Jesus, with tears of pity these women of Jerusalem responded to You, broken, bruised, and beaten, on the road to Calvary. Deepen our faith, so that we may see You in our brothers and sisters, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference. Amen.*

9. Jesus is stripped of His clothes (Matthew 27:34-35)

They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it, He would not drink. Then, after they had crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garment they cast lots."

† *Lord Jesus Christ, stripped of everything, You endured the contempt of the people whom You loved. Clothe us with genuine love of others, so that we may never inflict suffering, nor anything we suffer fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness. Amen.*

10. Jesus is nailed to the Cross (Luke 23:33-35; John 19:18)

When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

† *O God, to free us from sin and weakness your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced his fearful passion and crucifixion. Strengthen us in the pain we endure, so that through the passion of this life's sufferings we might rise to a new life of joyful service free of all selfishness. Amen.*

11. Crucified with Criminals (Luke 23:39-43)

One of the criminals on a cross began to shout insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the Christ? Then save yourself and us." But the other criminal stopped him and said, "You should fear God! You are getting the same punishment he is. We are punished justly, getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

† *Blessed Jesus, at your time of greatest suffering you extended compassion to others in need. Remind our hearts to regard not only our own sorrow, but that of our neighbours as well, that we may minister to other for the sake of your Cross and Passion. Amen.*

12. Jesus dies on the Cross (Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30b)

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then, bowing his head, he died.

'From Ashes to Fire' Meditation on the Cross (BAS p.314)

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

O my people, O my Church,

What have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Testify against me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna.

I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done?

I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine;

but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate.

I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.

I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.

I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and seek high places in my kingdom.

I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counsellor.

I pray that all may be as one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide.

I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.

I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food,

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,

naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one, have mercy upon us.

13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross (*John 19:33-34,38a*)

When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so that they did not break his legs, but one of them opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimathea, because he was a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the religious leaders), besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus And Pilate gave permission.

† *Beloved Saviour, You returned to the Father all that He had given You, so that He might restore all to You in the glorious resurrection. Help us to give generously of ourselves in all that we do for You, so that like You we might be made perfect in a new resurrection. Amen.*

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb (*Mt. 27:59-60*)

Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

† *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead, to your holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*