

A Franciscan Way of the Cross for the people of Ukraine

On the cross, our Lord offered himself to the Father for the whole world. So, at the foot of the cross, we join our prayers with his.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
And praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
**For by virtue of the cross,
Joy has come to the whole world.**

God be merciful to us and bless us,
And show us the light of your countenance
And be merciful to us
**That your ways may be known upon earth,
Your saving health among all nations.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
And praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
**For by virtue of the cross,
Joy has come to the whole world.**

Today we walk the stations for the people of Ukraine.
We pray for peace and healing.
**Lord Jesus, you are the lover and redeemer of our souls,
Hear our prayers.**

Station 1: The Last Supper

Lord, you broke bread and shared wine with your disciples as a sacrament of communion with your people. We pray for those who need food and water, and for those who are working to donate and distribute humanitarian supplies. Make us generous in giving and ready to accept others to our table.

Station 2: Gethsemene

Lord, you prayed in the garden of Gethsemene that this bitter cup might pass from you. We lift up all the people whose lives have been disrupted by conflict and who do not want to be part of any war or military force. Be with them in their anxiety, uncertainty, and fear. Help us to bear witness and stay with them in their suffering.

Station 3: Taken Prisoner

Lord, you were arrested and taken into custody even though you were innocent. We pray for all who have been taken from their homes, all who have been forced to flee for safety, and all who are in authority and have power over the lives of others. May we not forget justice for political prisoners, refugees, and asylum seekers in the bureaucracies of our systems.

Station 4: Condemned

Lord, the religious and civil authorities condemned you to death because you challenged their way of life. We pray for all who have spoken out against the brutality of war, and for those who are afraid to act. May we have the courage to speak up in the face of injustice, even when it costs us.

Station 5: Accepts the Cross

Lord, you took up your cross and carried it. Sustain all who are carrying heavy burdens of grief and horror at the atrocities they have seen. Help us find ways to provide those who are traumatized by the conflict in Ukraine with caring and supportive people and the resources needed to face the darkness of their lives.

Station 6: Dies

Lord, you gave up your life on the cross in solidarity with the brokenness of our world. We remember all who have died in the war in Ukraine: killed in the fighting, through illness, cold, or starvation, or from broken hearts. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Station 7: Buried

Lord, you were anointed for burial and lovingly laid in a tomb. We grieve with the families who do not know where their loved ones lie, or who have had to dig hasty graves to bury the dead. We pray also for the families of Russian soldiers who have no information about their fates and who are being lied to about what is happening. When we have opportunities to bring truth to light, may we assist with the work of reconciliation and peace.

Station 8: Resurrected

You are the Lord of Life, evidence that love is stronger than death. Give hope to our world through your resurrection, that God's kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

Silence for prayer

Almighty Father,
Look with mercy on this your family
For which our Lord Jesus Christ
Was content to be betrayed
And was given up into the hands of the wicked
And to suffer death upon the cross;
Who is alive and glorified
With you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.
Amen.

May the life-giving cross
Be the source of all our joy and peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Prayers adapted from "Prayers at the Foot of the Cross" from The Daily Office,
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Stephanie Shepard.*