

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke.
(Luke 9:22-24)



The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected, and to be raised up on the third day. If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, will save it.

Lord Jesus, help us to be open to your closeness and presence as we begin this journey to Calvary with you. Help us to find in your Passion and Death the strength we need to take up our crosses and follow you.

First Station: Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

Jesus was the most innocent victim ever of horrible, monstrous injustice. He taught truth and love – and suffered for it. When we're misunderstood we have to remember that we're not the first one – and we're certainly not alone.

Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through your eyes, not the eyes of a Pontius Pilate.

*Judge of all He stands convicted,
Of the sin that we've committed.
All for love He bears our guilt.*

Second Station: Jesus Accepts His Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

There are times to resist and times to accept – even to accept something unfair so that good can come from it – for others or for ourselves. Jesus knew when to resist and when to accept.

Lord Jesus, you embraced your cross to redeem the world. Help me to embrace the crosses in my life – the hardships, struggles, disappointments, pain. Only recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.

*Now the cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
Symbol of our victory.*

Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

Sometimes we're trying hard to do what has to be done, and then something happens to make it even more difficult. Jesus knows what this is like. He didn't need this extra pain.

Lord Jesus, you know how often I fall trying to follow you. Yet you are always there to lift me up. Help me to always trust in your loving care for me.

*For the sins of His own nation,
Jesus walked in desolation,
'Til He fell upon His knees.*

Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION :

**The baby Mary cuddled,
the little boy she taught,
is now a tortured, weakened man
with only a few, agony-filled hours to
live.**

**In this brief moment, he's unable to tell
her why it's all happening.**

Lord Jesus, your mother Mary's grief was surpassed by her love for you. So often you come to me in others and their love gives me new life. Help me to see how often you love me through the people in my life.

*Can the human heart refrain,
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold.*

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

Simon's first reaction might have been, "That's not MY problem." Oftentimes we react in the same way. Maybe Simon wasn't given a choice about becoming involved. Usually we have a choice. We must learn to be thankful for the chance to help someone else.

Lord Jesus, sometimes I am indifferent to the needs of others in my life. I even neglect those whom I love. Help me to see that loving others is the surest way to find you in my life.

*Simon bears with hesitation,
Glorious sign of our salvation,
That which we should bear with joy.*

Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

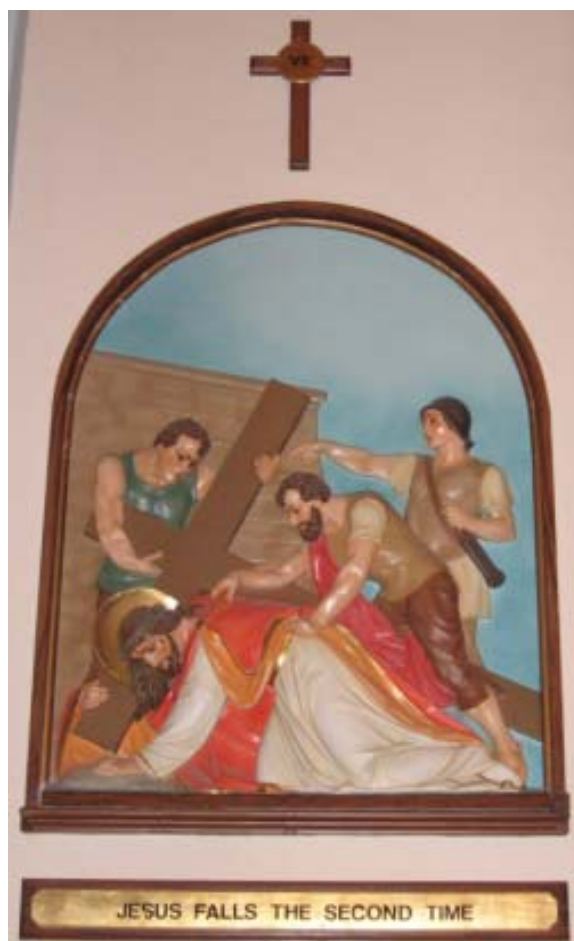
MEDITATION:

Veronica's act of kindness didn't wipe out the suffering of Jesus' death march. But it must have meant a lot. It's the same with us. A little kindness can be pure gold to a hurting person.

Lord Jesus, at times I am afraid to reach out to others. I do nothing when I should act, I say nothing when I should speak out. Give me a deeper and more courageous faith. Help me to trust that you are with me.

*With the cloth she wipes His face,
Tears of pain she can't erase,
From the face of love on earth.*

Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

When the day begins badly and then worsens, we feel like quitting. Jesus must have felt the same way ... but he didn't give up. He knew what had to be done and he loved us too much to say, "I quit."

Lord Jesus, failure and disappointment sometimes lead me to despair. I hide behind my pride and self-pity, withdrawing from you and others. Give me the hope I need and help me never to be afraid to begin again.

*Jesus falls upon the ground,
Struggles forth without a sound,
To continue on His way.*

Eighth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

We'll never know who these women were or how deep their feelings ran about the injustice. But they can help us think about our reaction to terrible things.

Lord Jesus, your great compassion for others overwhelms me. I feel petty and selfish when I think of you and the way you love. Help me to pour out my love, that you might fill me with your love.

*Like the women at His passion,
Loving hearts within us fashion,
That we might share others' pain.*

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

This time there's no way Jesus can get up alone. He accepts the help offered. Often we need help, too. In our acceptance of that help, we continue on.

Lord Jesus, your failing strength makes me see how helpless I am. Without you, I can do nothing. Help me to rely on your strength, to see how much I need you.

*Pain in head and back He bore,
Near to death, He fell once more,
Yet obedient to God's will.*

Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

The Romans made crucifixion not only incredibly painful but humiliating as well. For many spectators, the naked, intensely suffering man was a source of entertainment.

Yes, that was truly despicable.

Let's make sure we don't do things that are similar.

Lord Jesus, seeing you so cruelly humiliated makes me realize how I cling to my accomplishments, my possessions, my way. Help me to let go of those things in my life that prevent me from growing closer to you and others.

*Garments stripped, He stands alone,
Soldiers mock, no mercy shown,
To the Son of God that day.*

Eleventh Station: Jesus is Crucified



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**There are no ways, no words to describe
the pain Jesus felt here.
No personal experience we can describe.
It was immense,
simply beyond imagining.**

Lord Jesus, I can never doubt your great
love for me when I see you crucified.
Help me to see your cross as the great sign
of your love for me.

*Arms spread wide our pain embracing,
Stain of blood our sin erasing,
Though nailed fast, His hands still heal.*

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**“Oh, yeah, sure ...
Jesus died on the cross for us.”**

**Sometimes that’s our reaction to the
greatest act of love this world has ever
seen. We move on to thinking about
other things that actually seem more
important to us.**

Lord Jesus, your broken and lifeless body
calls me to deeper faith. You chose death,
even death on a cross. Help me to see my
crosses as ways of loving you.

*Word of Life, of death defiant,
Bowed His head – the world is silent;
Through His death came life anew.*

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

The “Jesus problem” is gone for many people now. All the people who felt threatened by him, all the people who backed away when he challenged them to a better life - it looks like they can relax now. After all, Jesus appears to be gone.

Lord Jesus, seeing your body taken from the cross reminds me how fearful I am of letting go of my own life. I am frightened when I think of being unimportant, useless, helpless. Help me to place my life in your hands.

*Earth’s sky black in midst of day,
In His Mother’s arms He lay,
Now at length His suffering passed.*

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



*We adore you, Lord Jesus,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.*

MEDITATION:

**A crucified king.
A Savior who died.
A God who was executed.**

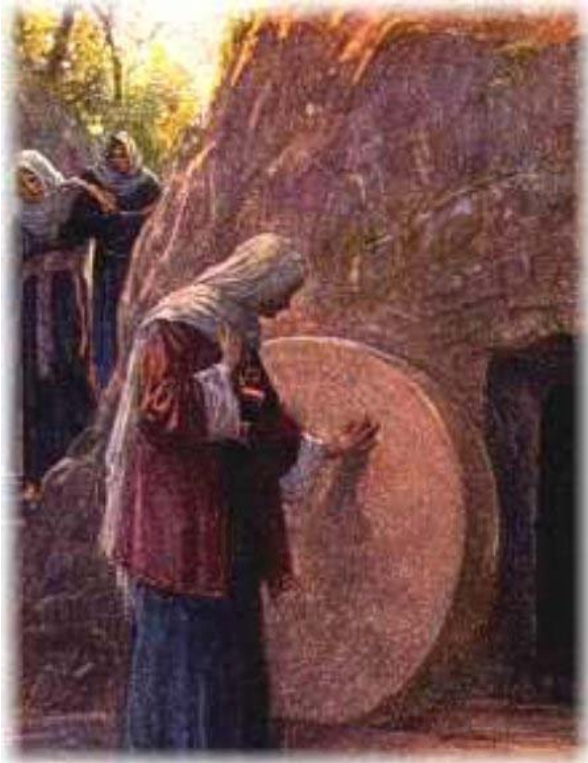
**... So many people
didn't understand ...**

Lord Jesus, when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. Even though you sometimes seem distant or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and loving presence.

*Hidden from the sight of heaven,
Earth's dark womb receives our victim,
Now we wait for Him to rise.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke.
(Luke 24:1-8)



On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. But, on entering, they discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, "Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful people and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?"

And they remembered his words.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk with you each day, even to Calvary. The sorrows and joys, the pains and healings, the failures and triumphs of our lives are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead us to closeness with you. Give us faith and trust to walk with you always.

Amen.