

Introduction

The city of Jerusalem, 2000 years ago. It is a busy Friday morning in the market square. People are meeting and greeting each other and sharing news about family and friends.

A teacher from Galilee, a man named Jesus, has spent the last three years travelling from village to village revealing the great mysteries of God's wonderful Kingdom to us all here on earth. He travels with a group of friends, his disciples and his following grows stronger with each day as people begin to understand more about our loving Father in Heaven.

Earlier this week, this man Jesus arrived in our city, Jerusalem, riding on a donkey and was hailed as a great king. It is Passover time and many are here to celebrate the time when their ancestors freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Yesterday, Jesus shared his last meal with his friends. He was betrayed, arrested and stood trial. Today we will walk with him on his last journey. We will pause and pray with him.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?



First Station Jesus meets Pontius Pilate.



The first stop on the way of the cross is the Governor's Palace. Many Jewish leaders want Jesus out of the way. They all shout "**Crucify him!**" Many angry people are yelling at him. They say mean and hurtful things. But Jesus stays quiet, even though he knows he will be hurt. He knows that God is with him. He even asks God to help him forgive the people who are yelling at him.

Let us pray,

For the times we say hurtful things to others, we are sorry.
Help us to be more forgiving.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Song: Were you there when He was condemned to die?

Were you there when He was condemned to die?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He was condemned to die?

Second Station Jesus accepts his cross.



The Roman soldiers bring a large wooden cross for Jesus to carry. It is very heavy and rough. Though Jesus is tired, he reaches out and accepts the cross. He knows that he has to carry this cross a long way and that it will be very hard for him at times. But Jesus knows that God is with him and he asks God to help him to carry it.

Let us pray

For the times we have complained when things have not gone our way, we are sorry. Help us to be less selfish and more generous.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

**Song: Were you there when He bore the heavy cross?
Were you there when He bore the heavy cross?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when He bore the heavy cross?**

Third Station Jesus falls for the first time.



He is very exhausted, and the cross is very heavy. It keeps pushing into his shoulder and the stones on the road hurt his feet. Then Jesus falls. How tired he is! When we have difficult things to bear such as worries or fears or sadness, we should think of Jesus. He falls under the weight of the cross, but he gets up and begins again.

Let us pray

For the times we get into bad moods with those around us, we are sorry. Help us to make a fresh start each day in a cheerful and caring way.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when He fell beneath its weight?

Were you there when He fell beneath its weight?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He fell beneath its weight?

Fourth Station Jesus meets his mother.



On the narrow roadway, Jesus turns the corner and looks ahead to see a woman. It is his mother. She reaches out to touch him. Jesus knows how sad his mother is, but he is comforted to know that she is there. Sometimes we don't want our parents to see us in trouble, but we like to know that they are there to support us and love us while we are growing up.

Let us pray

For the times we do not always appreciate what our parents do for us, we are sorry. Help us to be loving members of our families and support each other through happy and sad times.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when He met His Mother's gaze?

Were you there when He met His Mother's gaze?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He met His Mother's gaze?

Fifth Station Simon helps Jesus.



The soldiers notice that Jesus is very weak. He is staggering under the load. So they pull a man from the crowd - a stranger called Simon from a place called Cyrene and force him to help Jesus carry the cross. Simon didn't want to help at first. He just wanted to see what was going on. However, he did his best and was soon glad to be helping Jesus.

Let us pray

For the times we refused to do something we were asked because we did not want to do it, we are sorry. Help us to accept tasks and always do our best without complaining.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when Simon helped Him bear the cross?

Were you there when Simon helped Him bear the cross?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when Simon helped Him bear the cross?

Sixth Station Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



A woman steps out from the crowd with a towel. She wipes the face of Jesus. When Veronica wipes the face of Jesus, she risks being told off or pushed by the soldiers or laughed at by the crowd. Her love and kindness overcome her fears.

Let us pray.

For the times we have not been helpful when we know that others need our kindness. Help us to be friends to people who are unpopular. Help us to stand up for them when they need a friend.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when His face was touched with love?

Were you there when His face was touched with love?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when His face was touched with love?

Seventh Station Jesus falls for the second time.



The walk is only half over. Even with Simon's help Jesus falls again under the weight of the heavy cross. But he gets up and moves on. Jesus came to earth to help us all. It was a hard job for him. But he always does his best because he loves us.

Let us pray.

For the times we give up too easily, we are sorry. Help us to be the hands and feet of Jesus on earth, doing good for those around us. Help us never to give up.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when He fell again in pain?

Were you there when He fell again in pain?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He fell again in pain?

Eighth Station Jesus meets some women.



Now Jesus passes some women from Jerusalem who are weeping for him because he is suffering so much. He tells them not to weep for him but to take care of themselves and their children. The world can be cruel. Women and children often suffer especially because of wars in their countries.

Let us pray.

For the times we have only thought of ourselves and not others, we are sorry. May we always try to help others in the world who need such things as food, clean water, safe homes and a peaceful environment. Help us to contribute to making a better world.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Song: Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Ninth Station Jesus falls for the third time.



Jesus has no more strength left. He has climbed a hill carrying his heavy cross. He just can't go on anymore. Again he falls and struggles to stand up again. Jesus has chosen this very difficult path out of love for us.

Let us pray.

For the times we have been unkind about others when they have not succeeded at something, we are sorry. Help us to recognise when people have tried hard to do their best. May we always be grateful for their efforts.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when He sank beneath the cross?

Were you there when He sank beneath the cross?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He sank beneath the cross?

Tenth Station Jesus is stripped of his clothes.



Jesus has reached the top of the hill. He is allowed to put down his cross. While Jesus stands in front of the crowd, the soldiers pull off his robe and almost all his clothes are taken from him. Jesus is treated as if he is worthless and is left feeling embarrassed and humiliated.

Let us pray.

For the times we have been mean, we are sorry. Help us to be brave like you. May we never be spiteful to those who hurt us. Help us to be peacemakers.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when they tore His clothes away?

Were you there when they tore His clothes away?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they tore His clothes away?

Eleventh Station Jesus is nailed to the cross.



The soldiers nail Jesus to the cross. How it must have hurt him. He knows he will die soon. Whenever we are injured or sick, we remember Jesus who chose to die this way to show the world how much he loved us. Jesus understands what it feels like to be in pain.

Let us pray.

For the times we have not helped those who need our help, we are sorry. We pray for people in our school community who are in pain or who are sick. We remember those who are in hospital. Bring them comfort and relief.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Twelfth Station Jesus dies on the cross



Jesus hangs on the cross for hours. Although it is daytime, the sky turns dark. Just before he dies, Jesus asks God to forgive those who are hurting him. Then he says, "Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." Jesus bows his head and dies. Even in his last moments, Jesus thinks of others. He is a wonderful example of gentleness and thoughtfulness.

Let us pray.

For the times we have put our needs before the needs of others, we are sorry. Help us to be more generous and giving. Bless especially today those who are dying and those who love them.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you

Were you there when He breathed His final breath?
Were you there when He breathed His final breath?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when He breathed His final breath?

Thirteenth Station Jesus is placed in the arms of Mary.



Now that Jesus is dead, a few friends take him gently down from the cross and place him in the arms of his mother. Mary held Jesus like this when he was a baby. How sad she must have felt. When we are sad, Mary understands our loss and sadness.

Let us pray.

For the times we have been unkind to our mums and dads, we are sorry. Help us always to show just how much we love them.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when they laid Him in her arms?

Were you there when they laid Him in her arms?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in her arms?

Fourteenth Station Jesus is buried



The final resting place for Jesus is a tomb in a nearby garden. He is covered with cloth, placed inside, and a stone is rolled across the entrance. The friends of Jesus are very sad and feel lost without him. They think that this is the end of the story of Jesus and his teachings. But we know better don't we.

Let us pray.

For the times we have not trusted in you, we are sorry. May we learn to trust in God when things seem to go wrong. May your love be upon us O Lord as we place all our hope in you.

R: Jesus, teach us how to follow you.

Were you there when they sealed Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they sealed Him in the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they sealed Him in the tomb?

Concluding Prayer

Reader: We have walked with Jesus on His journey to Calvary. We have paused, prayed, and reflected on His love - a love that endured pain, rejection, and even death - all for our sake.

But we know that the story does not end at the tomb.

The stone will be rolled away.

The tomb will be empty.

Jesus will rise.

And with Him, hope will rise too.

Let us now bring all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, to our loving Father in Heaven.

All: Lord Jesus,

You walked the Way of the Cross out of love for each of us.

Teach us to carry our own crosses with patience and trust in you.

When we fall, give us the courage to rise again.

When we see others struggle, help us to be like

Simon and Veronica:

offering help and showing kindness.

Help us to live your love each day.

May your journey inspire us to bring light, hope, and peace to others. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

