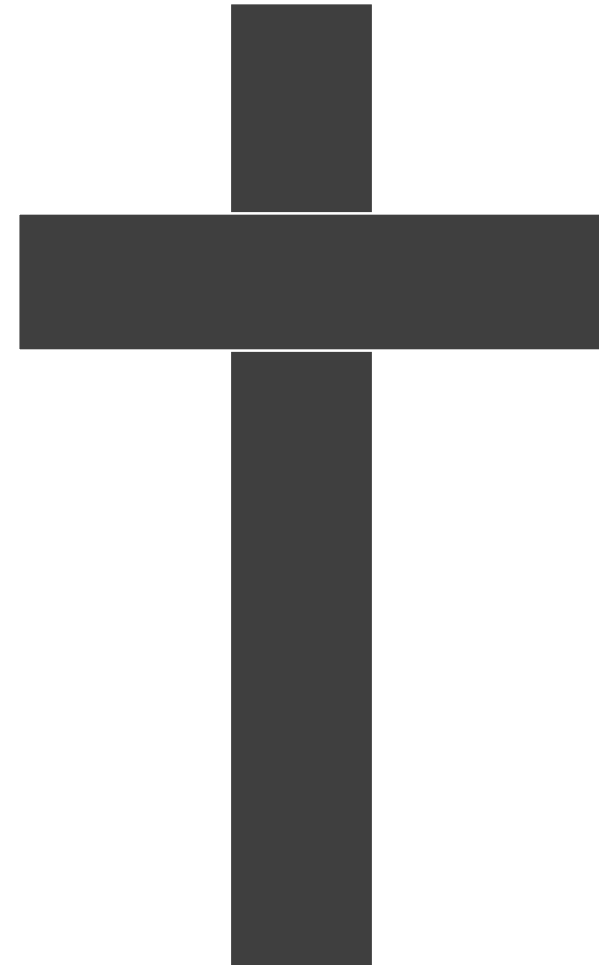


**“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)**

## **THE WAY OF THE CROSS**



## WE HAIL THEE

*(Hymn)*

**Ref:** We hail thee, Saviour and Lord  
Thy Cross ever be adored!

1. O Cross, Thou art the fountain  
Of love and of liberty;  
Shine down upon the millions  
Who search for the light of truth.
2. Look down upon the needy,  
Confirm them in strength and grace.  
Thou art our true salvation,  
In Thee, all our hope we place.
3. Be Thou our sign of vict'ry  
Redeem us from sin and strife;  
Renew in us Thy passion,  
And grant us eternal life.

## THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### Introductory Rite

**LEADER:** *(Stand)* My brothers and sisters, let us prepare ourselves to meditate on the passion and death of our Saviour. His death shows us how much God loves us, and at the same time, reveals to us the depth of our sin. Commitment to a life of love requires both thankfulness and repentance.

### Let us pray:

**ALL:** O Lord, grant that we, who meditate on the passion and death of Christ, your Son, may imitate in our lives His loving self-offering to you and to all mankind. We make our prayer through the same Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen.

## FIRST STATION

### Jesus is condemned to death

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

#### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how Jesus, having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

#### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have washed my hands of my responsibilities.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to have the courage to do what I know is right.

**ALL : Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I blame others for my actions.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Lord, heal my memories of those occasions when I have been wrongly accused, and help me to forgive those who have judged me unjustly.

#### *(Hymn)*

*At the Cross her station keeping  
Stood the mournful mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.*

## SECOND STATION

### Jesus receives the Cross.

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

#### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on his shoulders, thought of us and offered to his Father the death he was about to undergo.

#### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I am disgruntled and complain about my lot.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I mock and ridicule others.

**ALL : Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I punish others, loading them with burdens.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me Lord, of the injuries I have felt from the words and actions of others.

#### *(Hymn)*

*Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword has passed.*

## THIRD STATION

**Jesus falls the first time under his Cross.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider the first fall of Jesus under his Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, his head was crowned with thorns, and he had lost a great quantity of blood. So weakened he could scarcely walk, he yet had to carry this great load upon his shoulders. The soldiers stuck him rudely, and he fell several times.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have caused others to fall.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to show compassion.

**ALL : Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I am no support to my brothers and sisters.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me Lord, of the hurt my pride has suffered. Help me not to be too proud to ask forgiveness of those I have hurt.

### *(Hymn)*

*Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
was that mother highly blest  
Of the sole-begotten one.*

## FOURTH STATION

**Jesus is met by His Blessed Mother.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Their looks became like so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have not accepted your Word.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have allowed the troubles and trials of the day to get the better of me.

**ALL : Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have been too full of my own importance.

**ALL : Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Lord, heal me of all fear; give me the wisdom to know your will, and the strength to carry it out.

### *(Hymn)*

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

## FIFTH STATION

**The Cross is laid upon Simon of Cyrene.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how the Jews, seeing that at each step Jesus was at the point of expiring, and fearing he would die on the way, whereas they wished him to die the shameful death of the Cross, constrained Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross behind our Lord.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to help in carrying others' burdens.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to share whatever you have given me.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I do not welcome strangers.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Lord, heal my lack of openness to others. Help me to make the first move to welcome others.

### *(Hymn)*

*Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear mother to behold?*

## SIXTH STATION

**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so ill-used and bathed in sweat and blood, wiped his face with a towel, on which was left the impression of his holy countenance.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to see you in my neighbour.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to show hospitality.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to see the needs of others.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, of the prejudices that prevent me from reaching out to others.

### *(Hymn)*

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

## SEVENTH STATION

**Jesus falls for the second time.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross; a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of his head and members.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have wounded others.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have preferred to go my own way.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have exaggerated the faults of others.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, of all resentments. Help me to bring your peace and healing to those I have wounded.

### *(Hymn)*

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.*

## EIGHTH STATION

**The women of Jerusalem mourn for our Lord.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiful state, streaming with blood as he walked along. “Daughters of Jerusalem”, he said, “weep not for me, but for yourselves and for your children.”

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to comfort those in need.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I am lacking in generosity.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I do not listen to people.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Lord, fill with your healing love each moment of my life where there has been a lack of love. Fill me with your love so that I may share it with others.

### *(Hymn)*

*For the sins of his own nation,  
Saw him hang in desolation,  
Till his spirit forth he sent.*

## NINTH STATION

Jesus falls the third time.

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of his executioners excessive, who tried to hasten his steps when he could scarcely move.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have accused others falsely.

**ALL :** Lord, have mercy.

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have been untruthful.

**ALL :** Christ, have mercy.

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I have retaliated unjustly.

**ALL :** Lord, have mercy.

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, of all insults that have crippled me. Help me, Lord, to be gentle with others.

### *(Hymn)*

*O thou mother, fount of love,  
Touch my spirit from above,  
Make my heart with thine accord.*

## TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of his garments.

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider the violence with which Jesus was stripped by the executioners. His inner garments adhered to his torn flesh and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Contemplate your Saviour thus cruelly treated.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for my immodest thoughts and actions.

**ALL :** Lord, have mercy.

**LEAD:** Lord, for the sharpness of my tongue.

**ALL :** Christ, have mercy.

**LEAD:** Lord, for my impatience with others.

**ALL :** Lord, have mercy.

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, of all that I am ashamed. Drive all evil from me, Lord.

### *(Hymn)*

*Make me feel as thou has felt,  
Make my soul to glow and melt,  
With the love of Christ my Lord.*

## ELEVENTH STATION

**Jesus is nailed to the Cross.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how Jesus, having been placed upon the Cross, extended his hands, and offered to his eternal Father the sacrifice of his life for our salvation. These barbarians fastened him with nails, and then, securing the Cross, allowed him to die with anguish on that infamous gibbet.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to forgive others.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I crucify others.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I turn my back on you.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, of all my jealousy, of all that binds and cripples me.

### *(Hymn)*

*Holy mother, pierce me through,  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Saviour crucified.*

## TWELFTH STATION

**Jesus dies on the Cross.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how Jesus, being consumed with anguish after three hours' agony on the Cross, abandoned himself to the weight of his body, bowed his head, and died.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to give myself to you.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to commit myself to others.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to allow others to be themselves.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** Heal me, Lord, with the power of your Spirit. May you so live in me that I may be used to give new life to those around me.

### *(Hymn)*

*Let me share with thee his pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.*



## THIRTEENTH STATION

**Jesus is taken down from the Cross.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how, after our Lord had expired, two of his disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took him down from the Cross, and placed him in the arms of his afflicted Mother, who received him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed him to her bosom.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to turn to you for healing.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to admit that I know you.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times my silence and inaction have offended or misled others.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** **Heal me, Lord, of all humiliation. Make of me the person you want me to be.**

### *(Hymn)*

*Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.*

## FOURTEENTH STATION

**Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre.**

**LEAD:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (*Genuflect*)

**ALL :** **Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

### *Scripture Reading*

**LEAD:** Consider how the disciples, accompanied by his holy Mother, carried the body of Jesus to bury it. They closed the tomb, and all came sorrowfully away.

### *Pause for silent prayer*

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to trust in the power of your resurrection.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I fail to respect the thoughts and customs of others.

**ALL :** **Christ, have mercy.**

**LEAD:** Lord, for the times I disturb the peace you came to bring.

**ALL :** **Lord, have mercy.**

**ALL :** **Heal me, Lord, with the peace and joy of your love. Use me to bring your healing to my brothers and sisters.**

### *(Hymn)*

*By the Cross with thee to stay;  
There with thee to weep and pray;  
Is all I ask of thee to give.*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**LEAD:** If Christ has not risen,

**ALL :** Then vain is our preaching, vain too our faith.

**LEAD:** He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

**ALL :** Will also bring to life our mortal bodies.

**LEAD:** I am the resurrection and the life.

**ALL :** He who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live.

**LEAD:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ALL :** Who has begotten us again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Let us Pray:

**ALL :** O God, we have seen how you worked for our salvation through the sufferings, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ; teach us to unite our trials and sorrows to his sufferings and death, so that we may likewise share in the joy and glory of his resurrection. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL :** Amen.

## FROM THE DEPTHS I CALL TO YOU

*(Hymn)*

**Ref:** From the depths I call to you, O Lord,  
listen to my cry.

1. Lord, in compassion, listen to my pleading,  
listen to my cry.  
If you refuse, Lord, to forgive your people's sins,  
we would surely die.

2. So I am waiting, waiting for him patiently,  
hoping in his word.  
More than the watchman waiting for the dawn to come  
I await the Lord.

3. So let us trust him for in him is mercy,  
he, the Lord is kind.  
He gives us pardon, generous redemption,  
casts our sins behind.