

### The 13th Station - Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by, look and see if there is any sorrow like My sorrow. There is darkness now. Your dying words "Father into Your hands, I commend My spirit" hangs still in the heavy air. They come to take You down. She holds You once again, only in a way a mother can hold her child. "Be it done unto Me."

Somehow for all of us, She is able to say 'yes' to all this, to say Amen, from each last word from Your lips. Her bosom is the redeemed earth into which the grain of Your dead body has fallen to bring forth untold fruitfulness. A mother never abandons her child. You did not abandon Jesus and I know you will not abandon me. Teach me Mother, to love Jesus as you do and be willing to lay down my life for Him.

**All:** I love Thee Jesus my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt.

### The 14th Station - Jesus is Buried

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

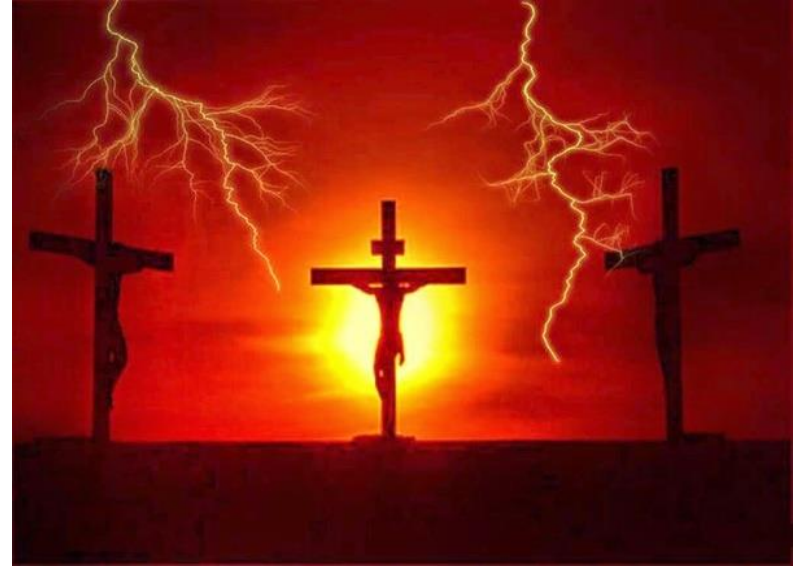
**Reading:** "When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted The Body to Joseph. He brought a linen shroud and took Him down and laid Him in the tomb, which had been hewn out of a rock and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb."

Your death is a real death. In it we see the depth of God's love for us. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. It is a love that will never die. But this is not the end. It is the beginning for You will rise again. You will burst forth from the tomb on that glorious Easter morning to a new and resurrected life. In baptism You have raised me from death and given me new life.

Thank You Lord Jesus for allowing me to share this walk with You. May I always know the power of the cross. May I never fail to recognize You, wherever I meet You on the road of life.

**All:** I love Thee Jesus my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt.

## The Stations of the Cross-Adults



### Introduction

Making the Stations, accompanying Jesus on His last journey. Think of the pain of Gethsemane, the agony experienced there - that loneliness. Humiliation and rejection. Denied by Peter. Abandoned by His followers - the disciples. Beaten - condemned to carry His cross to the place of His execution.

Lord Jesus, this is a lonely journey for You. Allow me to accompany You as You go. Teach me on the way how to love with all my being and to love others.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Station - Jesus Is Condemned To Death

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** Pilate wishing to satisfy the crowd releases Barabbas and scourges Jesus.

So easy for Pilate to say "I am innocent of the blood of this man".

How many Pilates wash their hands of you as you stand before firing squads, gas chambers, in prison camps, as you are seen as a choice or a burden on society - especially stigmatized by public opinion.

Lord, we do not wash our hands with water but with indifference.

Jesus, please do not let me turn away from You or walk away as I see You condemned.

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### The 2nd Station - Jesus Takes Up His Cross

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** Jesus went out bearing His cross. They hurried to get rid of Him. They dropped the cross on His raw shoulders. Emblem of shame and disgrace - which will forever be a sign of your victory of Your holy cross by which You have redeemed the world.

Jesus take away my fear of the cross. Help me to embrace it. Through Your cross turn the weakness and misery of my suffering into power and strength

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### The 11<sup>th</sup> Station - Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** 'It was the third hour when they crucified Him and the inscription of the charge against Him read: "The King of the Jews". With Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left,' I cannot look at the spikes as they are driven through Your sacred limbs. These nails will be Your bed for the next three hours as You are lifted up between heaven and earth. Even at this time You are so willing to pardon the insignificant thief and all Your enemies. Lord Jesus, is sin so evil in the sight of God that You should pay such a price? O please help me think of You and to look at You, so that I may never offend You again. May I be fixed with You to the sorry wood of the cross.

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### The 12th Station - Jesus Dies on the Cross

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** Now as they were eating Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to the disciples and said "Take and eat. This is My Body" then taking the cup and after giving thanks, gave it to them saying "Drink of it all of you for this is My Blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." "I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until I drink it anew with you in My Father's kingdom". Even on the cross You are more concerned for others than for Yourself. To the good thief You said "This day you will be with Me in paradise." You look at Your Mother Mary and say "Behold your son!" then to John "Behold your Mother" You have prepared her for this moment. No longer is she the Mother of Your physical being only, now You have made her the Mother of every member of Your Body, the Church. From now on she is the Mother of us all and we are her children. In the presence of the new Eve, You crushed the head of the serpent and our salvation is accomplished.

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### The 9th Station - Jesus Falls for the Third Time

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** 'Come to Me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and My burden light.'

Again it happens. You will never give up. Once more they help You. This time with violence. The air is thick with shouting and blasphemy and they rush You forward. You are nearing the end of Your horrific journey. Lord, never let me give up. Help me to keep going, to keep repenting of my sins, to keep coming back to You. In my weakness, I need Your strength.

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### The 10<sup>th</sup> Station - Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** 'They divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.'

You were in pain, described as a worm not a man, but You have emptied Yourself - everything taken from You. You are left with nothing. How different from me, Lord, I have so much. So often I have seen You stripped in the poor, the homeless, the starving, the refugee and I never put my hand in my pocket to give You anything. Help me Jesus to empty myself. Strip me of my selfishness.

**All:** I love Thee Jesus my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt.



### The 3rd Station - Jesus Falls for the First Time

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone: but if it dies it bears much fruit."

You were surrounded by people, men shouting, women weeping.

The next thing You knew You were on the ground.

A few days ago people were shouting Hosanna, Hosanna!

Now they shout Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

Lord Jesus, in my life of sin I have moved from Hosanna to Crucify Him!

Please forgive me. Please forgive me.

Help me to get up again and find healing in the wood of the cross.

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### The 4th Station - Jesus Meets His Mother

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** "Simeon said to Mary 'This child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and a sign that is spoken against and a sword will pierce through Your Own soul also.'" Suddenly You see her. What memories crowd your mind, Bethlehem, Egypt, the Temple, Joseph, prayers, mealtimes, the Wedding at Cana, the look of wonderment she always gave You. And now here she stands before You. Her heart pierced with sorrow. Even still You keep her hidden. Only a few know who she really is. But she knows what she is going to become - Mother of Your new body - the Church. She gazes. You touch. Then You are sure. Jesus I thank You that Your Mother is my Mother too.

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### The 5th Station - Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Simon was a good man, you could see that. You could observe the shocked expression on his face and he looks at You, even when he lifts the cross he cannot take his eyes off You. This gaze helps him to forget everything else.

Lord, how often have You come to me, burdened by Your cross and I do nothing. Jesus, help me to see You in everyone. Allow me to help You.

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### The 6th Station - Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** He had no form of majesty that we should look at Him. He had no beauty to attract us. He was despised and rejected by men, as one from whom people hide their faces.

You know Veronica. She is every woman who ever became Your faithful disciple. She is the one who always knows what to do, quiet and boundless in generosity. She cannot comprehend what has happened to You and she hardly recognises You because of the blood and dirt. Later she will see the imprint You leave on the towel. But that will not compare with the imprint You have left in her heart.

Lord Jesus, transform me: may people see the living image of Yourself in me.

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### The 7th Station - Jesus falls the Second Time

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** 'Jesus said to them "My soul is sad even unto death" and going a little further, He fell on the ground and said "If possible this hour might pass from me." Once again, You fall. The mystery is that You are able to stand. You are so vulnerable now. Even the soldiers pity You. They help to put the cross back on Your back, where do You get the strength? In my sins I never think of You. I am too busy making excuses for myself, while You are crushed by the weight of my wrong doing. Jesus help me to see beyond the deceitful evil that is in the world, that I may live by Your truth alone.

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### The 8th Station - Jesus Meets Some Women

**Leader:** We adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.

**All:** Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

**Reading:** 'And there followed Him a great multitude of people who bewailed Him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Do not weep for Me but for your children."

They all knew You, Martha and Mary Magdalene in tears, the women from Nain. It is all so unbelievable to them. Their grief is understandable. They see You suffering. You see what is soon to become their own suffering. 'Weep not for Me but for yourself and your children.' How strange Lord that You have so many enemies among the men, but none among the women. Lord, give me the love and fidelity of these women. When I have to suffer for You, may I always remember what You suffered for me.

**All:** I love Thee Jesus my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt.

