

# WALKING THE STATIONS TOWARD THE CROSS

## Remembering Jesus' Life and Ministry

### The First Station: Birth

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Litany:**

**Reader:** At his birth, the angels sang for joy: a world longing for peace welcomed its Savior.

**People:** **Our world, too, yearns for peace; we too sing for joy at the presence of our Savior.**

**Reader:** Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

### The Second Station: Jesus at 12

**Scripture:** Luke 2:41-49

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents<sup>[a]</sup> saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

**Reader:** Even as a young boy, Jesus was led to seek the presence of God, to ask the questions of faith.

**People:** **May we, too, seek for God's presence, and listen for God's voice.**

Reader: Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.  
 People: **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way**

### **The Third Station: Baptism**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved with whom I am well pleased."

#### **Litany:**

Reader: At his baptism, Jesus was touched by the Spirit and surrounded by God's blessing.

People: **May we, too, live each day knowing we are blessed, and empowered by God's Spirit.**

Reader: Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

People: **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

### **The Fourth Station: Temptation in the Wilderness**

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
 but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
 and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

### **Litany:**

**Reader:** The Tempter made it easy: turn from God, follow me, and all will go well for you. Jesus closed his ears to the voice of evil.

**People:** **Each day we too are faced with choices, between good and evil, between what we could be and what we should be. Help us to choose the way of Love.**

**Reader:** Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

### **The Fifth Station: The Sermon in Nazareth**

**Scripture:** Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

### **Litany:**

**Reader:** This was a Messiah Jesus was to be: one who would bring good news

to the poor, healing to the hurting, release to all held captive by oppression.

**People:** **God of compassion, help us to remember that this, too, is our call: to seek justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.**

Reader: Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way**

### **The Sixth Station: The Sermon on the Mount**

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:3-9

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Litany:**

Reader: Jesus proclaimed to us the ‘upside-down kingdom’ of God, where gentleness would be strength, and power would be found in peace.

**People:** **Help us always to seek peace and pursue it, to be those who turn the cheek and forgive seventy times seven times.**

Reader: Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

### **The Seventh Station: “Who is My Neighbor?”**

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

<sup>5</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. [“Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and

went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii,<sup>l</sup> gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### **Litany:**

**Reader:** Who are we asked to love? Not just the ones close by: Jesus taught us that every person is our neighbor, that there are no boundaries of caste or country.

**People:** **God of all people, help us daily to remember that each child of your heart is our sister, our brother.**

**Reader:** Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

### **The Eighth Station: Healing**

**Scripture:** Luke 6:17-19

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

### **Litany:**

**Reader:** In Jesus' presence, all who were hurting found healing; by his touch, all whose spirits were broken found themselves made whole.

**People:** **When we, too, are hurting and broken, may we remember where our healing is to be found: in the presence, in the touch of the One who loves us.**

**Reader:** Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

## The Ninth Station: The Last Supper

**Scripture:** Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I tell you, I will not eat it<sup>[a]</sup> until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**Litany:**

**Reader:** In bread and cup, in body and blood, in love and mercy, Jesus gave to his friends the gift of himself, the gift of his life.

**People:** **His followers did not know the sacrifice he was soon to make: but we know. God of mercy, help us each day to remember that it was for our forgiveness that your Son offered himself.**

**Reader:** Today, Lord Jesus, we walk in your footsteps.

**People:** **Each day, Lord Jesus, may we walk in your way.**

## The Tenth Station: The Cross

**Scripture:** Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into<sup>[g]</sup> your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Closing Litany**

Reader: Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy and Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us  
*(silence)*

Reader: Holy God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross.  
Your mercy is more than our minds can measure, your love  
outlasts our sin.

**People: Have mercy on us, God, and forgive us our reluctance to  
serve you.**

Reader: Have mercy on us, God, and strengthen us to take up our  
cross each day.

**People: Teach us to walk in the way of our Lord, even in the way  
of the Cross.**

Reader: Let us then go in peace, to love and serve our God.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**