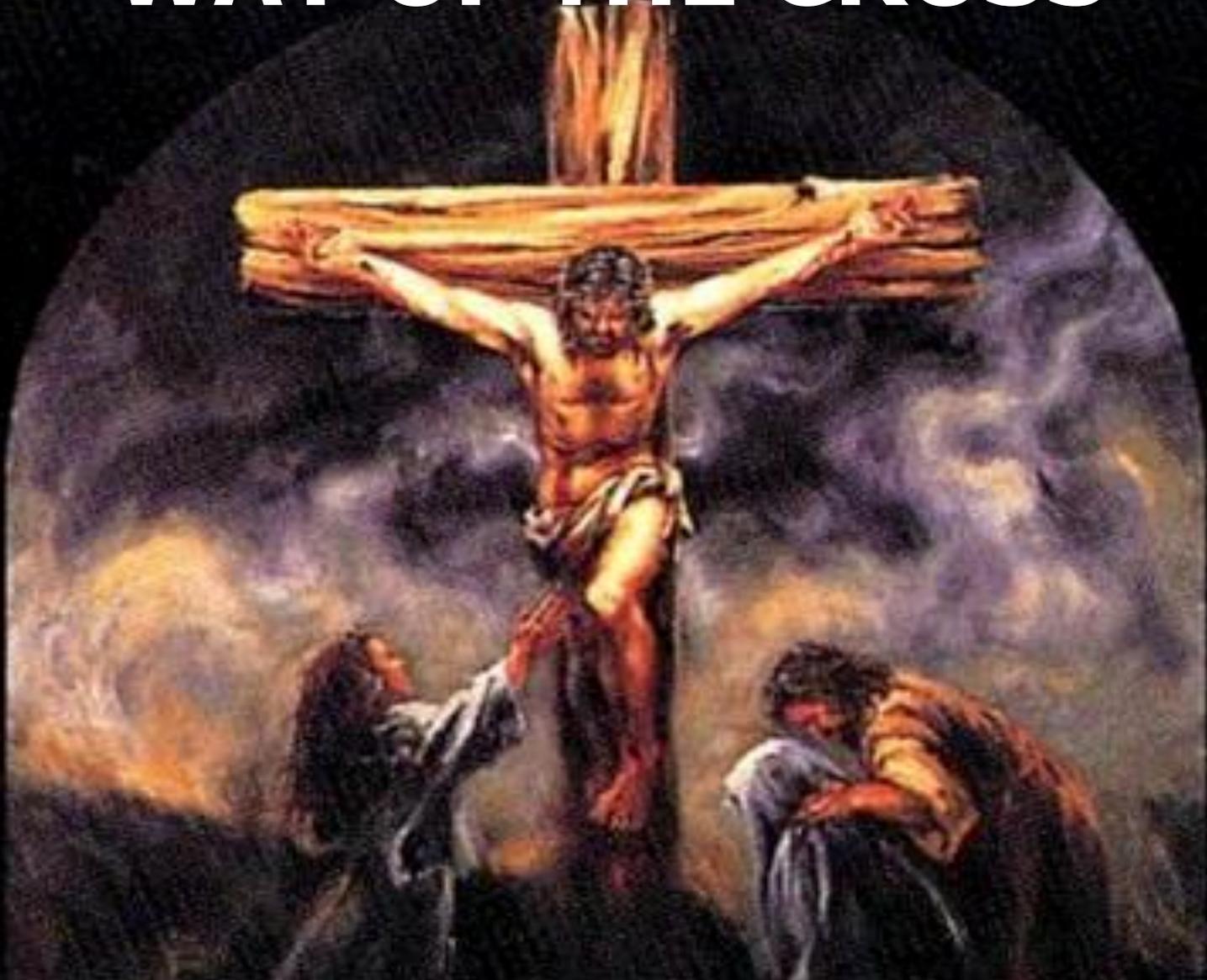


WAY OF THE CROSS



RECONCILIATION

Notice

For those who are not fit enough to kneel / stand throughout the Way of the Cross, you may choose to sit.

Please Stand

Intro

Today, the Way of the Cross is focusing on RECONCILIATION. In each station, Jesus suffered for our sins that hurt Him. With repented hearts, let us ask Jesus for forgiveness as we journey with Him in the Way of the Cross.

HYMN- VICTORY

**O Cross, reign victorious!
O Cross! Thou wilt redeem us**

For all who yearn to see
Give light, let darkness cease
True source of liberty
O Cross, God's seal of peace.

Leader: In the name of the
**Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

Leader:

“O God, You willed Your Son to undergo for us the humiliation of the Cross to deliver us from the power of evil.

**We pray You, fill our hearts
with love for Christ and sorrow
for sin, and grant that we may
gain the grace of His
Resurrection.**

**Through the same Christ Our
Lord and Saviour.”**

All: Amen.

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death



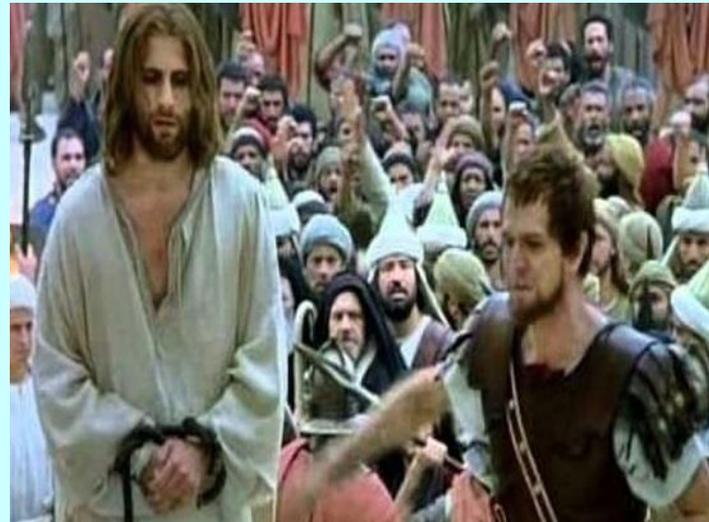
Leader:

**Why do they condemn Jesus?
He wants to change everything:
He blesses the poor; He is a
friend to sinners; He does not
respect money and power;**



Leader (cont'd):

He asks everyone to repent and change their ways...He disturbs everybody...It is easier to get rid of Him than to change oneself.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**Lord, convert us :
Help us to be at least willing
to change our ways.
Help us to repent and be
converted.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN -THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

**This is My Commandment:
Love one another as I have
loved you,
Charity is mild, charity thinks
no evil,
Charity can hope to the end.**

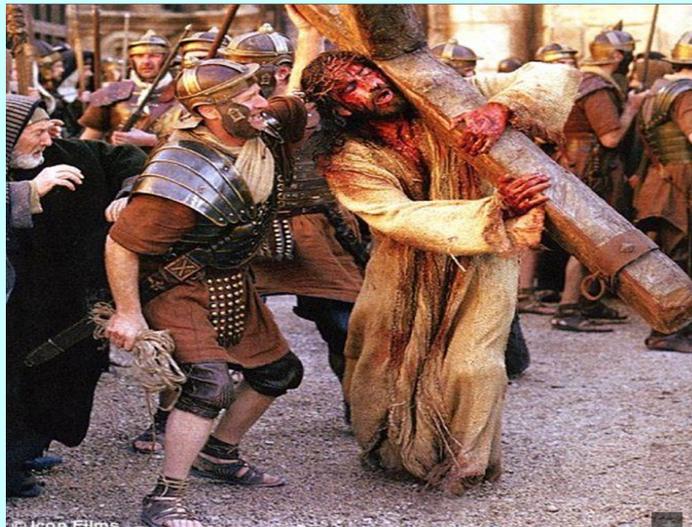
SECOND STATION

Jesus carries the Cross



Leader:

What is the Cross? No man looks for it. On the contrary, we do all we can to escape from it... Yet it is one of the basic values of our faith:



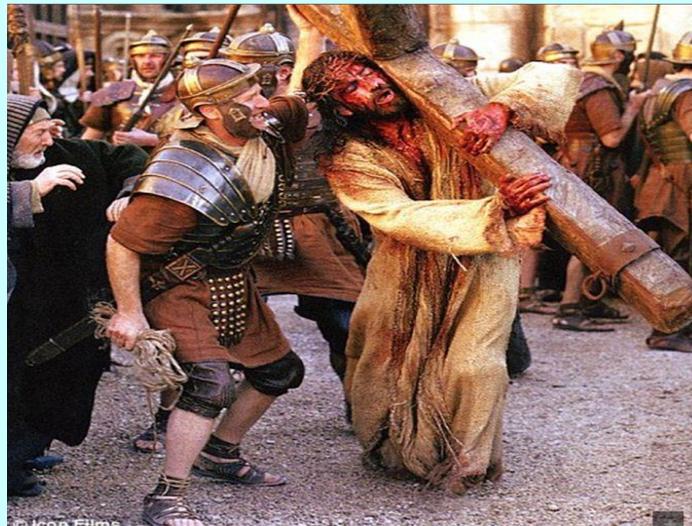
Leader (cont'd):

**“If anyone wants to be a follower of Mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”
(Mark 8:34).**



Leader (cont'd):

The Cross is the sign of the Christian!



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, we are afraid of the cross. Help us to be generous enough to accept it, as You did, to save the world!



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – GOD GIVES
HIS PEOPLE STRENGTH

**God gives His people strength
If we believe in His way,
He's swift to repay,
All those who bear the burden
of the day,
God gives His people strength.**

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time



Leader:

We fail...We fall...We would like to change, but we are comfortable in our ways – and we like them – “I am like that” – and so we stop repenting.



Leader (cont'd):

What a difference with our Lord! As soon as He falls down, He gets up again. He does not give up.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, give us light... so that we may see ourselves as we really are.



All

**Give us the courage to
change, with Your help,
what ought to be changed
within us.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN-GOD OF MERCY

**God of mercy and compassion
Look with pity upon me!
Father! Let me call Thee "Father"
'Tis Thy Child returns to Thee**

CHORUS

**Jesus! Lord! I ask for mercy
Let me not implore in vain!
All my sins I now detest them,
Help me not to sin again.**

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets His Mother



Leader:

There was never a greater union or communion than the one between Jesus and His mother.



Leader (cont'd):

Sometimes their thoughts ran on quite different lines, as it happened at the marriage at Cana



or when Mary found her young Son in the Temple, but never do we find any sign of anger, impatience or rejection between them.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**What an example, Lord, You
and Your mother give us!
Jesus, Mary, help us to
remain one in mind,**



All

in spite of our differences in age, education, and our ways of thinking.



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – AT THE CROSS
HER STATION KEEPING

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

FIFTH STATION

Simon helps Jesus to carry the
Cross



Leader:

Co-operation is also one of the basic Christian values. Christ made the Way of the Cross for us... and He still makes it with us.



Leader:

Do we co-operate with Him, as Simon did? Do we really do our share in bringing salvation to people around us?



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, help us to hear the call of John the Baptist: "Repent! Change your ways!" ... so that we really share with You



All

that act of love which reunited men with God and with one another.



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN- GOD IS LOVE

**Love it was that made us
And it was love that saved us
Love was God's plan when He
made man**

**God's divine nature is love
Born of God's love we must love
Him**

**That's why He made us: to love
Him**

**(But only when we love all men
Can we partake of God's love- 2x)**

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Leader:

Veronica is a woman who goes out of her way to show sympathy to one who is sentenced to death.



Leader:

It may be that there are people around us who are rejected... hopeless, drunkards, drug addicts, beggars.



Leader (cont'd):

Shall we take the opportunities which are offered to us by going out of our way to do something for them?



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, it is not easy to go against the tide... yet, it could be that some of those we consider to be "hopeless cases"



All

**are more victims of prejudice
and bad backgrounds than
personally guilty.**



All

Give us the courage to try at least to approach and understand them.



Pause and reflect



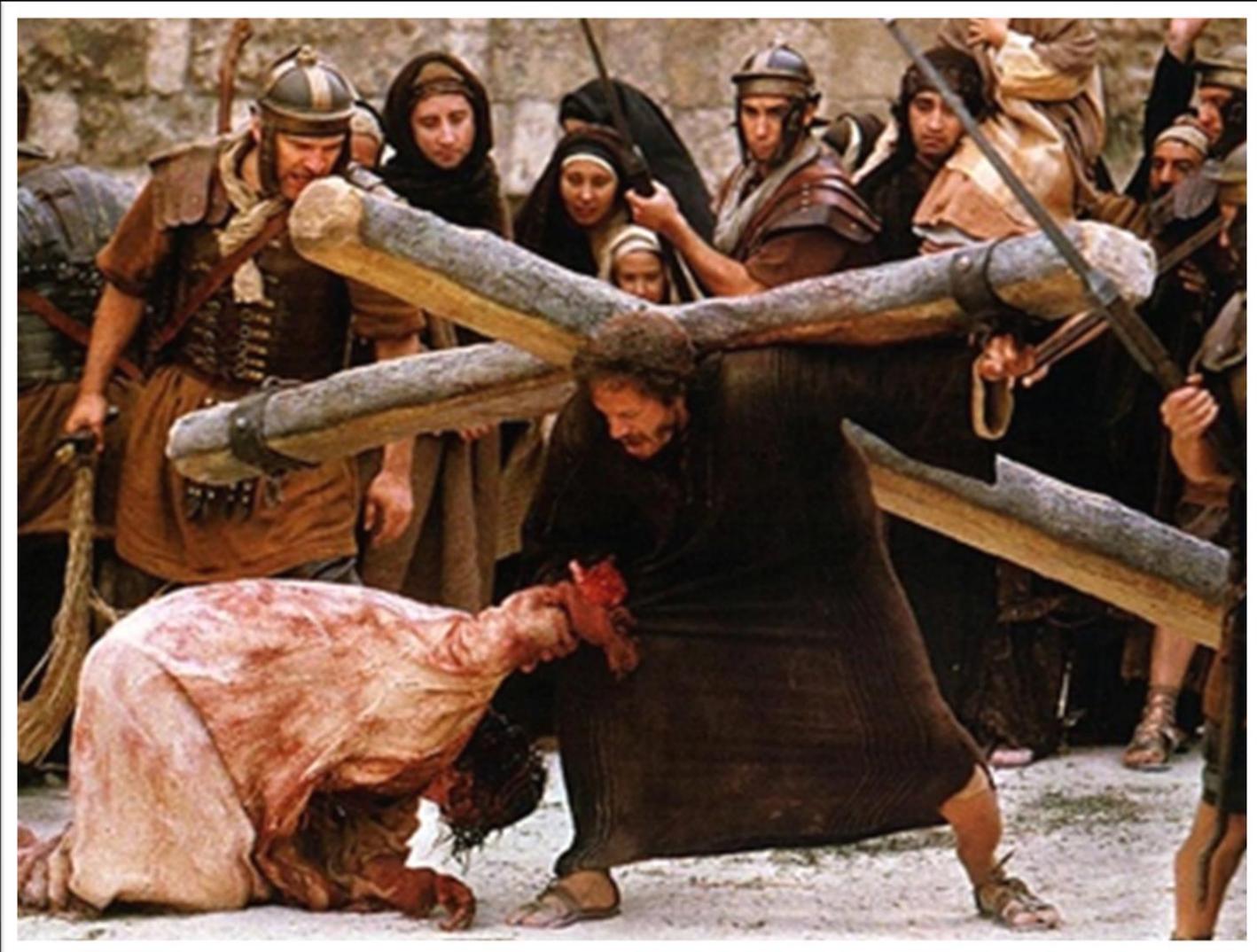
Please Stand

HYMN -THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

**This is My commandment:
Love one another as I have
loved you,
Charity is meek,
Charity seeks not its own,
Charity has faith to the end.**

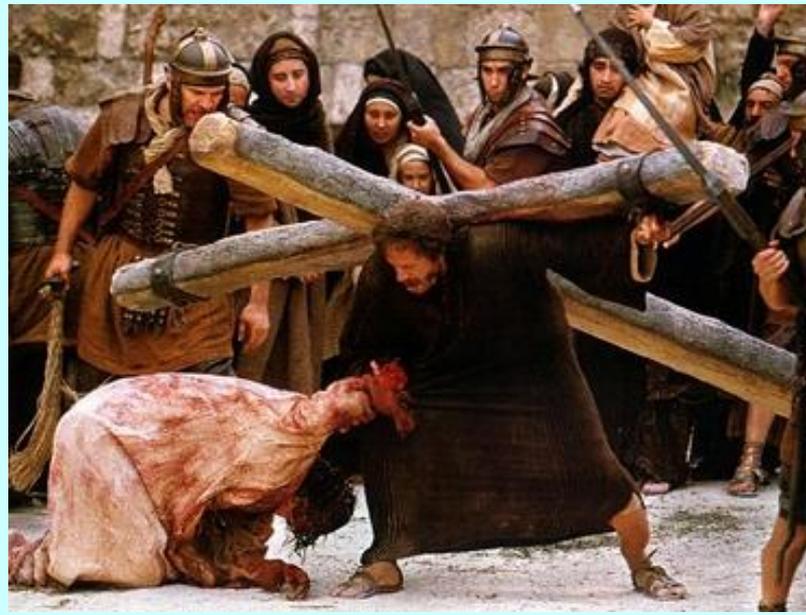
SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time



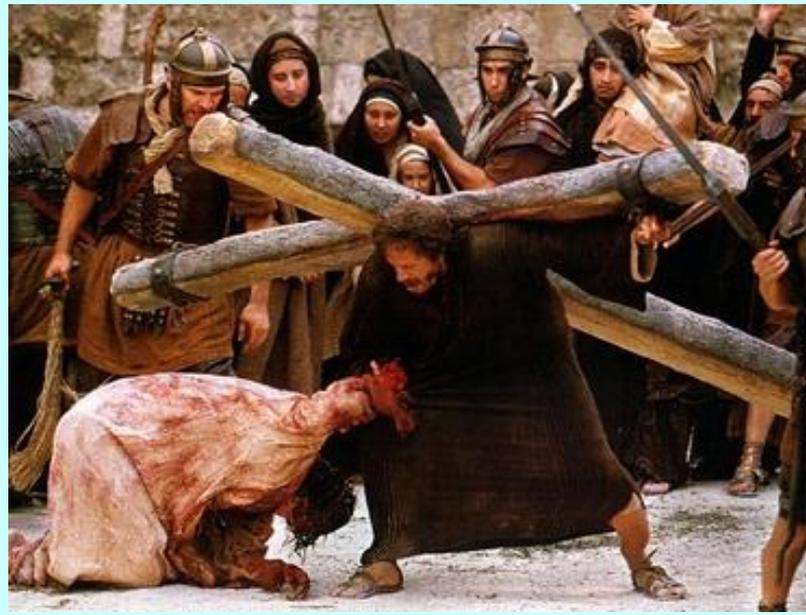
Leader:

We follow the crowd and accept popular prejudices without thinking. We are tied down by what people may say and by our self-centredness.



Leader (cont'd):

And so we refuse to try and take on ourselves the mind of Jesus Christ Who accepted to be treated unjustly for the salvation of sinners.



Please kneel

Leader:

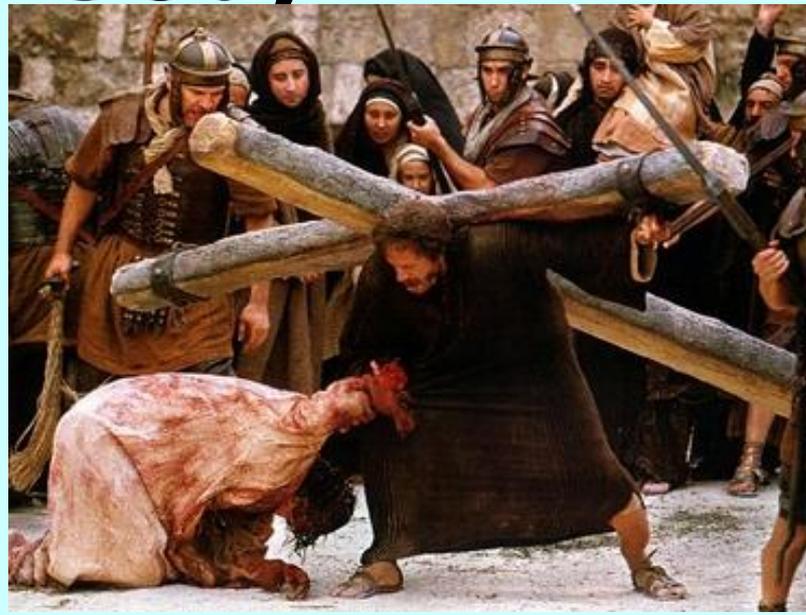
**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

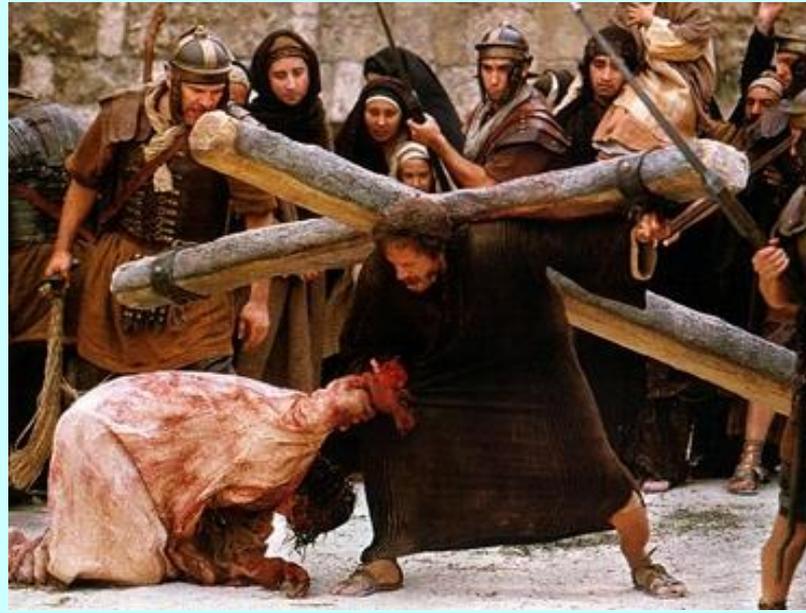
All

**By the humiliation of Your
second fall, open our eyes and
give us the sense of sin.
Make us realise the harm done
by sin to God,**



All

**to others and to ourselves,
because we will never repent if
we remain blind to our guilt
and self complacency.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – NEARER MY GOD
TO THEE

**Deep in Thy Sacred Heart,
let me abide.**

**Thou that hast bled for me,
sorrowed and died.**

**Sweet shall my weeping be,
Grief surely leading me,
Nearer, my God to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.**

EIGHTH STATION

The women of Jerusalem
mourn for our Lord



Leader:

To weep may be a sign of repentance, we weep because we fail to be reconciled with our neighbour.



Leader:

But weeping is of no value if we only weep through self-pity and without doing anything to improve ourselves.



Leader (cont'd):

Feelings of guilt and remorse should lead us to effective contrition.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**Lord, once again we pray to
You for the courage to repent
and to change. Let us not
simply moan and do nothing.**



All

Let the experience of our past sins teach us to rely on God's grace and be aware of our weakness.



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN-WE STAND FOR GOD

**We stand for God and for His
glory,
The Lord supreme and God of
all.**

**Against His foes we raise His
standard,
Around his Cross we hear His
call.**

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls the third time



Leader:

If somebody fails us once, we may excuse him. If he fails us the second time, we become impatient.



Leader:

But if he fails us a third time, we are likely to wash our hands off him. "He can't be relied on," we say.



Leader (cont'd):

Yet, when we ourselves let someone down, it is very different. We always seem to have good reasons: which explain and excuse everything.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, through this meditation on Your third fall, help us to be patient with others, and not so ready to find excuses for ourselves.



All

**We remember Your words:
“The amount you measure out
is the amount you will be
given.”**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN- VICTORY

**O Cross, reign victorious!
O Cross! Thou wilt redeem us.**

**Renew our strength and
valour,
Uplift the downcast man.
Prize hope in life's dark hour,
The deathless Life the span.**

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of His garments



Leader:

We put our trust in the things which we can see and touch first of all, and only afterwards in God. We want to feel safe and protected.



Leader (cont'd):

We rely more on a solid bank-account and on knowing the right people than we do on God.



Leader (cont'd):

**Yet You, O Lord, allow Yourself
to be stripped of everything.
You were ever anxious to do
the Father's will.**



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, help us to know and love what is essential – the building up of Your Kingdom... and teach us to rid ourselves of all that does not lead to You and Your Kingdom.



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – AT THE CROSS
HER STATION KEEPING

**Christ, when Thou shall call
me hence,
Be Thy Mother my defence,
Be Thy Cross my victory.**

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross



Leader:

Jesus has walked on earth doing good, announcing the Kingdom, forgiving sins and curing the sick.



Leader:

Those days of activity are behind Him now.

On the cross He can move neither hand nor foot.



Leader (cont'd):

Yet it is now above all that He is perfecting the work of reconciling men with God and one another.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

Lord, when we suffer and can do little or nothing for ourselves and for others, may we remember



All

**that we are hanging with You
on the cross, sharing in Your
power of making all men one
with the Father and each other.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – YES I SHALL ARISE

**Yes, I shall arise
and return to my Father!
Look down on me,
have mercy O Lord;
Forgive me my sins,
behold all my grief.**

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross



Leader:

Unless the grain of wheat is buried in the earth, it will remain what it is – a single, unimportant little grain of wheat.



Leader:

But if it is buried, it changes and grows into a new life and comes to bear many grains of wheat.



Leader (cont'd):

We believe through our faith in Jesus that we go from this life to a richer and a happier life without end.



Leader (cont'd):

But still we are afraid of losing our grip on this material life.



Leader (cont'd):

To give us the courage we need to make this sacrifice with love, Jesus has gone before us to show us the way.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**Lord, You consented to lose
Your life so that we may gain
eternal life.**



All

Your death on the Cross teaches us that we have to die to sin and selfishness in order to bear fruits of holiness and salvation.



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – JESUS KEEP ME NEAR
THE CROSS

**Near the cross a
trembling soul, love and
mercy found me; There
the bright and morning
star, shed its beams
around me.**

HYMN – JESUS KEEP ME NEAR
THE CROSS

**In the Cross, in the Cross,
Be my glory ever. Till my
raptured soul shall find,
rest beyond the river.**

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is taken down from the Cross



Leader:

The struggle between life and death is over for Jesus. He is beyond the reach of His enemies and their power to inflict pain.



Leader (cont'd):

But they are not at peace, because they have shed innocent blood, and they will have to give an account of their life to God.



Leader (cont'd):

They will not be at peace until they are reconciled with God their Father, and with their fellow men.



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**Lord Jesus, You give us Your
peace. May we understand that
we can only share in Your
peace and bring Your peace**



All

**to the world if we set aside
selfishness and learn to love as
You love.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

**This is My commandment:
Love one another as I have
loved you.**

Charity is kind,

Charity feels no envy,

Charity bears up to the end.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb



Leader:

The enemies of Jesus appear to have won. Jesus is laid in a tomb: His friends are hiding, afraid they will be arrested.



Leader:

But this victory is a victory only in appearance. God has a surprise in store for the enemies and for the friends of Jesus:



Leader (cont'd):

The Cross will become a Sign of Victory. Does it seem more important to us to be well-to-do, popular and influential,



Leader (cont'd):

than to be faithful to Jesus and to His commandment to love one another as He has loved us?



Please kneel

Leader:

**We adore You, O Christ, and
we bless You.**

All:

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

All

**Lord, we end as we began – by asking with insistence:
"convert us: change our ways"
without Your loving help**



All

**we will never be able to accept
the fact that the only way to
Your glorious, risen life is
through the cross and death of
self.**



Pause and reflect



Please Stand

HYMN – NEARER MY GOD
TO THEE

**Nearer, my God, To Thee,
Nearer to Thee;
E'en though it be a cross that
 raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer my God, to Thee
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.**

Conclusion

Leader:

As we come to the end of the Way of the cross, let us be truly sorry for our sins. Please pause a moment and ask God for forgiveness.

Leader:

**We entreat You, O Lord, that
Your people who have devoutly
commemorated the passion
and death of Your Son may
receive Your abundant blessing
and consolation.**

Leader (cont'd):

**May they increase in holy faith
and ever draw strength from
Your redemption through the
same Christ our Lord.**

All:

AMEN.

Leader:

**Let us pray for the Holy
Father's intentions.**

All:

Our Father (X1)

Hail Mary (X1)

Glory be (X1)

HYMN – JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

**Jesus, keep me near the
cross, there a precious
fountain.  Free to all a
healing stream, flows
from Calvary's mountain.**

HYMN – JESUS KEEP ME NEAR
THE CROSS

**In the Cross, in the Cross,
Be my glory ever. Till my
raptured soul shall find,
rest beyond the river.**

Leader: In the name of the
Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

