

WAY OF THE CROSS

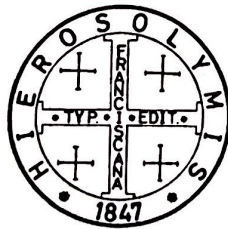
on the Via Dolorosa - Jerusalem



WAY OF THE CROSS

AS MADE BY THE FRANCISCANS
IN JERUSALEM

ON THE VIA DOLOROSA



Franciscan Printing Press
Jerusalem

FORWARD

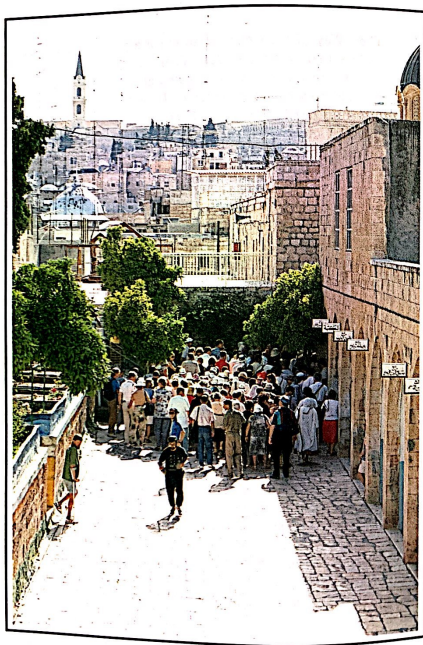
The "Way of the Cross" is so much a part of the life of Jerusalem that without it, Jerusalem would be incomplete. Centuries ago Christians congregated at those sites that had been made holy by the presence of Jesus Christ. Around the IVth century Egeria, the famous Spanish Pilgrim Lady, tells us about the religious service of this type among them. By the end of the days of the Crusaders already there was a well defined route and in the XVI century it was known as the "Via Dolorosa."

In 1880 the Franciscan Friars in Jerusalem again took up the custom of publicly walking and praying along the "Via Crucis." Everyone knows how the "Via Crucis." begins with the Condemnation of Jesus to death and ends with the Resurrection. *In Jerusalem the end takes place right at the front of the empty Tomb where the Angel said: "He is not here! He has arisen,"*

Today every Friday afternoon at 3:00 (standard time) all the people in the streets of Jerusalem can watch the procession of brown robed Franciscan Friars with white cords, wend its way through Jerusalem's streets from the place where the Roman fortress Antonia stood to Calvary. A packed crown of faithful pilgrims follows prayerfully. They come to Jerusalem from all parts of the world so they can "Celebrate the Memory of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection."

Now the Franciscans make this booklet available for all those who wish to "*celebrate the Memory of the Passion, Death and Resurrection*" in whatever place they find themselves. Here they will find *the same biblical texts and prayers, with photos of the actual sights and scenes* in Jerusalem itself, as the "Via dolorosa" is relived in the midst of a crowd of people with divergent beliefs.

The Editorial Staff



WAY OF THE CROSS

O Lord, grant that what we aspire to do may be accomplished through your help. And may all our prayers and deeds, having their beginning in you, also be successful through you. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, too, in order to sanctify the people through His own blood, endured His sufferings also outside city gate. Let us also, now, go to Him outside the people's camp and there share in his degradation. For we have no lasting city in this life and so we look for one in the life to come. (Heb. 13, 12-14).

Let Us Pray

O Lord God, through the glorious passion of your Son, you have pointed out the cross as the way to arrive at glory. Kindly allow us, imbued with sentiments of reverent devotion, to be united with Him on Calvary. Bestow on us the grace to be united with Him also in His final triumph.¹ Through Christ Our Lord. Amen
Miserere nostri, Domine. Miserere nostri.

At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping.
Close to Jesus to the last.

I



8

I FIRST STATION

Here Jesus is condemned to death

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Then Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

(Matthew 27,26)

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

(Matthew 5,11)

Let us pray

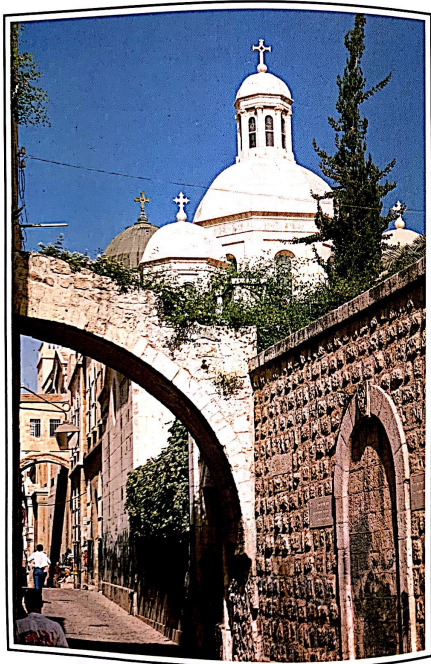
O Lord, you know that because of our human weakness we cannot resist the serious dangers we are exposed to, so give us health of mind and body so that, with your help we can overcome the temptations we suffer from because of our sins.² Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

9

II



10

II

SECOND STATION

Here Jesus carries his cross

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemistis mundum.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the Place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

(John 19,17)

And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

(Matthew 10, 39)

Let us pray

O God, the strength of those who trust in You, mercifully hear our prayers; and because without You our mortal weakness is incapable of anything, grant us the help of Your grace, that in fulfilling Your commandments, we may please You both in will and in deed.³ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Oh how sad and sore distressed,
Now was she that Mother Blessed
Of the sole-begotten One.

11

III



12

III THIRD STATION

Here Jesus
falls the first time

**Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per
sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.**

*And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the
sorrows he carried.*

(Is. 53,4)

*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.
The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.*

(Matthew 26,41)

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ You have
revealed Your glory to all nations; guard the works of
Your mercy, that Your Church, spread over the whole
world, may with constant faith persevere in the
confession of Your name.⁴ Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.

13

IV



14

IV FOURTH STATION

Here Jesus meets His Mother

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

This child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

(Luke 2, 34-35)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

(Matthew 5, 4)

Let us pray

O God, in Whose Passion, according to the prophecy of Simeon, a sword of sorrow pierced through the soul of the glorious Mary, Virgin and Mother, mercifully grant, that we, who call to mind with veneration her Sorrows, may obtain the blessed fruit of Your Passion.⁵ Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Is there one who would not weep
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

15

V



V FIFTH STATION

Here the Cyrenaeen helps
Jesus carry the cross.

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

As they led Jesus 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.
(Luke 23, 26)

No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

(John 15, 20)

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold, in order to inflame our hearts with the fire of Your love, You renewed the sacred marks of Your Passion on the body of the most Blessed Francis; mercifully grant that, by his merits and prayers, we may always bear our cross, and bring forth fruits worthy of penance.⁶ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold.

VI



18

VI SIXTH STATION

Here Veronica
wipes the face of Jesus

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him.
(Is. 53, 2-3)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.
(John 15, 1-2)

Let us pray

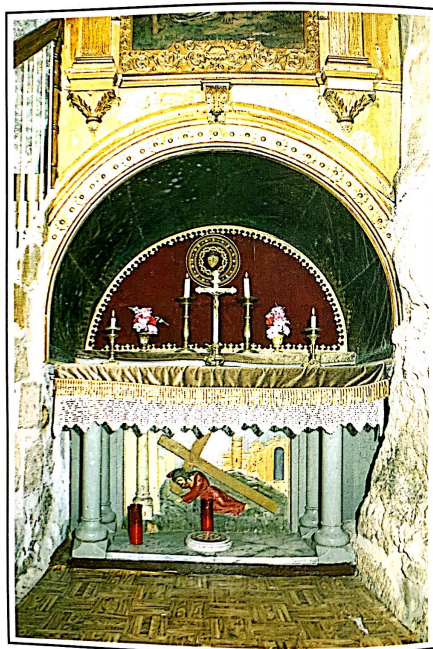
O God, to those who go astray, You display the light of Your truth that they may return into the way of righteousness; grant to all those who profess themselves Christians, both to avoid the things which are contrary to that name, and to follow those which are agreeable thereto. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent,

19

VII



20

VII SEVENTH STATION

Here Jesus
falls the second time.

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings un peace, and through his wounds we are healed.

(Is. 53,5)

It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick... I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

(Matthew 9, 12-13).

Let us pray

Almighty and Eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Christ, your Son. Guide the work of your Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring your salvation to people everywhere.* Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

For the sins of his own nation
Saw him hang in desolation
Till his spirit forth he sent.

21

VIII



VIII EIGHTH STATION

Here Jesus meets the
holy women of Jerusalem

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

A Large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children... For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

(Luke 23, 27-28,31)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
(Matthew 5,7)

Let us pray

Almighty and Eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Listen to your Church as we pray that the people you first made your own may arrive at the fullness of redemption.⁹ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

O thou Mother, fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above.
Make my heart with thine accord.

IX



24

IX NINTH STATION

Here Jesus
falls the third time

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and Yahweh burdened him with the sins of all of us.
(Is. 53, 6)

There will be more rejoicing in heaven over the sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

(Luke 15, 7)

Let us pray

Bring to life, O Lord, the spirit of piety in your Church, and its vigor so that we may generate worthy ministers of your altar and staunch promoters of your word.¹⁰ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Make me feel as thou hast felt:
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord.

25

X



26

X TENTH STATION

Here Jesus is stripped of his garments

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

They took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining.

(John 19, 23)

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into the hell.

(Matthew 5,29)

Let us pray

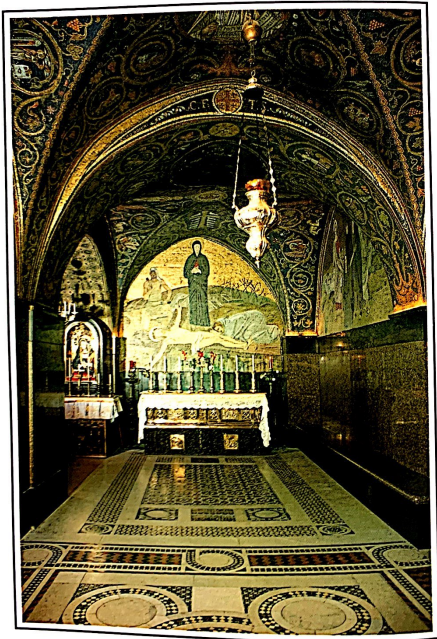
Almighty and Eternal God, you keep together those you have united. Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love.¹¹ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Holy Mother, pierce me through
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour crucified.

27

XI



28

XI ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him.

(Mark 15, 23)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

(John 3, 14)

Let us pray

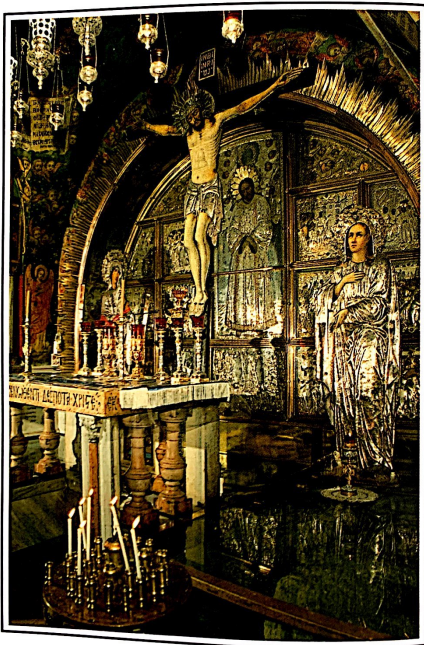
Almighty and everlasting God, You appointed Your Only-begotten Son to be Redeemer of the world, and You willed to be appeased by His Blood; grant, we beseech You, that we may so venerate the price of our redemption, and by its power, be so defended from the evils of this present earthly life, that we may enjoy its fruit forevermore in heaven.¹² Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Let me share with thee his pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.

29

XII



30

XII TWELFTH STATION

Here Jesus dies on the Cross

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.
(Luke 23, 44-46)

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
(John 15,13)

Let us pray

We, who feed on the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, by Whom the banner of the Holy Cross was sanctified, beseech You, O Lord our God, that since we have deserved to venerate that same holy sign, it may be ours to enjoy forever the effect of its saving glory.¹³ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.

31

XIII



32

XIII THIRTEENTH STATION

Here Jesus is
taken down from the Cross 7

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Pilate agreed. (John 19, 38)

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luke 9,26)

Let us pray

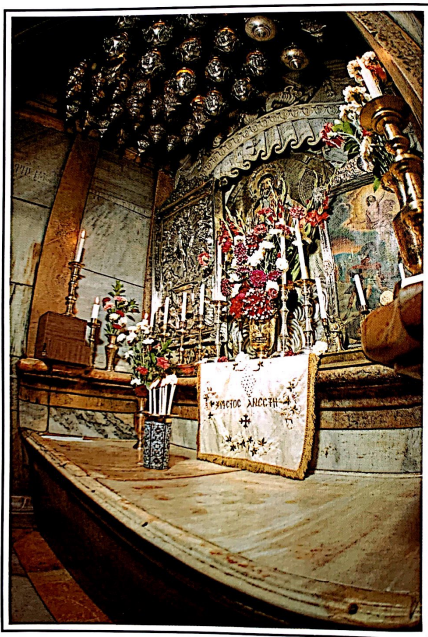
O Lord, Jesus Christ, we offer you our prayers and sacrificial gifts. May we, who commemorate the piercing of the soul of blessed Mary, your Mother, share the reward of the saints through her loving and constant intercession and the prayers of those who stood with her beside the cross, as well as through your meritorious death:¹⁴ You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

By the Cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.

33

XIV



34

XIV FOURTEENTH STATION

Here Jesus
is laid in the Tomb

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the Place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19, 40-42)

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. (John 12, 24)

Let us pray

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured.¹⁵ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.
Miserere, etc.

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine;

35



Let us pray

Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

(Matthew 28, 5-6)

This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

(Luke 24, 46-48)

Let us pray

Almighty, ever-living God, you have given the human race Jesus Christ our savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving his life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to you by following his example of suffering, and make us worthy to share in his resurrection.¹⁶ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the intentions of Our Holy Father:
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

For the Benefactors of Terra Santa:
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

Agimus tibi gratias omnipotens Deus, pro universis beneficiis tuis. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum. Amen.