

The ancient practice of praying the stations of the cross evokes the path Jesus followed carrying his cross through the streets of Jerusalem to the place of his death on the Hill of Calvary.

From the first recorded walk in 381 by the Spanish pilgrim Egeria to this day, thousands of pilgrims continue to follow this sacred route in the Holy City known as the “Via Dolorosa” - or path of sorrow. In churches around the world stations, have been erected in this same tradition as places for people to pray, reflect and meditate upon the events of Christ’s last hours on earth—events which led to our own salvation.

Saint Mark’s stations are a series of sketches by Columbus artist Paul Bourguignon (1906—1988) and are located on the north, south and west walls of the Nave. They are made from Jerusalem Stone from the Holy Land, and were hand-made by Ohio craftsmen. Station One begins on the south wall near the altar.

You are invited to become one of these pilgrims with this guide. Take a moment for silence and the opening prayer in a front pew, then walk slowly from station to station, and conclude with the Closing Prayers before the altar steps.



**The Thirteenth Station**

Candles in the Chapel of the Crucifixion  
Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem



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of the spirit, the Episcopal Church welcomes you.*

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**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 

*“Living in Hope,  
Growing in Faith,  
Celebrating God’s Love”*



## **Stations of the Cross**

A Meditative Guide

## Opening Prayer

Assist us mercifully with your help, O God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the mighty acts whereby you have given us life and immortality. May your Holy Spirit descend upon us as we recall the path your blessed Son has trod; give us thankful and courageous hearts to make our earthly pilgrimage with him, and by his love raise us at its end to those eternal joys prepared for your people; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### I Jesus is condemned to die

And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called Gabbatha. He then handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

"Lord, may we find walking the way of the cross to be the way of life and peace."

### II Jesus takes up his cross

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

"Lord, who endured the agony and shame of the cross for us, give us courage to take up our own cross and follow you."

### III Jesus falls for the first time

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.

"Lord, when we experience sickness and weakness, may we know of your loving care."

### IV Jesus meets his afflicted mother

What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Jerusalem? For vast is the sea of your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning shall be ended.

"Lord, grant that your church having shared the grief of Mary may be worthy to share in the joy of Christ's resurrection."

### V The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

As they led him away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, and they laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus.

"Lord, bless all who serve the suffering, the friendless, and the needy."

### VI A woman wipes the face of Jesus

He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows who knew grief; and as one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised and we esteemed him not.

"Lord, may faith in your glory strengthen us to bear our crosses."

### VII Jesus falls a second time

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All of us like sheep have gone astray. We have turned selfishly to our own way; yet the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

"Lord, thank you for your tender love and mercy for all of God's people."

### VIII Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

There followed after Jesus a great multitude, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented. Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me but for yourselves and for your children."

"Lord, teach your church to repent of its sins so it may be filled with your grace."

### IX Jesus falls a third time

He has driven me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation, he shuts out my prayer and makes me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.

"Lord, as we suffer shame and loss, let us glory in your cross of life."

### X Jesus is stripped of his garments

When they came to a place called Golgotha (the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

"Lord, give us grace to accept the trials of this life confident in your kingdom."

### XI Jesus is nailed to the cross

There they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled: "He was numbered among the transgressors."

"Lord, clothe us with your Spirit, help us embrace those who do not yet love you."

### XII Jesus dies on the cross

And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" And then crying with a loud voice he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit."

"Lord, defend us from the enemy on every side and bring us to your kingdom."

### XIII The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people.

"Lord, help us to follow you in faith that we may awake in your likeness."

### XIV Jesus is laid in the tomb

And Joseph of Arimathea took the body, and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

"Lord, grant that we may find our eternal rest in your eternal and glorious kingdom."

## Closing Prayers

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

We thank you, merciful God, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN