

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
PRESENTATION  
GRADE 4  
FEBRUARY 12, 1994

ACOLYTE WITH CANDLE GOES UP CENTER AISLE WITH LEADER

\_\_\_\_\_ OPENING PRAYER

O JESUS, WE ARE ABOUT TO WALK WITH YOU THROUGH THE STAGES OF YOUR AGONY AND DEATH. WE ARE ABOUT TO SPEND A BRIEF TIME RENEWING THE SACRIFICE THAT GAVE US THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN; THAT UPHOLDS US BY THE GRACES YOU HAVE WON; AND BRINGS US ALONG THE ROAD TO A SALVATION THAT ALL TOOK PLACE -- AND CONTINUES TODAY -- BY YOUR SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS. HELP US TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BETTER -- TO LOVE A LITTLE MORE -- AND TO GIVE OF OURSELVES MORE GENEROUSLY BY OUR USE OF THESE FIFTEEN REMEMBRANCES OF YOUR DIVINE VOCATION. AMEN.

\_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCTION

SINCE THE TIME OF JESUS, CHRISTIAN PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS REMEMBERED THE DAY ON WHICH JESUS DIED, AND THE EVENTS OF THAT GOOD FRIDAY. IN CHURCHES, CHAPELS AND SOME MONASTERY GARDENS, PEOPLE PRAY AT CARVINGS OR PICTURES OF THE SAD EVENTS OF JESUS' PASSION AND DEATH.

WE CALL THIS ACT OF REMEMBERING "THE WAY OF THE CROSS", AND WE CALL THE EVENTS "STATIONS".

MOST OF JESUS' LIFE WAS BUSY, HAPPY AND LIFE GIVING. IN THE "WAY OF THE CROSS" WE LOOK AT THE ONE DAY IN JESUS' LIFE WHEN HE SUFFERED AND DIED.

JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED FOR LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US. HIS WAY OF THE CROSS WAS A WAY OF LOVE.

LEADER: THE FIRST STATION -- JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

WE ADORE YOU, OF CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

NARRATOR: AFTER JESUS WAS BETRAYED BY HIS OWN APOSTLE, JUDAS, HE WAS TAKEN TO PRISON. HERE THEY BEAT HIM, MADE FUN OF HIM AND CROWNED HIM WITH PAINFUL THORNS.

MAY OF HIS ENEMIES WANTED JESUS OUT OF THE WAY -- THEY WANTED HIM TO DIE. THEY TOOK HIM TO THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNOR, PONTIUS PILATE, WHO CONDEMNED HIM TO DIE ON A CROSS.

JESUS, WHO WAS INNOCENT, WOULD DIE FOR LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO KEEP ON CARING AND LOVING EVEN WHEN OTHERS REJECT MY LOVE OR WITH ME HARM. TEACH ME FORGIVENESS. AMEN.

OUR FATHER...

HAIL MARY...

GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE SECOND STATION -- JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS.

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: THE SOLDIERS BROUGHT A LARGE WOODEN CROSS TO  
JESUS, AND HE TOOK IT UPON HIS SHOULDERS. IT WAS ROUGH AND  
HEAVY. JESUS WAS WEAK, TIRED AND HURTING, BUT HE BEGAN TO  
CARRY THE CROSS TO CALVARY, WHERE HE WOULD DIE.

SOMETIMES THE CROSS IS CALLED THE "WOOD OF SALVATION".  
ON THE DAY OF HIS DEATH, JESUS CHANGED THE CROSS INTO A SIGN  
OF HOPE AND SALVATION FOR EACH OF US. THE WORLD'S EVIL AND  
HATED CAN BE CHANGED BY GOD'S LOVE.

JESUS COULD CHANGE THIS CROSS, WHICH HE CARRIED FOR  
LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO CARRY MY HURTS AND CROSSES.  
GIVE ME YOUR LOVE AND TEACH ME TO TALK WITH YOU. AMEN.

OUR FATHER..

HAIL MARY..

GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE THIRD STATION --JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST,. AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: JESUS WAS SO WEAK AND TIRED AS HE WALKED THE ROAD  
TO CALVARY. SOON AFTER HE BEGAN TO CARRY THE CROSS, IT  
BECAME TOO HEAVY AND TOO PAINFUL FOR HIS FAILING STRENGTH.  
JESUS FELL TO THE GROUND UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS. NO  
ONE HELPED HIM, AND IT SEEMED HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET  
UP.

WITH COURAGE AND PATIENCE, HE GOT UP AND BEGAN TO WALK  
THE ROAD AGAIN., HE DID THIS FOR LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF  
US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME WHEN MY WORRIES, FEARS OR SADNESS  
WEIGH ME DOWN. HELP ME WHEN I AM TOO TIRED TO BEGIN AGAIN.  
TEACH ME YOUR COURAGE AND PATIENCE. AMEN

OUR FATHER...

HAIL MARY...

GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE FOURTH STATION...JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: JESUS' MOTHER, MARY, WAS ALWAYS A FAITHFUL  
FOLLOWER OF HER SON AND HIS TEACHINGS. SO MANY TIMES SHE  
WALKED WITH HIM AS HE TOLD OF GOD'S LOVE, CURED THE SICK AND  
HELPED THOSE WHO WERE IN PAIN. SHE LOVED HIM AND WAS SO  
PROUD OF HIM.

ON THIS WALK TO CALVARY, MARY WAS STILL THERE WITH LOVE FOR HER SON. JESUS WAS THANKFUL THAT SHE WAS THERE FOR HIM. THE PAIN IN THEIR EYES SPOKE MORE THAN ANY WORDS.

WITHOUT WORDS JESUS KNEW THAT HIS MOTHER LOVED HIM. HE HAD LEARNED SO MUCH FROM MARY ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE FOR US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, PLEASE HELP ME ALWAYS TO STAND BY THE PEOPLE I LOVE AND WHO LOVE ME. HELP ME TO MAKE MY PARENTS PROUD OF ME AND TEACH ME TO LOVE YOUR MOTHER, MARY. AMEN.

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE FIFTH STATION..SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

NARRATOR: THE CROSS SEEMED TO GET HEAVIER WITH EVERY STEP JESUS TOOK. THE SOLDIERS NOTICED JESUS GETTING WEAKER. HE WAS STAGGERING AND ABOUT TO FALL UNDER THE LOAD ON HIS SHOULDERS.

THE SOLDIERS PULLED A MAN FROM THE CROWD ALONG THE ROADSIDE. THEY FORCED HIM TO HELP JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS. THIS STRANGER, WHOSE NAME WAS SIMON OF CYRENE, WAS NOT ONE OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS. PERHAPS HE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO REFUSE TO HELP.

SIMON DID HELP JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS. SOMETIMES WE BELIEVE THAT HIS LIFE WAS CHANGED FOREVER BECAUSE HE HELPED ONE WHO WAS WEAKER THAN HE. THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF ALL OTHERS.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO SEE THOSE WHO NEED MY HELP. HELP ME TO ALWAYS LEND A HAND WHEN ASKED OR NEEDED. TEACH ME TO LOVE ALL OTHER PEOPLE. AMEND

OUR FATHER...  
HAIL MARY...  
GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE SIXTH STATION -- VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

NARRATOR: CROWDS HAD GATHERED ALL ALONG THE ROADSIDE OF THE WAY TO CALVARY -- THE WAY OF THE CROSS. MANY OF THE PEOPLE WERE THERE TO SEE JESUS DIE. THERE WERE OTHERS, THOUGH, WHOSE HEARTS BROKE AS THEY SAW JESUS' CRUEL SUFFERING.

A WOMAN NAMED VERONICA STEPPED OUT FROM THE CROWD INTO THE ROADWAY. AS JESUS HELD HIS CROSS, VERONICA HELD OUT A CLOTH -- PERHAPS HER OWN VEIL -- AND WIPED THE BLOOD AND

SWEAT FROM THE FACE OF JESUS. HER SIMPLE KINDNESS WAS ONE OF THE MOST LOVING THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO JESUS ON THAT WAY. IT HELPED HIM TO CONTINUE THAT DAY DURING WHICH HE SHOWED HIS LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO DO THE SIMPLEST ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LOVE OF YOU. TEACH ME THE POWER OF A HUG OR A LOVING WORD OF SUPPORT. AMEN.

OUR FATHER...  
HAIL MARY...  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE SEVENTH STATION -- JESUS FALLS TA SECOND TIME  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE FRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

NARRATOR: THE WALK TO THE CALVARY HILL WAS ONLY HALF OVER AND THERE STILL WAS A LONG DISTANCE TO GO. IT SEEMED THAT AGAIN JESUS WAS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS ALONE. IT HAD BECOME HARDER AND HARDER FOR HIM TO STAND UP.

JESUS WAS OUT OF BREATH AND HAD NO STRENGTH LEFT. HE STUMBLED, STAGGERED AND FELL AGAIN.

THE WEIGHT OF THE HEAVY CROSS ALMOST CRUSHED HIM TO THE GROUND. HOW COULD THIS EVER BE THE "WOOD OF SALVATION"? YET, JESUS AGAIN STOOD UP, LIFTED HIS CROSS AND BEGAN TO WALK FORWARD. HE WAS ABLE TO DO THIS BECAUSE OF HIS STRONG LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH ME TO LIFT ME TO YOURSELF AND CARRY ME THROUGH THE DIFFICULT TIMES. TEACH ME TO GIVE A HAND TO OTHERS WHO SEEM WEIGHTED DOWN. AMEN

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE EIGHTH STATION -- JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

NARRATOR: THERE WERE STILL OTHERS WHOSE HEARTS BROKE WHEN THEY SAW JESUS IN SUCH PAIN. THIS GROUP OF WOMEN WITH THEIR CHILDREN WERE CRYING BECAUSE SO MANY HAD TREATED JESUS SO CRUELLY.

PERHAPS AT THAT MOMENT THE WOMEN REMEMBERED HOW JESUS USED TO LIFT THEIR CHILDREN AND HOLD THEM CLOSE TO HIS HEART. NOW THEY WISHED THEY COULD HOLD THE SUFFERING JESUS IN THEIR ARMS.

JESUS TOLD THEM TO WEEP FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN -- FOR THE CRUELTY OF THE WORLD WOULD TOUCH THEM JUST AS IT HAD TOUCHED HIM. HIS EYES WERE FILLED WITH HIS LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO REMEMBER THAT I AM YOURS AND THAT YOU HOLD ME TO YOUR HEART AT ALL TIMES. TEACH ME TO NEVER BE CRUEL OR UNLOVING. AMEN

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE NINTH STATION .. JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,  
ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: THE CROWDS CONTINUED TO WATCH JESUS STRUGGLE TO CARRY THE CROSS UPON WHICH HE WOULD DIE. MANY MOCKED HIM WHILE OTHERS WERE FILLED WITH SADNESS. JESUS' FOLLOWERS WERE FRIGHTENED. SOME OF THEM WENT INTO HIDING.

JESUS CAME TO THE CALVARY HILL AND TRIED TO CLIMB IT. HE HAD LOST MUCH STRENGTH; HE WAS BLEEDING AND SO EXHAUSTED. UNDER THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF THE CROSS, JESUS FALLS AS IF HE WAS DEFEATED.

AGAIN HE STRUGGLES TO STAND UP. HE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED BECAUSE JESUS HAS CHOSEN TO LIVE THIS WAY OF THE CROSS OUT OF LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO KEEP TRYING WHEN I AM FEELING DEFEATED. HELP ME TO KEEP MY EYES ON YOU AND TEACH ME THAT YOU ARE MY STRENGTH. AMEN.

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE TENTH STATION -- JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,  
ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: HAVING BEEN ABLE TO STAND AGAIN AND LIFT HIS CROSS JESUS TOOK THOSE FINAL STEPS TO THE TOP OF THE CALVARY HILL. THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD GUARDED HIS WAY OF THE CROSS LET JESUS DROP THE CROSS TO THE GROUND.

AS JESUS STOOD IN FRONT OF THE CROWDS, HE WAS AGAIN MOCKED AND HUMILIATED. THE SOLDIERS PULLED OFF HIS CLOTHES LEAVING HIM EMBARRASSED AND WITHOUT HIS DIGNITY. HE WAS TREATED AS A COMMON CRIMINAL HIS ENEMIES SAW HIM AS A WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING.

HIS FOLLOWERS SAW HIM AS THE HUMAN BEING WHO LIVED THE LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO TREAT EVERY PERSON WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. HELP ME TO CLOTHE THEM WITH LOVE AND TEACH ME REVERENCE FOR ALL LIFE. AMEN

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE ELEVENTH STATION -- JESUS IS NAILED TO THE  
CROSS.

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,  
ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: IN THE TIME OF JESUS, MANY CRIMINALS DIED ON A  
CROSS. THEY WERE FORCED TO DIE TIED TO A CROSS FOR ALL TO  
SEE. JESUS WAS NOT TIED. BUT HIS HANDS AND FEET WERE  
NAILED TO THE WOOD BEFORE HIS CROSS WAS LIFTED FOR ALL TO  
SEE. EVERYONE SAW NOW THAT THIS "PREACHER" AND "PROPHET"  
COULD NOT ESCAPE.

JESUS, WHO HAD RELEASED PEOPLE FROM THE PRISONS OF  
BLINDNESS, SIN, SICKNESS AND DEATH, WAS NOW UNABLE TO GET  
FREE. HOW COULD JESUS BEAR THIS PAIN AND SUFFERING? IT  
COULD ONLY BE HIS GREAT LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME ALWAYS TO BE A PERSON WHO FREES  
AND HELPS OTHERS WHO ARE TRAPPED IN PAIN AND LONELINESS.  
TEACH ME TO REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE WON OUR FREEDOM. AMEN.

OUR FATHER...  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE TWELFTH STATION -- JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD  
NARRATOR: COULD THIS HAVE BEEN THE "WOOD OF SALVATION"?  
COULD THIS CROSS BE OUR HOPE AND SALVATION?

JESUS CALLED OUT TO GOD, FOR HE WAS FRIGHTENED, FEELING  
ABANDONED AND ABOUT TO DIE. HE WAS FULL OF PAIN. MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN HIS PAIN WAS HIS LOVE OF GOD AND HIS CARE FOR  
HIS MOTHER AND FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM. HE ASKED THEM TO  
CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH DRAINED AND HIS FEAR RELIEVED, HE  
GAVE HIS SPIRIT OVER TO GOD AND DIED UPON THE CROSS. TO THE  
END, HE SPOKE OF HIS LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO SEE DEATH AS ANOTHER STEP IN  
THE LIFE YOU GIVE US. TEACH ME HOW TO LIVE AND HOW TO DIE.  
AMEN.

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE THIRTEENTH STATION --JESUS IS PLACED IN MARY'S  
ARMS  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE  
WORLD.

NARRATOR: WHEN HER CHILD, JESUS, WAS STILL A BABY, MARY WAS  
TOLD THAT HE WOULD BE REJECTED BY MANY AND THAT HER HEART  
WOULD BE BROKEN.

WHEN HER CHILD, JESUS, DIED ON THE CROSS, SOME FRIENDS  
GENTLY TOOK HIS BODY DOWN FROM THAT CROSS AND PLACED IT IN  
MARY'S ARMS. MARY HAD HELD JESUS LIKE THIS WHEN HE WAS A  
BABY. NOW HIS BODY HAD NO LIFE LEFT IN IT.

MARY'S HEART BROKE WITH SUCH SADNESS, EMPTINESS AND  
GRIEF. SHE REMEMBERED HER HAPPY DAYS WITH HER SON. SHE  
REMEMBERED HER PRIDE AND SHE REMEMBERED THE PROPHECY. JESUS  
HAD BEEN REJECTED FOR HIS LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME TO COMFORT THOSE WHO LOSE SOMEONE  
THEY LOVE., TEACH ME YOUR COMPASSION. AMEN.

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

LEADER: THE FOURTEENTH STATION -- JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

NARRATOR: WHEN HE WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, THE LIVELY NEW  
BABY JESUS RESTED IN A BORROWED MANGER. HIS MOTHER CARED  
FOR HIM WITH LOVE, JOY AND TENDERNESS.

WHEN HE DIED ON CALVARY'S HILL, THERE WAS NO PLACE TO  
REST HIS BODY. FRIENDS PLACED HIS LIFELESS BODY IN A  
BORROWED TOMB. THIS WAS THE FINAL STOPPING PLACE OF JESUS'  
WAY OF THE CROSS.

WITH LOVE, BROKEN HEARTS, AND GREAT TENDERNESS, HIS  
MOTHER AND HIS FRIENDS CARED FOR HIM. THEY WASHED HIS BODY,  
ANointed IT WITH PERFUMES AND COVERED IT.

ALL: DEAR JESUS, HELP ME NOW TO BRING YOUR LOVE OF GOD AND  
LOVE OF ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. TEACH ME TO WALK WITH YOU IN  
LIFE. AMEN.

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE...

LEADER: THE FIFTEENTH STATION -- THE RESURRECTION  
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

ALL: BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

NARRATOR: JESUS' WAY OF THE CROSS DID NOT END IN SADNESS  
BUT IN JOY. ON EASTER SUNDAY, HE ROSE FROM THE TOMB  
GLORIOUSLY ALIVE.

FOR LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF US THE CROSS BECAME THE  
"WOOD OF SALVATION".

ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, AT THE FIRST SIGN OF  
DAWN, THEY WENT TO THE TOMB WITH THE 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 NO 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 MEN AND BE CRUCIFIED, AND RISE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY?" AND THEY REMEMBER HIS WORDS. LUKE 24, 1-8.

ALL: LORD JESUS, HELP ME TO WALK WITH YOU EACH DAY OF MY LIFE, EVEN TO CALVARY. THE SORROW AND JOY, THE PAIN AND HEALINGS THE FAILURES AND TRIUMPHS OF MY LIFE ARE TRULY SMALL DEATHS AND RESURRECTIONS THAT LEAD ME TO CLOSENESS WITH YOU. GIVE ME THE FAITH AND TRUST I NEED TO WALK WITH YOU ALWAYS. AMEN

OUR FATHER..  
HAIL MARY..  
GLORY BE..

# The Cross

5

Mt 16, 24-27

✠ **A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

The man who loses his life on account of me will really save his life.

**Jesus said to his disciples: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would a man show if he were to gain the whole world and ruin himself in the process? What can a man offer in exchange for his very self? The Son of Man will come with his Father's glory accompanied by his angels. When he does, he will repay each man according to his conduct."**

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Station 1. Jesus is condemned to death.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, you stand all alone before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for you. Nobody helps defend you. You devoted your entire life to helping others, listening to the smallest ones, caring for those who were ignored by others. They don't seem to remember that as they prepare to put you to death.

As a young person, sometimes we feel alone. Sometimes we feel that others don't stand up for us and defend us when we are afraid. Sometimes we feel condemned, blamed and not treated fairly. Sometimes we feel abandoned and afraid as well. We have a hard time when people criticize us.

### **Station 2. Jesus carries his cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, as you accepted your cross, you knew you would carry it to your death on Calvary. You knew it wouldn't be easy, but you accepted it and carried it just the same.

Sometimes we don't like the problems that come our way. Sometimes we try to get others to take care of them or solve them for us. Sometimes we become upset and nasty when asked to do even the smallest thing to help others.

Sometimes we feel not appreciated. Sometimes we feel as if we accept more responsibility than we need to. We can feel sorry for ourselves, even though the crosses others carry are much larger than our own. In our self-pity, we don't reach out to help.

### **Station 3 Jesus falls the first time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, the cross you have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and almost ready to faint, and you fall down. Nobody seems to want to help you. The soldiers are interested in getting home, so they yell at you and try to get you up and moving again.

Sometimes we start to do something, but then get tired of it. We hurry to get finished and sometimes don't do our work as well as we know we can. Sometimes we don't pay attention to what we should be doing. When things get hard for us, sometimes we give up.

Sometimes we put things off and sometimes we give up too easily,

#### **Station 4 Jesus meets his mother.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, you feel so alone with all those people yelling and screaming at you. You don't like the words they are saying about you, and you look for a friendly face in the crowd. You see your mother. She can't make the hurting stop, but it helps to see that she is on your side, that she is suffering with you. She does understand and care.

Sometimes we feel like too many things are going on. Sometimes others pick on us and abuse us. We look around me for a friendly face, and for the help we need. We need to share our troubles with those who truly care about us. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by many things. Life is so competitive, and we worry so much about our future and those who have some control over it. We need to remember that we do not have to solve every problem all by ourselves. We need to look around for a friendly face, for the help we need.

#### **Station 5 Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, the soldiers are becoming impatient. This is taking longer than they wanted it to. They are afraid you won't make it to the hill where you will be crucified. As you grow weaker, they grab a man out of the crowd and make him help carry your cross. He was just watching what was happening, but all of a sudden he is helping you carry your cross.

Sometimes we see people who need our help. Sometimes we pretend not to hear when our parents need us. We disappear when we know others could use our help. Sometimes we try to do as little as we can and still get by. Others might need our help, but we ignore their needs. Even when we're asked to help, sometimes we claim to be too busy.

### **Station 6 Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, suddenly a woman comes out of the crowd. Her name is Veronica. You can see how she cares for you as she takes a cloth and begins to wipe the blood and sweat from your face. She can't do much, but she offers what little help she can.

Sometimes we know someone could use a little help and understanding. They may be picked on or teased by others, or just sad or lonely. Sometimes we feel bad that others don't step in to help, but we don't help either. We notice the needs around us. Sometimes our own family members crave our attention, and we don't even seem to notice. Sometimes a fellow student, friend, neighbor or family member could use help or understanding, but we don't reach out to help fearful we may be criticized, or that they demand more of us than we'd like to give.

### **Station 7 Jesus falls the second time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

This is the second time you have fallen on the road. As the cross grows heavier and heavier it becomes more difficult to get up. But you continue to struggle and try until you're up and walking again. You don't give up.

Sometimes things get us down. Others seem to find things easier to do or to learn. Each time we fail, we find it harder to keep trying. Sometimes we think we should know more than we do. We become impatient with ourselves and find it hard to believe in ourselves when we fail. It is easy to despair over small things, and sometimes we do.

### **Station 8 Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, as you carry your cross you see a group of women along the road. As you pass by you see they are sad. You stop to spend a moment with them, to offer them some encouragement. Although you have been abandoned by your friends and are in pain, you stop and try to help them.

Sometimes we think a lot about ourselves. We think about what we want and would like people to spend their lives pleasing us. Sometimes we act like a child. We become so absorbed in ourselves and what we'd like that we forget about the needs of others. We take them for granted, and often ignore their needs.

## **Station 9 Jesus falls a third time.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross. You know your journey is coming to an end. You struggle and struggle. You get up and keep going. Sometimes we fail time and time again. We find it hard to get along with sisters and brothers, sometimes we're not honest, sometimes we're lazy. We're tempted to stop trying. It's just too hard sometimes. We often feel we should have conquered our weaknesses by now. We become discouraged when we're confronted by the same problems over and over again. Sometimes we get weary & can become discouraged and depressed.

## **Station 10 Jesus clothes are taken away.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

The soldiers notice you have something of value. They remove your cloak and throw dice for it. Your wounds are torn open once again. Some of the people in the crowd make fun of you. They tease you and challenge you to perform a miracle for them to see. They're not aware that you'll perform the greatest miracle of all! Sometimes we're tempted to repeat stories we know are unclean and disrespectful. We sometimes use crude and vicious words. We can entertain thoughts that are not clean. Sometimes we give children around us a bad example to follow.

## **Station 11 Jesus is nailed to the cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

You are stretched out on the cross you have carried so far. The soldiers take big nails and drive them into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved so much. People seem to have gone mad. You have done nothing but good, yet they drive nails through your hands and feet.

Sometimes we hurt others. Sometimes we join with friends and decide not to hurt another. We gang up against another and cause them hurt and pain. Sometimes we say or do hurtful things to our brothers and sisters. We can wonder what they'd think about themselves if they believed everything we tell them about themselves. Sometimes we discriminate against others. Even without thinking, we judge others because of their color, intelligence, income level or name. We forget that we are to live as a brother or sister to all people. Sometimes we use harsh words when we speak to children and family members. I can find it easy to look for something that isn't very important and make it very important.

## **Station 12 Jesus dies on the cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

## **Station 13 The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, how brutally you were put to death. How gently you are taken from the cross. Your suffering and pain are ended, and you are put in the lap of your mother. The dirt and blood are wiped away. You are treated with love.

Sometimes we treat others better when they're sad or in pain. When somebody dies, we become very gentle and kind. We notice the good and kind things people say about those who have died. If only we could learn to see the good things about them while they were alive. If only we would tell those around us how much we love them, while we still have the opportunity to do so.

## **Station 14 Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Jesus, your body is prepared for burial. Joseph gave you his own tomb. Your body laid there and a large stone was rolled in front of the tomb. What a sad day it has been for so many people. Sometimes we find it hard to share our things with our brothers or sisters and with our friends. We can be selfish. We accumulate things and keep them for ourselves. We try to make sure we have what we want before we share what we have with anybody else.

## **The Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus rises from the dead.**

Jesus, your friends were devastated in their loss. Their darkness couldn't have been any deeper. Yet it is impossible to snuff out the life God has given. Even when all seems lost, your Resurrection gives us new hope!

Sometimes we feel sad; thinking of those who have died and how much we miss them. We forget that Jesus died and rose again in order to save them and prepare a place for them.