

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

(Before each station the response is)

Reader 1: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

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

SING A: *Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,*

May we too be meek and mild

As we tread your holy Way.

May we feel no bitter hatred,

When we too are persecuted,

Left alone to walk with You.

1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

All: 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.

SING B: *Now the Cross as Jesus bore it,*

Has become for us who share it,

The jeweled Cross of Victory.

2. JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

All: 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 by recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.

SING C: *Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen.*

His whole Body bruised and swollen,

Jesus tripped and lay in pain.

3. JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

All: 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.

SING D: *Jesus met his grieving Mother,*

She who made the Lord our Brother;

Now the sword her heart has pierced.

4. JESUS MEETS WITH HIS MOTHER

All: 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 people in my life.

SING E: *Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of Christ.*

5. SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

All: 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.

SING F: *Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.*

6. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

All: 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.

SING G: *Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,
Flogged in Body He resembled
All our brothers poor and scorned.*

7. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

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

SING H: *May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.*

8. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

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

SING I: *Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain.*

9. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

All: 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.

SING J: *Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all He had to give.*

10. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

All: 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.

SING K: *Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.*

11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

All: 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.

SING L: *Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head – the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.*

12. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Reader 2: “And bowing His head, He handed over His spirit” (Jn 19:30)

(Extended silence – while all kneel or bow their heads to ponder the Lord’s death.)

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

SING M: *Stunned and Stricken, Mary, Mother
In your arms was placed our Brother,
“Full of grace” now filled with grief.*

13. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

All: Father, seeing Jesus’ body being taken down from the cross reminds me how fearful I am of letting go of my life. I am frightened when I think of being unimportant, useless, help-less. Help me to place my life in your hands.

SING N: *Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days You resurrected,
You did first what we shall do.*

14. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

All: Lord Jesus when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. When I think you seem distant or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and loving presence, which dwells within me. Help me to love deeply – with a passion like yours and to reveal your living presence – to all those you entrust and send to me.

Reader 1: Please move into the pews and kneel as we conclude the Benediction...

SING O: *Jesus, Risen, be our lover
In your Food and in our brother.
Lead us home to heaven with You.*