

Reasons for the Death of Jesus

Fruits from the Cross of Christ

Prayer Before a Crucifix

We kneel before your Cross, Lord Jesus,
and we praise and thank you for enduring such great suffering for us:
yes, out of pure love for us.

There are dozens of reasons that you went through this passion and death.

And for every reason I wish to implore you for abundant fruits falling from this tree of life, the Cross, for us and for the whole world.

(Prayer with 24 different invocations)

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
because by Your Holy Cross *You have redeemed the world.*
Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

(The 24 invocations)

1. You have redeemed the world.
2. You have saved mankind.
3. You have brought forgiveness of sins.
4. You have gained for us remittance of eternal punishment.
5. You brought about the victory over death.
6. You conquered the power of Satan and all evil.
7. You reconciled and united mankind with God again.
8. You restored the balance of justice with God.
9. You reconciled us with one another.
10. You sealed the new and eternal Covenant.
11. You gave abundant Life to the Church till the end of the world.
12. You gained a generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your people.
13. You made us members of Your Body, the Church.
14. You give us God's grace, making us His children.
15. You provide Your Body and Blood for our food.
16. Streams of Sacramental Life pour forth from Your opened Heart.
17. You are the healing for body and soul.
18. You are united in solidarity with any person in pain.
19. You give us strength to take up our cross daily and die to our own self.
20. You are the greatest proof of God's love and mercy for mankind.
21. You show us an example of charity, forgiveness, holiness, humility and countless other virtues.
22. You are forever the one Sacrifice, blessing all the people of this world and the next.
23. You have gained eternal Glory as the Lord of the living and the dead.
24. You have opened for us the gate of eternal life.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you with all our heart for your saving death on the cross.
Through your glorious resurrection,
you have ensured the generous fruits of the cross
and opened up their treasure for all mankind.
Let your cross and resurrection not be in vain for us,
but bring us through the crosses of this life, to the glorious crown in heaven,
where you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

To pray this as a group you can do it like this:

All: We kneel before your Cross, (...) for the whole world.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,

All: because by Your Holy Cross ... (invocation)

After each invocation

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Closing prayer after the 24th invocation

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank (...) and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Reasons for the Death of Jesus Fruits from the Cross of Christ

We adore You, O Christ and we bless You, because by Your Holy Cross

1. You have redeemed the world

- Christ Jesus sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. (1 Tim 2:6)

- For you know that the price of your ransom from the futile way of life handed down from your ancestors was paid... not in anything perishable like silver or gold, but in precious blood as of a blameless and spotless lamb, Christ. (1 Pet 1:18-19)

2. You have saved mankind

- God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved." (Jn 3:17)

- God meant us..... to win salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us." (1 Thes 5:9-10)

3. You have brought forgiveness of sins

- He has made his appearance.....to do away with sin by sacrificing himself..... Christ offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself. (Heb 9:26-28)

4. You gained remittance of eternal punishment for us

As one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified..... Just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life. (Rom 5:18, 21)

5. You brought about the Victory over Death

- Death is swallowed up in victory..... Let us thank God for giving us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:55-58)

- Then Death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake. (Rev 20:15)

- Death has no power over him anymore. (Rom 6:9)

6. You conquered the power of Satan and all evil

- Victory and power and empire forever have been won by our God and all authority for his Christ, now that the Persecutor.....has been brought down. They have triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb. (Rev 12:10-11)

- Then the devil, who misled them will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet are, and their torture will not stop. (*Rev 20:10*)

7. You reconciled and united mankind with God again

- For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more can we be sure that, being now reconciled we shall be saved by his life. (*Rom 5:10*)

- Christ himself died once and for all for sins, the upright for the sake of the guilty, to lead us to God. (*1 Pet 3:18*)

8. You restored the balance of justice with God

- In this way God makes his justice known....., for the present age, by showing positively that he is just, and that he justifies everyone who believes in Jesus (*Rom 3:26*)

9. You reconciled us to one another

- But now in Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far off have been brought close by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one entity and broken down the barrier..... (*Eph 2:13-14*)

10. You sealed the new and eternal Covenant

- You have come..... to Jesus the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's. (*Heb 12:23-24*)

Jesus took both the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you." (*Lk 22:20*)

11. You gave abundant life to the church till the end of the world

- I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd.....who lays down his life for his sheep. (*Jn 10:10-11*)

- Christ is head of the church and saves the whole Body..... Christ loved the church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words. (*Eph 5: 23, 25-26*)

12. You gained a generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your people

- If any man is thirsty come to me! Let anyone who believes in me come and drink! As scripture says, "From his heart shall flow streams of living water. He was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive, for there was no Spirit as yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified. (*Jn 7:37-39*)

13. You made us members of your Body, the Church

- This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two (Jews and pagans) and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body. (*Eph 2:15-16*)

14. You give us God's grace, making us his children

- If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift..... The good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. (*Rom 5:15-18*)

- God sent his Son.....to enable us to be adopted as sons. (*Gal 4:45*)

15. You provide your Body and Blood for our food

- This is my Body..... This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me..... Therefore.....you are proclaiming his death. (1 Cor 11:24-27)

16. Streams of sacramental life pour fourth from your opened heart

- When they came to Jesus they found he was already dead, and so.....one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. (Jn 19:33-34)

- Let any man come and drink who believes in me! As scripture says: From his breast shall flow fountains of living water.(Jn 7:38)

17. You are the healing for the body and soul

- It was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.....that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy. (Acts 4:10)

- On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed. (Jn 53:5)

18. You are united in solidarity with any person in pain

- Ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. (Is 53:4)

- If the world hates you, remember that it hated me before you..... A servant is not greater than his master. (Jn 15:18, 20)

- It is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us. But we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. (Heb 4:15)

19. You give us strength to take up our own cross daily and die to our self

- The only thing I can boast about is the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal 6:14)

- Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined.....to be put to death..... Then Jesus said..... "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mt 16: 21, 24)

20. You are the greatest proof of God's love and mercy for mankind

- What proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Rom 5:8)

- God's love for us was revealed.....when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. (1 Jn 4:9-10)

21. You show us an example of charity, forgiveness, holiness and humility and many other virtues

- Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow..... He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness. (1 Pet 2:21, 24)

- Follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in your place. (Eph 5:2)

22. You are forever the one sacrifice, blessing all the peoples of this world and the next

- And his will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ..... By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. (*Heb 10:10, 15*)

23. You have gained eternal glory as the Lord of the living and the dead

- Then Jesus said to them..... "Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" (*Lk 24:26*)
- This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. (*Rom 14:9*)
- The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing. (*Rev 5:12*)

24. You have opened for us the gate to eternal life

- The Son of Man must be lifted up, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. (*Jn 3:13, 14*)
- The criminal crucified with Jesus said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Indeed, I promise you," he replied, "today you will be with me in paradise." (*Lk 23:42-43*)

This prayer has been written by Father Ferdinand Vergeer MHM, a Roman Catholic priest in Malaysia, born in the Netherlands.

He also composed A HUNDRED HOLY NAMES: a prayer of a hundred names and titles of Jesus, taken from the Bible. See 0015 on www.stucom.nl.

For a Dutch translation of page 1 of this document: see the magazine Bouwen aan de Nieuwe Aarde (www.bana.nl), March 2013.

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