

Format: Youth led Stations of the Cross

1. The youth leading the service take their places on the sanctuary on the side pews where the servers would normally sit before the service begins.
2. When the bell is rung the priest and servers will come and stand in front of the altar and genuflect.
3. It is then that the youth will go to their places. Two standing at the priest's chair, another three behind the altar and another two at the lectern and if need be another two with the hand mic.
4. The leader will welcome everyone, bless him/herself and then begin with the First Station.
5. Can you remind the youth to genuflect at the beginning of every Station when the leader says: "we adore You O Christ and we praise You"?
6. It is important that they do not rush and realise that the language is poetic.
7. At the 12th Station instead of genuflecting, we all kneel and pause for a moment's silence.
8. At the end they take a seat on the on the sanctuary and wait there, where they will be able to receive Holy Communion.
9. The priest will come forward and prepare us for, and then distribute, Holy Communion.
10. The priest will close the service, the then final hymn.
11. The youth leave remain on the sanctuary until after the final hymn has finished.

Youth Stations of the Cross

LEADER:

PILATE:

JESUS:

SOLDIERS 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

SIMON:

VERONICA:

WOMEN:

MARY:

JOSEPH:

CROWD:

The First Station - Jesus is condemned to death

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Pilate *I, Pilate, have judged this man.
No fault have I found since this trial began.
I dismiss the charges that you bring.
Take Jesus. Here's your king.*

Crowd No king of ours - Take Him away!
Get rid of Him - that's what we say. Prison's too
good – think of the bill. He's not our king - He's a
troublemaker you Romans must kill.

Pilate Should I kill your king? Are you sure?
This man's done no harm –He helped the poor.

Crowd You heard what we said. We want Jesus dead!
You are the governor - you're the boss.
Give the order - He must die on the cross.

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have begged Pilate to set
You free. We would have yelled, "Let Him go: He's a good man."
But we weren't there. We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I really have been brave enough to speak up for Jesus?
What if Pilate had arrested me too? Here and now, do I have the
courage to speak up for someone who is being treated unfairly?*

Jesus, teach me how to follow You.

Pause

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.

The Fourteenth Station - Jesus is placed in the Tomb

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Joseph *Mary, let us carry His body to my new tomb.
We'll roll a stone against the entrance - Then - - - -*

Mary *But this was the gentle Son of my womb; I'll never see
Him in this life again.*

Joseph *He'll rest in peace. With the soldiers on duty
no harm can come for all the plots they will foil.*

Mary *After the Sabbath I'll return to this garden of beauty
to anoint His body with ointments and oil.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have
helped carry your body to the grave and we
would have put pillows and blankets beneath
it. But we weren't there. We are only here now,
remembering.*

Pause

*Would I really have given up my own pillow or
my blankets, even for Jesus? What if I had been
unable to get any others? Here and now, do I give
up any of my comforts to help those in need?*

Jesus, teach me how to follow You.

Pause

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn By the cross with Thee to stay,
there with Thee to weep and pray,
is all I ask of Thee to give.

The Thirteenth Station - Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Pilate *Joseph of Arimathea, I hear what you say.
I give you permission to take down Jesus' body
before the end of this day.*

Joseph *Thank you, sir. Now with his Mother Mary
I shall make preparations His body to bury.
She loved Jesus as boy and man. In death she will
respect Him as much as anyone can.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have done
just what Joseph did. We would have taken Your
body down from the cross with dignity and with
love. And we would have comforted Mary and stayed
with her. But we weren't there. We are only here now,
remembering.*

Pause

*Would I, like Joseph, have admitted being a
follower of Jesus? What if Pilate had arrested
me? Here and now, what do I do to show that
I am a Christian? Do I ever try to hide my faith
from others?*

Pause

Jesus teach me to follow You

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Let me mingle tears with thee,
mourning Him who mourned for me,
all the days that I shall live:*

The Second Station - Jesus takes up His Cross

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Soldier 1 *Let's prepare the king for His coronation
Dress Him to greet His loyal nation.*

Soldier 2 *His majesty will need a crown,
before He marches through the town.*

Soldier 1 *He says nothing. Can't He speak?
Smack Him. Let's see if He stays so meek.*

Soldier 2 *Leave Him alone. He won't crack
until this cross is upon His back.*

Soldier 1 *You will carry this tree on Your shoulders until
You reach the top of Calvary hill!*

Soldier 2 *See how He is bowed - His body must ache.
This is how His spirit we'll break.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have carried that heavy
cross for You. We would have told those soldiers, "Get back; leave
Him alone! Can't you see He's in pain?" But we weren't there. We
are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I have dared talk back to a group of sword carrying
soldiers? What if one of them had pointed his sword at me? Here
and now, what do I do when someone is wrongly blamed for
something he or she didn't do?*

Pause

Jesus teach me to follow You

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with
my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Through her heart His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.*

The Third Station – Jesus falls the first time

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Soldier 3 *What's wrong with You, King? Are You in pain?
Perhaps You need a beating again?*

Soldier 4 *He has fallen on the ground –He's not very strong.
Get up, You are taking too long.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have made sure You
didn't fall. We would have walked beside You and given You
strong arms to lean on. But we weren't there. We are only
here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I have wanted to touch Jesus and get blood and dirt on my
clothes? What if someone bad had seen me like that? Here and
now, what do I do when my friends laugh at me for helping
someone?*

Pause

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Oh, how sad and sore distress'd,
Was that mother highly blest,
Of the sole begotten One.*

The Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the Cross

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Pause

Jesus *Father, forgive them; they don't know what they do,
when they spit at Me, shout, yell and boo.*

Crowd *You saved others - Your miracles were always well done.
Now save Yourself
if You are God's Chosen One.*

Jesus *It is complete; There is no disgrace.
Father, into Your hands My spirit I place.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have pushed the
people back from the cross. We would have knelt beneath it
and prayed with You. But we weren't there. We are only here
now, remembering.*

Longer pause

*Would I really have knelt beside the cross for all the world to
see? Would I, like Jesus, have asked God to forgive the
soldiers and the crowd? Here and now, do I pray for those who
hurt me? Do I really forgive?*

Longer pause

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.*

The Eleventh Station – Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Pilate *Here is a sign I think I should use.
It says "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"*

Leader *You cannot use that sign. It is forbidden!*

Pilate *I have written what I have written. Why do you want
this man dead? I am at a loss. But get on with it now,
nail Him to the cross.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have
told the Leaders, "Don't you realise Who this is?
He's not a criminal. He hasn't disobeyed your laws.
He's Jesus, God's own Son." But we weren't there.
We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I really have protested what was happening to Jesus?
What if the leaders had gotten angry with me? Here and now,
do I ever speak out for people who are being treated
unjustly?*

Pause

Jesus, teach me to follow You

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew,
of my Saviour crucified*

The Fourth Station - Jesus meets His Mother

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Mary *God forgive them. What have they done!
Look at the state of my dear Son.
This is the moment when we must part,
while a sword is piercing my broken heart.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have
formed a circle round You and Mary to let
You talk as long as You wanted. We would
have held out against anyone who tried to
push us away. But we weren't there. We are
only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I have dared to get in front of an angry crowd of
people? What if I had been pushed
down and hurt? Here and now, what do I do
when someone shoves me or a friend out of
line?*

Pause

Jesus teach me to follow You

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

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

The Fifth Station - Simon helps Jesus

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All *Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.*

Soldier 5 *The great King Jesus - He's not so strong
He won't carry that cross for very long.
Let's find someone to give Him a hand
from among these men who watch and stand.*

Soldier 6 *What about that African there? He's the answer to a
prayer. You, Roman subject, listen to me,
Get your shoulder under this tree.*

Simon *Why pick on me? I don't know this man.
But I'll try to help Him if I can.
See how He gasps and His breath does labour.
Now I must show how to love a neighbour.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have taken turns
carrying the cross so that You wouldn't have had to carry it at
all. And we would have let Simon go on by. But we weren't
there. We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Maybe the others would have taken turns carrying the cross,
but would I? What if I hurt myself? Here and now, do I
respond eagerly when my parents or teachers ask me to help
with difficult chores?*

Pause

All *I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.*

Hymn *Is there one who would not weep,
Overwhelmed in misery so deep,
Christ's dear mother to behold.*

The Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of His clothing

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All *Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.*

Soldier 7 *Look at His robe. It's a good bit of cloth. He won't
need that on the cross, so I'll rip it off.*

Soldier 8 *But I want it myself. His cloak is really nice.
We'll settle this now with a toss of the dice.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, those soldiers
wouldn't have laid a hand on You. We would
never have allowed them to touch Your clothing
or to humiliate You in any way. But we weren't
there. We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I have even followed Jesus that far, much
less demand that the soldiers back off? Here and now, what
do I do when someone is being made
fun of at school? What if people start making fun
of me?*

Pause

Jesus, teach me to follow You.

All *I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.*

Hymn *Make me feel as Thou has felt;
make my soul to glow and melt,
with the love of Christ my Lord.*

The Ninth Station - Jesus falls a Third Time

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Soldier 7 *He's losing too much blood. It is making Him weak.*

Soldier 8 *Look, He's fallen with a thud!
Get up when I speak*

Soldier 7 *He's right, Jesus, strengthen Your will.
It's not far now to execution hill.*

Soldier 8 *There's no need to get distressed;
on Calvary You'll get a rest.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, You would not
have fallen again. We would have held You up
and supported You in every way we could.
We would have picked up the cross ourselves.
But we weren't there. We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I have helped carry the cross with the
others? What if it had fallen on me and hurt me?
Here and now, what do I do when someone old or
sick could use my help?*

Pause

Jesus, teach me how to follow You

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *O thou mother! Fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord.*

The Sixth Station - Veronica wipes Jesus' face

Leader *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*

All ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***

Veronica *Oh poor Jesus, my Lord and Friend.
How sad to see You meet such an end.
I'll try to wipe the blood from Your face,
remove the sweat of Your disgrace.*

Leader *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have done just what
Veronica did. We would have wiped Your face with soft warm
cloths, and then put bandages on Your open cuts. But we
weren't there. We are only here now, remembering.*

Pause

*Would I really have dashed out towards Jesus with all those
people around? What if someone had made fun of me?
Here and now, what do I do if someone gets hurt on the
playground or sick on the bus?*

Pause

All ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my
whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to
separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee
always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***

Hymn *Can the human heart refrain,
From partaking in her pain,
in that mother's pain untold?*

The Seventh Station - Jesus falls the Second time

- Leader** *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*
- All** ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***
- Soldier 3** *Oh look at that - another fall.
Get moving, even though You crawl.*
- Soldier 4** *Yes, pick up Your cross and make Your way.
Do not think we Romans have got all day?*
- Leader** *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have demanded that the cross be removed from Your shoulders. We would have told the soldiers, "Can't you see He's had enough?" But we weren't there. We are only here now, remembering.*
- Pause**
- Would I have made demands in such a dangerous situation? What if the soldiers had pushed me back? Here and now, what do I say or do when I know that a grown-up is doing something wrong?*
- Pause**
- Jesus teach me how to follow You*
- All** ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***
- Hymn** *Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
she beheld her tender child,
all with bloody scourges rent.*

The Eighth Station - Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem

- Leader** *We adore Thee O Christ and we Praise Thee.*
- All** ***Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.***
- Women x 3** *Oh Jesus, Oh Jesus we weep for You sadly.
It hurts us to see You now treated so badly.*
- Jesus** *Don't weep for me. Don't cry or moan.
Weep for yourselves and for your children that are your own.*
- Leader** *If we had been there, Jesus, we would have told the women: Don't you understand? It is sin, our sins and your sins, that Jesus wants us to cry over. But we weren't there. We are only here now, remembering.*
- Pause**
- Would I have understood Jesus any better than the women of Jerusalem? Would I even have tried? Here and now, am I sorry for the pain I cause others through the selfish things I sometimes do?*
- Pause**
- All** ***I love Thee Jesus my love above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.***
- Hymn** *For the sins of His own nation,
saw Him hang in desolation,
till His spirit forth He sent.*