



Scriptural Stations of the Cross

~~~~~  
A labyrinth walk for Lent and Holy Week

St Columba's Episcopal Church  
1251 Las Posas Road  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
[www.StColumbaCA.com](http://www.StColumbaCA.com)

(805) 482-8831

## Holy Week – The Scriptural Stations of the Cross – St Columba's, Camarillo

**Stations of the Cross** – From early Christianity, when pilgrims came to Jerusalem, they visited sites where Jesus was known to have been. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The traditional stations came about during the crusades, when it was no longer safe to visit the holy sites. In the 1500's, villages in Europe created "replicas" of the way of the cross, commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, the traditional set of 14 stations was placed in almost every Catholic Church in the world.

These 'Scriptural' Stations are based on those celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. They are presented here as an alternative to the traditional stations and as a way of reflecting on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion.

**The Labyrinth Walk** – Historically, the Labyrinth pre-dates the Stations by several hundred years. The Chartres Labyrinth was constructed around 1201 AD in the stone floor of Chartres Cathedral, France. Medieval Christians visited Chartres (and other cathedrals) and walked the labyrinth as an alternative to taking a hazardous pilgrimage to Jerusalem to walk in the "footsteps of Christ." Modern "pilgrims" walk the labyrinth path as one of many tools to enhance prayer, contemplation, meditation, and/or personal growth.

We offer the Stations and the Labyrinth together, as a pilgrimage, and an opportunity to experience the passion of Christ on a personal level in an ancient, yet new, way.

### **Instructions for the Pilgrimage:**

- Please walk the path in silence.
- Move at your own pace. You may pass other pilgrims as necessary.
- The 14 Stations are distributed over the labyrinth path and indicated with numbered rocks.
- At each station, pause, read the appropriate passage and prayer. Continue on your pilgrimage when you are ready. Spend as much time at each station as you choose.
- When you have completed the 14th station in the center, you may:
  1. Go directly off the Labyrinth to the surrounding garden to pray and reflect,  
or
  2. Continue with the traditional labyrinth walk, by retracing your path out of the labyrinth.

## **Opening Prayer:**

God of power and mercy, in love you sent your Son that we might be cleansed of sin and live with you forever. Bless us as we reflect on his suffering and death that we may learn from his example the way we should go. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." *Matthew 25:36-41 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us your strength and wisdom, that we may seek to follow your will in all things.

### **2. Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested**

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. *Mark 14: 43-46 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us the courage of our convictions that our lives may faithfully reflect the good news you bring.

### **3. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin**

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!" *Luke 22: 66-71 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us your sense of righteousness that we may never cease to work to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised.

### **4. Jesus is Denied by Peter**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. *Matthew 26: 69-75 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us the gift of honesty that we may not fear to speak the truth even when difficult.

### **5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate**

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.... So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. *Mark 15: 1-5, 15 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us discernment that we may see as you see, not as the world sees.

## **6. Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. *John 19:1-3 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us patience in times of suffering that we may offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

## **7. Jesus Bears the Cross**

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ...They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. *John 19: 6, 15-17*

\* Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

## **8. Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene to Carry the Cross**

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. *Mark 15: 21 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us willing spirits that we may be your instruments on earth.

## **9. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" *Luke 23: 27-31 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn.

## **10. Jesus is Crucified**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. *Luke 23: 33-34 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.

## **11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief**

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding<sup>[a]</sup> him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." *Luke 23: 39-43 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us perseverance that we may never stop seeking you.

## **12. Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple**

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. *John 19: 25-27 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us constancy that we may be willing to stand by those in need.

## **13. Jesus Dies on the Cross**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. *Luke 23: 44-46 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us trust in you that when our time on earth is ended, our spirits may come to you without delay.

## **14. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 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. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. *Matthew 27: 57-60 NRSV*

\* Lord, grant us your compassion that we may always provide for those in need.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death are the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Traditional Stations of the Cross:**

1. Pilate condemns Jesus to die
2. Jesus accepts his cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother, Mary
5. Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb

Of these, Stations 3,4,6,7, and 9 do not have a basis in the Gospel accounts, although all but #6 may be implied.

Sometimes a 15<sup>th</sup> station, Jesus' resurrection, is added.