

Scriptural Stations of the Cross

Focus on the Gospel of John



This version of the Scriptural Stations of the Cross prioritizes readings from the Gospel of John since the Narrative Lectionary appointed readings from that Gospel for Lent 2026. Additionally, the call and response to conclude each station uses the testimony of John the Baptist from the Gospel of John (1:29, 3:30).

Entrance

At the entrance, you may make the sign of the cross saying: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus Prays

The first station: Jesus Prays.

A reading of John 17:1–5.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come;

glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Arrested

The second station: Jesus is Arrested.

A reading of John 18:3–12.

Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who

betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Condemned

The third station: Jesus is Condemned.

A reading of John 18:19–24.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Denied

The fourth station: Jesus is Denied.

A reading of John 18:17, 25–27.

The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now Simon Peter was standing and warming

himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Judged

The fifth station: Jesus is Judged.

A reading of John 19:13–16a.

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" 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 Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Crowned

The sixth station: Jesus is Crowned.

A reading of John 19:1–5.

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. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus Carries his Cross

The seventh station: Jesus Carries his Cross.

A reading of John 19:16–17.

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.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus and Simon

The eighth station: Jesus and Simon.

A reading of Luke 23:26.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus and the Women

The ninth station: Jesus and the Women.

A reading of Luke 23:27–31.

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?”

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Crucified

The tenth station: Jesus is Crucified.

A reading of John 19:17–25a.

And carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus and the Criminals

The eleventh station: Jesus and the Criminals.

A reading of John 19:18.

There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus and His Mother

The twelfth station: Jesus and His Mother.

A reading of John 19:25b–27.

Meanwhile, 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.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus Dies

The thirteenth station: Jesus Dies.

A reading of John 19:28–30.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Proceed to the next station.

Jesus is Buried

The fourteenth station: Jesus is Buried.

A reading of John 19:38–42.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

Leave in silence.