

The Stations of the Cross

Seattle University Campus Ministry Chapel of St. Ignatius

*If you're able, listen to *Adoramus Te Christe*, performed by the Chapel of St. Ignatius Choir ([also on the Spotify playlist for today](#)) to begin and end your prayer.*

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray,
Jesus Our Companion,
our hearts are sorrowful as we join with you to walk in the way of the cross.
In these days when we are unable to gather together to pray,
unite us with our family of faith and with you.
As we draw nearer to your cross, help us to be close to our suffering world.
Grant we pray, that we your disciples may be strengthened to follow you
in way of compassion and action that pursues the kingdom of God.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Crucified King.

Amen.

FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: The governor said to them in reply, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They answered, “Barabbas! ... Let [Jesus] be crucified!” (Matthew 27:21–22) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for those who our world condemns to death by war, poverty, and gun violence, and for the more than 2,600 people on death row in this country. (pause)

God our Liberator, you have known what it means to be condemned to death by the powerful. Be with our many brothers and sisters who are refugees, prisoners, and vulnerable citizens who face death. Enfold them in your love and bring your comfort and care to all who need your healing and hope, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

SECOND STATION: JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: [The soldiers] clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him....And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:17-20) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for those who face the burden of being marginalized, particularly victims of racism, homophobia, sexism, and clericalism. (pause)

God our Shelter, be close to all those who endure daily the weight of exclusion, mockery, and systemic injustice. Heal in us and in our world the sins that divide us, and give us courage to act boldly for your reign of justice and inclusion through Christ Our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: I am troubled now. Yet what shall I say? “Father, save me from this hour?” But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name. (John 12:27–28) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for those who feel crushed by the weight of fear and anxiety, particularly for those who have lost their jobs during this global crisis. (pause)

God of Light, cast out the darkness that crowds our vision. You who fell beneath the weight of the cross, be near to those who are heavy burdened by worry in these days, and help us to reach out to one another with care and compassion, that we may be your light in dark times, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

FOURTH STATION: JESUS ENCOUNTERS HIS MOTHER

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary ... “You yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:34–35) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all parents separated from their children, particularly parents and children in immigration detention. (pause)

God Our Mother, protect all children and strengthen all parents, especially those separated by our immigration system. We know you work to bring your people together. Reunite all families, and open our hearts that we may see how you call us to be one human family through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: As they led [Jesus] away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all those who feel isolated and alone, particularly during the days of social distancing (pause)

God of Help, you sent your disciples out two by two, and even in your journey to the cross, remind us anew that we belong to one another, and that there are no strangers in your love. Be close to those who are isolated, particularly those who are elderly or sick, and grant that we may be instruments of connection, support, and love for our neighbors, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Then the king will say [to those at his right hand,] “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
(Matthew 25:40) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all those who work essential services during this time, particularly health care, custodial, farm, grocery store, and food service workers. (pause)

God of Compassion, we are made in your true image. Be near now to the helpers, who step out of the crowd in compassion, and work tirelessly for the greater good. Strengthen those who serve with your abundant care, and open our hearts in gratitude for your presence imprinted in each of us, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: We proclaim Christ crucified,...For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:23-25) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all those that the world sees as weak and disposable, especially exploited workers, crushed by the weight of consumerism and greed. (pause)

God our Strength, you lift up the weary and see every person as beloved. Release us from the grip of overconsumption and the idols of power and money. Transform our hearts that we may see with your wisdom and act to uphold the dignity of every life, through Christ Our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children ...” (Luke 23:28) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for vulnerable women and children, particularly those who face violence and abuse. (pause)

God our Protector, we weep for ourselves and for our children, for those who do not have safety in their homes, and we pray especially for those impacted by clerical sexual abuse. Enfold your children in your loving protection and wipe the tears from our eyes, help us to act to protect the vulnerable, so all children may know your care through every generation. Through Christ Our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS FOR A THIRD TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: 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 (Hebrews 4:15-16) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for those who feel the weight of failure, broken dreams, and dashed plans. (pause)

God of Hope, you are close to all those who feel heartbroken as their plans and dreams seem out of reach. You have known the crushing weight of disappointment and suffering. Send your creative Spirit into our lives, that we may dream anew, trusting in your capacity to transform every place through your presence and grace, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

TENTH STATION JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:18-19) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all of creation, and for our earth. (pause)

God of Creation, you have made the earth and every creature that dwells in it. Forgive us for our actions that strip the earth of resources and harm our ecosystems. Help us to see ourselves as connected in the web of life, empower us to be good stewards of your creation and to act decisively to combat climate change, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [...] Then [one of the criminals] said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:33, 42-43) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all who experience homelessness, hunger, and poverty in our city and around the world. (pause)

God of the Poor, your people are crucified, trapped in painful cycles of poverty. Crucified Christ, you did not suffer alone. Expose the sins of our world, and help us act in solidarity with the most vulnerable so that we may draw closer each day to your kingdom of justice and peace through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for all who are dying on this day, especially those dying from COVID-19 (pause)

God of Life, we know that nothing, not even death can separate us from your love. Be now with every person who is dying alone. Welcome all the departed into the peace of your loving embrace, and comfort all of us who mourn through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS’ BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.” (Luke 22:19) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for the Body of Christ. (pause)

God our Shepherd, in these days when we are unable to gather in person to pray as community, we lift our hearts to you, united as One Body. We yearn for the day when we can celebrate Eucharist together again. Renew your Spirit within us Lord, that we your church may be the Body of Christ, sacrament of your unfailing love in this world, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us

FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS' BODY IS PLACED IN A TOMB

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Taking the body [of Jesus], Joseph [of Arimathea] wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb. (Mark 27:59-61) (pause)

Let us pause in prayer for those who mourn. (pause)

God our Friend. You know grief and loss, and wept outside the tomb of your friend Lazarus. In these days everyone is experiencing some loss. Help us find ways to grieve, while we cannot gather to bury the dead or mourn together, knit us together as one family in your love. While, like your disciples at the tomb, we do not know what our future holds, help us to trust in your promise of presence in our life through every trial to come, through Christ our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ Crucified.

All: Have mercy on Us.

CLOSING PRAYER

Spirit of Life,

Bless us, who journey with Jesus to the cross.

Give us the grace to recognize the places of crucifixion and death
in our lives and in our world

Help us to be people of love, courage, and peace in the face of suffering
and give us hope in your power to be transform our world

Be near to us and comfort us Lord,

Strengthen us for our journey of faith and life ahead,
during these days of crisis

Unite our hearts in prayer, and grant us the joy of resurrection hope,
that we may gather again in person one day as a community of faith.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.