

**WAY
OF THE
CROSS
VIA MARIA
(WAY OF MARY)**



PLEASE STAND

Leader

Mary's Way of the Cross, is a unique meditation on the final walk of Jesus, from condemnation to death to His burial in the tomb, as seen through the eyes of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who made the first way of the cross.

(cont'd)

Leader (cont'd)

After meditating on the walk of Jesus to Calvary, each station presents a thought provoking personal application to encourage our own deeper appreciation of what Jesus did for us.

(cont'd)

Leader (cont'd)

Take a moment to quiet your inner self, asking God for the grace to receive all that He intends for you through this meditation. Then with an expectant heart, enter and begin Mary's Way of the Cross.

AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

VERSE 1

**At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother
weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.**

VERSE 2

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

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death



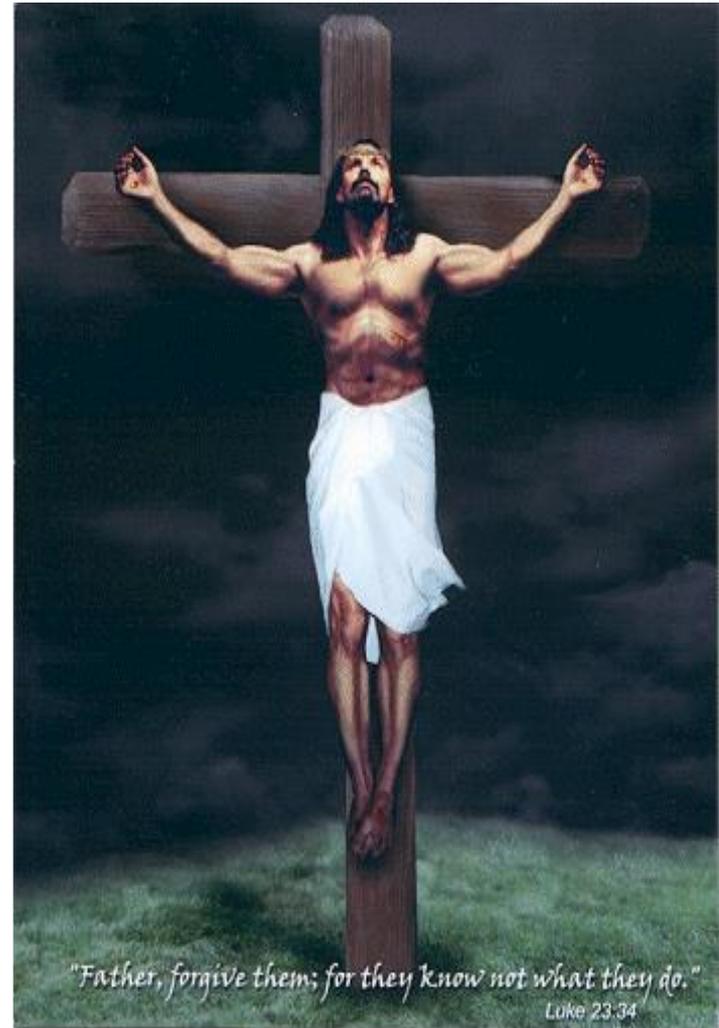
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

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

People

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



Meditation – Leader

It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised and bleeding skin sent a sword of pain deep into my heart and tears down my cheeks.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

Then Pilate, from his chair of judgment, asked the crowd why they wanted my son executed. All around me they shouted, “Crucify him!”

I wanted to plead with them to stop, but I knew this had to be. So I stood by and cried silently.

Prayer – All

Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge? “Crucify him!” When I judge others...? “Crucify him!” Doesn’t this bring tears of anguish to both you and your mother? Forgive me, Jesus.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

GOD OF MERCY AND COMPASSION

**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.**

SECOND STATION

Jesus takes His Cross



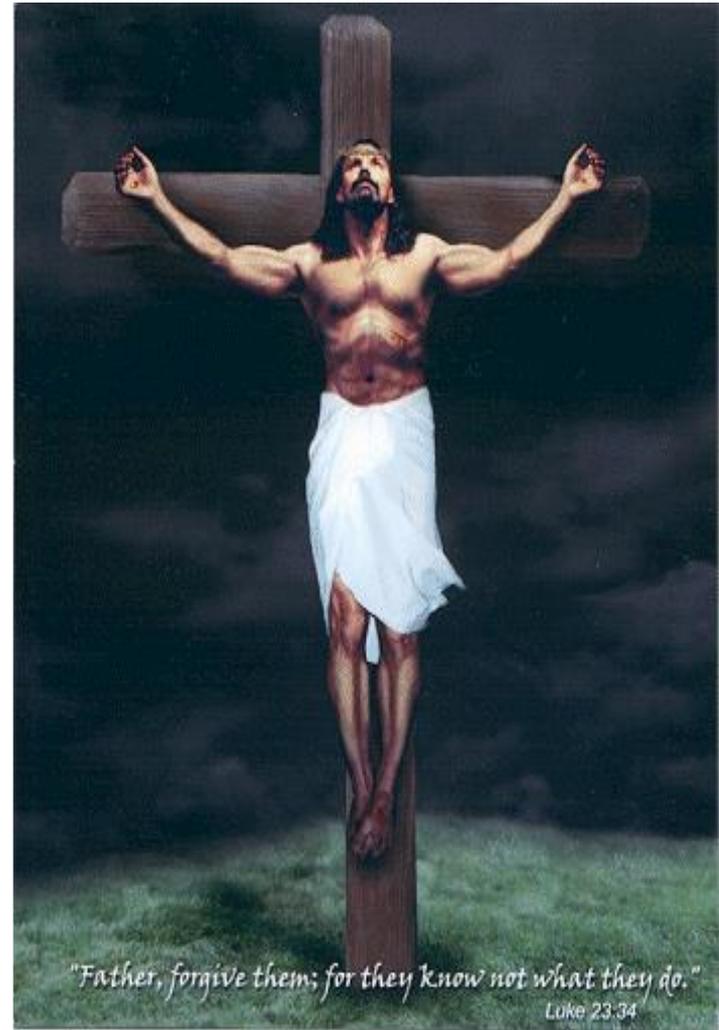
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Meditation – Leader

Regaining a little strength, I walked with the crowds to the entrance of the square. A door flew open and my son stumbled out, the guards laughing behind him. Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on his shoulders.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

Then they shoved him down the road. My pain for him was unbearable. I wanted to take the cross from him and carry it myself. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on silently.

Prayer – All

Lord Jesus, I beg you to forgive me for the many times I have added more weight to your cross by closing my eyes to the pain and loneliness of my neighbour.

(cont'd)

Prayer – All (cont'd)

Forgive me for gossiping about others and for always trying to find excuses to avoid certain people who wish to talk to me. Help me to be like Mary, always seeking to lighten the crosses of others. Forgive me, Jesus.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

O CROSS REIGN VICTORIOUS

**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.**

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time

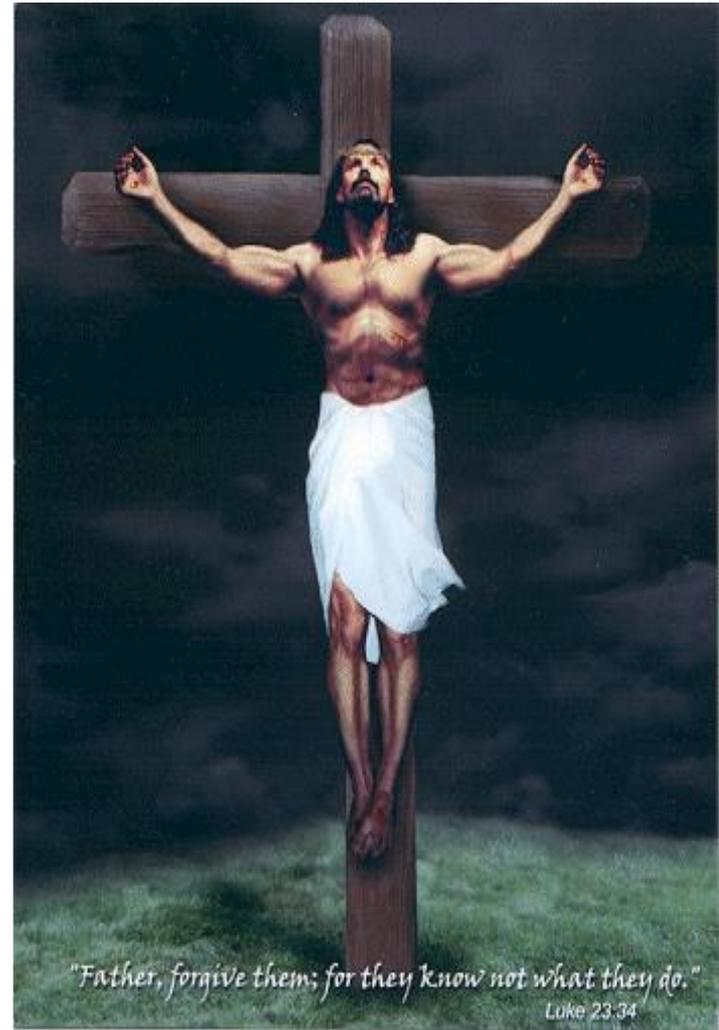


Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

I followed close behind my son as he stumbled towards Calvary. Nothing had ever hurt me more than to see him in such pain. I saw the cross digging into his shoulders. My heart dropped when I saw him fall face to the ground, the heavy cross landing squarely on his back.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

For a moment, I thought my beloved son was dead. Now my whole body began to tremble. Then the guards kicked him. He rose slowly and began to walk again, yet they still whipped him. I wanted to protect him with my own body. But, I knew this had to be, so I walked on and wept silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, how often have I seen you fall, and, unlike Mary, have left you there without concern? How often have I seen people make mistakes and laughed at them? How often do I find myself getting angry when someone does things differently than I?

(cont'd)

Prayer – All (cont'd)

Mary offered you her support through your passion. Help me to do the same for you by the support I give to others. Lord, have mercy on me.



PLEASE STAND

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.**

CHORUS

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

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets His grieving Mother



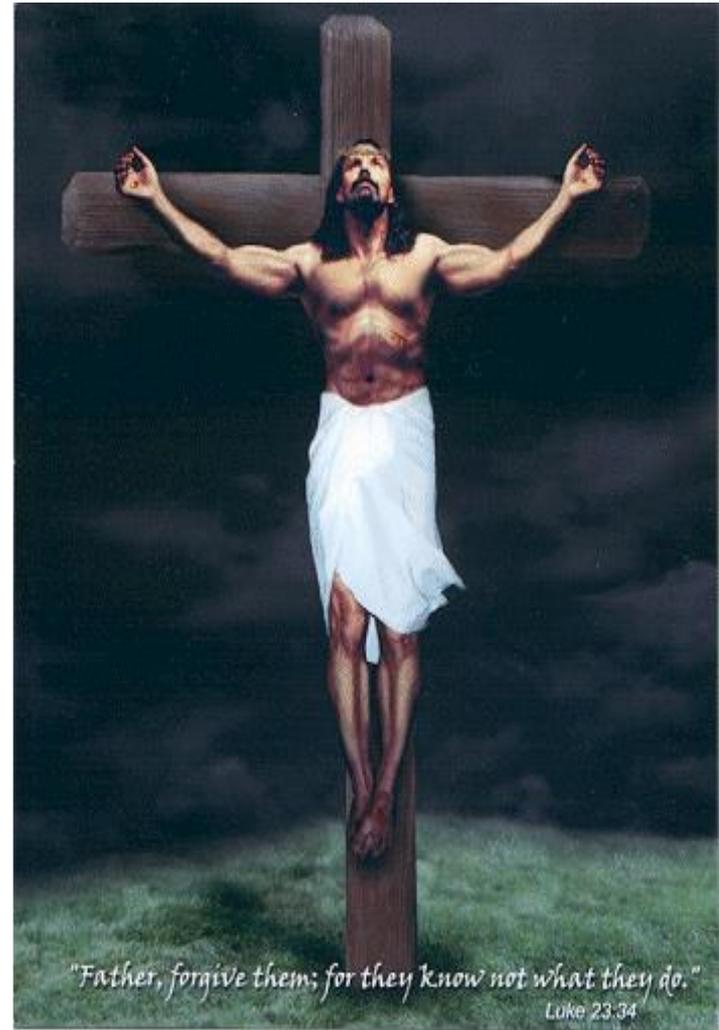
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Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

I had managed to break through the crowds and was walking side by side with my son. I called to him through the shouting voices. He stopped. Our eyes met, mine full of tears of anguish, his full of pains and confusion.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

I felt helpless; then his eyes said to me, “Courage! There is a purpose for this.” As he stumbled on, I knew he was right. So I followed and prayed silently.

Prayer – All

Lord Jesus, forgive me the many times our eyes met and I turned mine away. Forgive me the times things did not go my way and I let everyone know about it.

(cont'd)

Prayer – All (cont'd)

Forgive me the times I brooded over little inconveniences or became discouraged and did not heed your call to courage! Yes, Lord, our eyes have met many times, but fruitlessly.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

**At the cross her station keeping
Stood the mournful mother
weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.**

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

FIFTH STATION

Simon helps Jesus carry His Cross



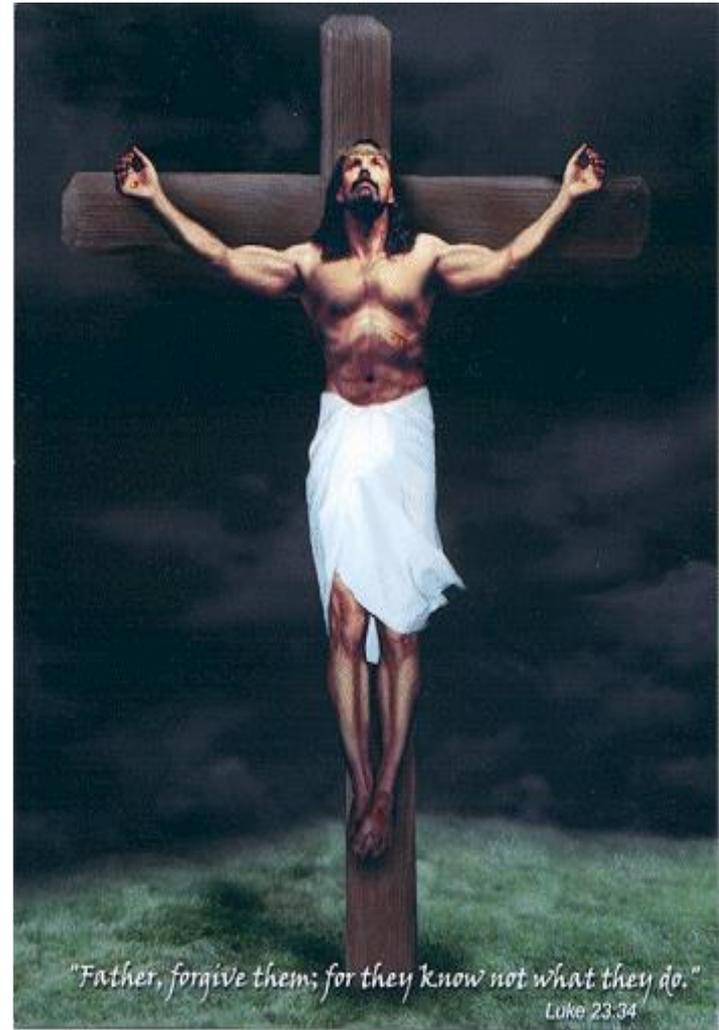
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Leader

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Meditation – Leader

I could now see almost complete helplessness on the face of my son as he tried to carry his heavy load. Each step looked as if it would be his last. I felt his every pain in my heart and I wanted the whole thing to end. Then I noticed some commotion near Jesus.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

The guards has pulled a protesting man from the crowd. They forced him to pick up the back of the cross to help lighten my son's load. He asked the guards why this had to be. I knew, and so followed silently.

Prayer – All

Lord Jesus, I have many times refused to help you. I have been a selfish person who has often questioned your word. Don't let me remain like Simon, but help me to be like your mother, Mary, who always silently followed and obeyed.



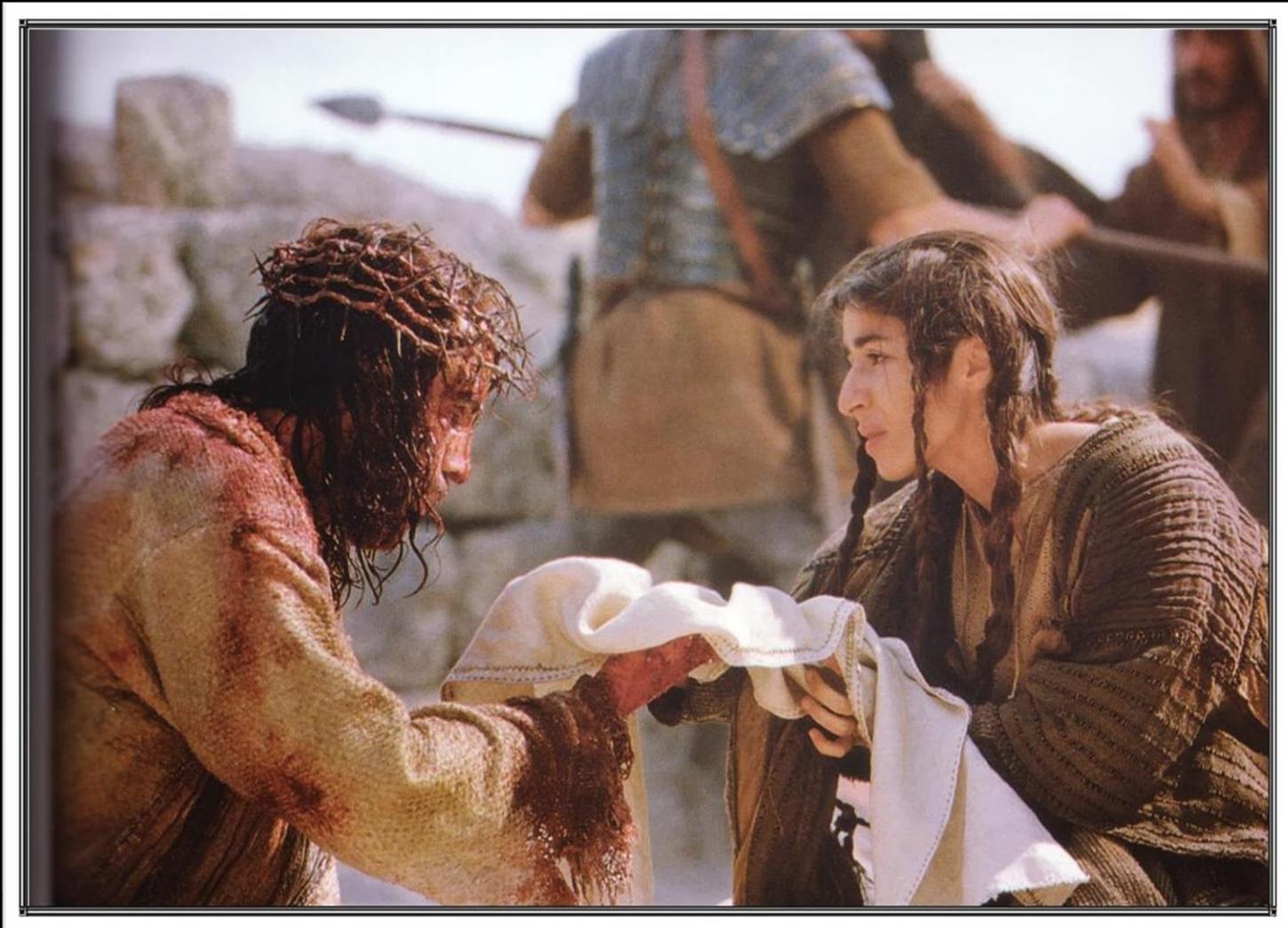
PLEASE STAND

Hymn
OLD RUGGED CROSS

**So I'll cherish the old rugged
cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay
down.
I will cling to the old rugged
cross,
And exchange it someday for a
crown.**

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



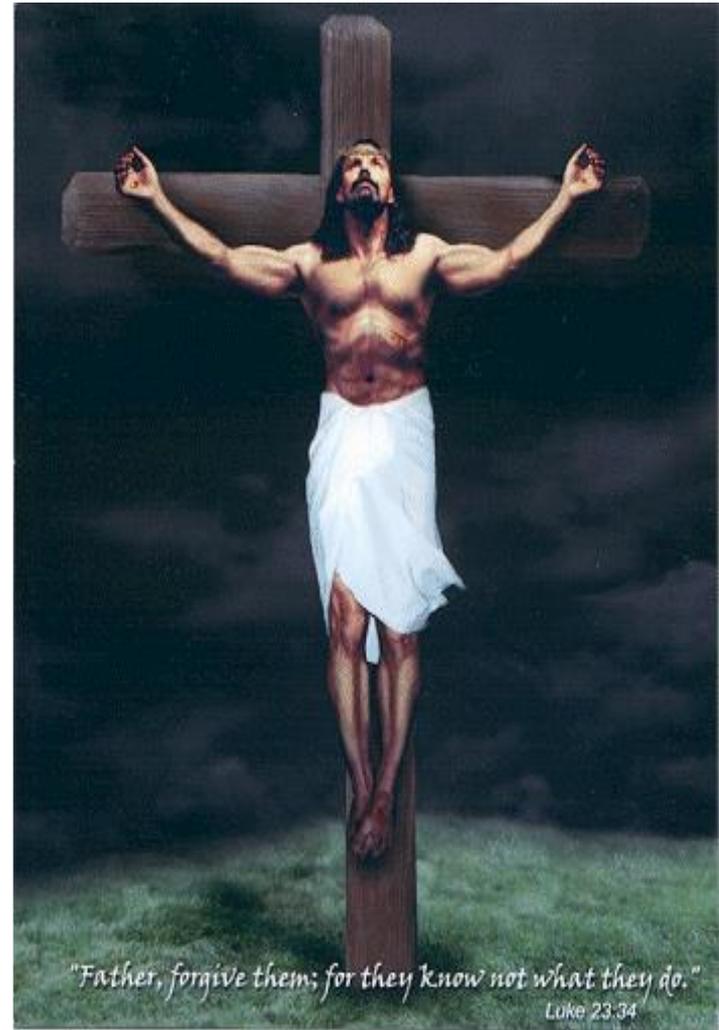
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Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

As I continued close by Jesus, a woman pushed past the guards, took off her veil and began to wipe my son's sweating, bloody face. The guards immediately pulled her back. Her face seemed to say, "Why are you doing this to him?" I knew, so I walked on in faith, silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, this woman gave you the best she could. On the other hand, I have wanted to take more than I give. So many opportunities arise every day for me to give to you by giving to others... but I pass them by. My Saviour, never let me ask why again, but help me to give all I have to you.



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



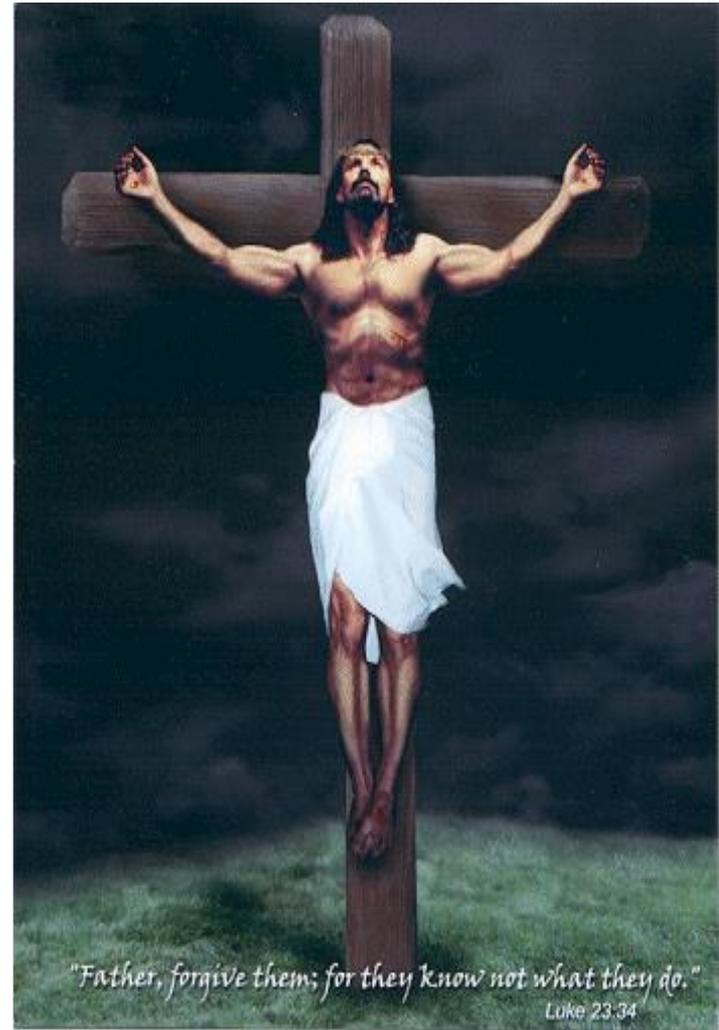
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

**We adore You, O
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bless You.**

People

**Because by Your
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Meditation – Leader

Again my son fell, again my grief was overwhelming at the thought that he might die. I started to move towards him, but the soldiers prevented me. He rose and stumbled ahead slowly. Seeing my son fall, get up again, and continue on, was bitter anguish to me.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

But, since I knew this had to be, I walked on silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, of all people Mary was your most faithful follower, never stopping in spite of all the pain she felt for you. I have many times turned away from you by my sins and have caused others to turn away from you. I beg you to have mercy on me.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn
PRODIGAL SON

**Father, I have sinned,
Help me find my way,
Remember not my sins,
Just let me hear You say...**

CHORUS

**I forgive you, I love you,
You are Mine, take My hand
Go in peace, sin no more
Beloved one.**

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus speaks to the women



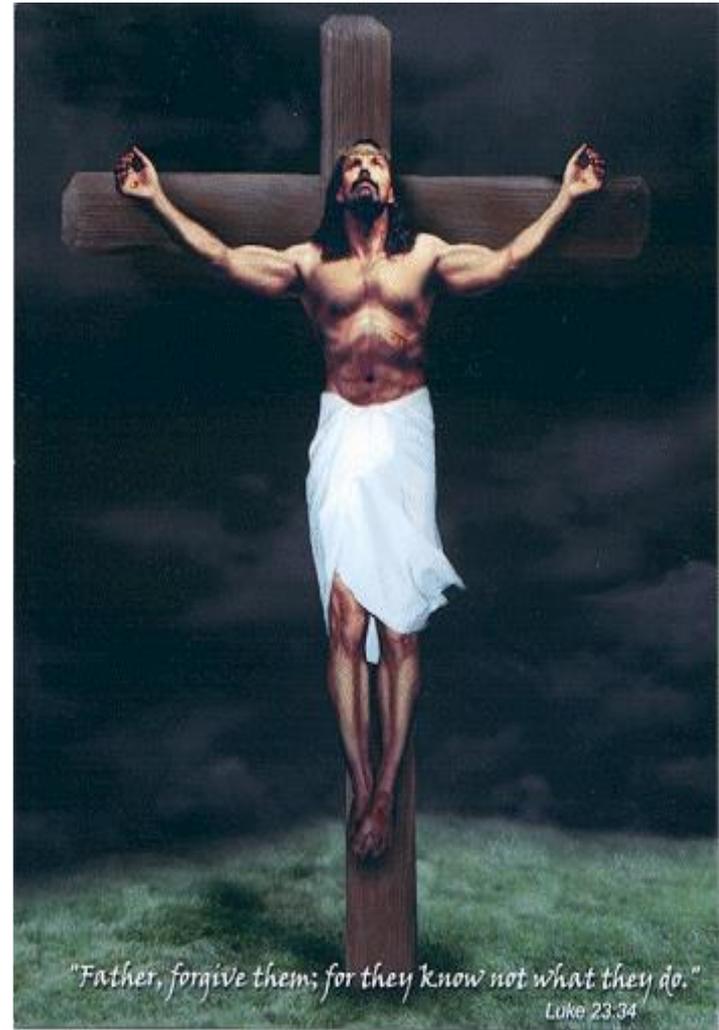
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Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

I was walking a few steps behind Jesus when I saw him stop. Some women were there crying for him and pitying him. He told them not to shed tears for him. They had the opportunity to accept him as the Messiah; like many others, they rejected him instead. *(cont'd)*

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

He told them to shed tears for themselves, tears that would bring their conversion. They did not see the connection between that and his walk to death. I did, and as he walked on, I followed silently.

Prayer – All

My Saviour, many times have I acted like these women, always seeing the faults in others and pitying them. Yet, very rarely have I seen my own sinfulness and asked your pardon. Lord, you have taught me through these women. Forgive me, Lord, for my blindness.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

LORD, I'M COMING HOME

**I've wandered far away from God
Now I'm coming home.
The paths of sin too long I've
trod,
Lord I'm coming home.**

CHORUS

**Coming home, coming home
Never more to roam.
Open now Thine arms of love,
Lord I'm coming home.**

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls the third time



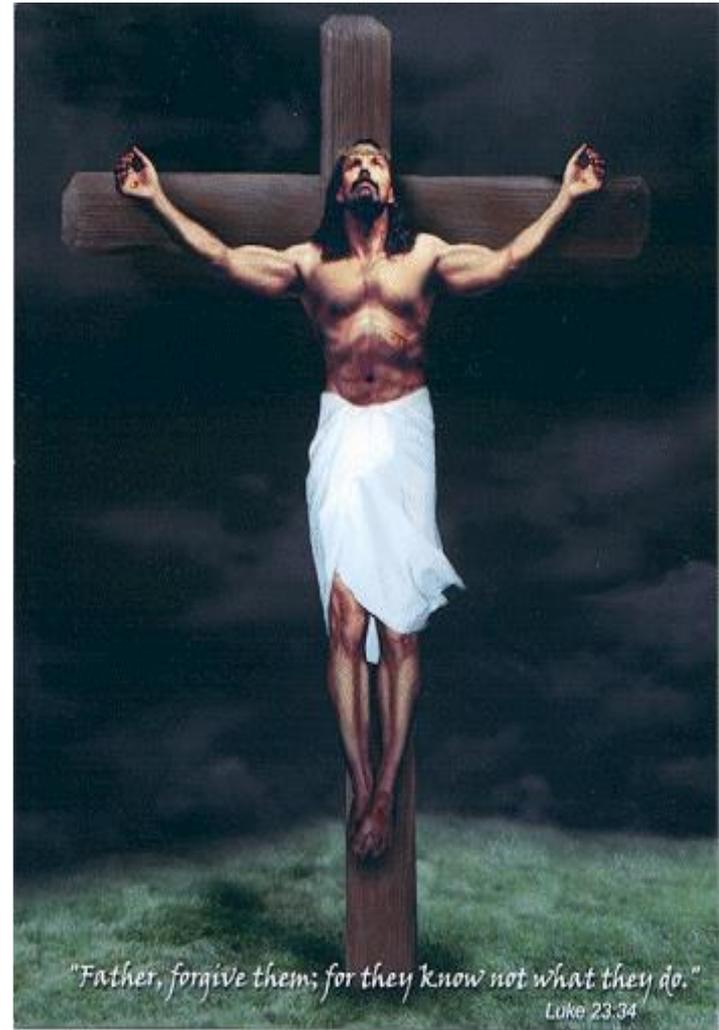
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

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

People

**Because by Your
Cross and
Resurrection, You
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world.**



Meditation – Leader

This fall of Jesus was agony to me. Not only had he fallen on the rocky ground again, but now he was almost at the top of the hill of crucifixion. The soldiers screamed at him and abused him, almost dragging him the last few steps.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

My heart pounded as I imagined what they would do to him next. But, I knew this had to be, so I climbed the hill silently behind him.

Prayer – All

My loving Jesus, I know that many times I have offered my hand to help people but when it became inconvenient or painful to me I left them, making excuses for myself. Help me, Lord, to be like your mother, Mary, and never take my supporting hand away from those who need it.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

O CROSS REIGN VICTORIOUS

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.

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of His garments



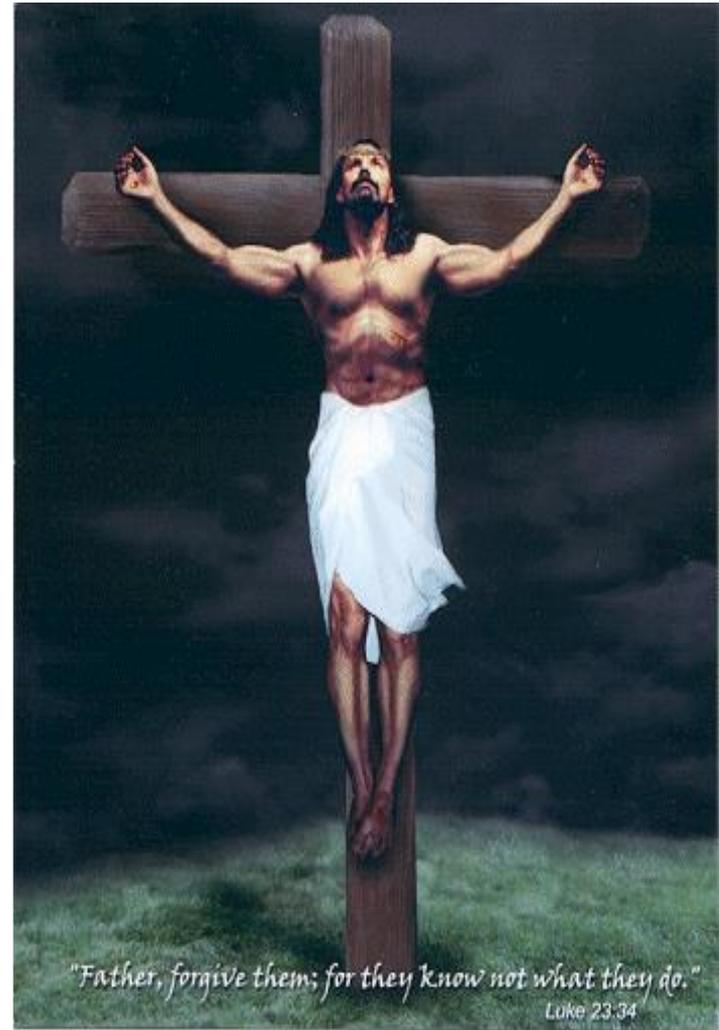
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

With my son finally relieved of the weight of the cross, I thought he would have a chance to rest. But the guards immediately started to rip his clothes off his blood-clotted skin. The sight of my son in such pain was unbearable. Yet, since I knew this had to be, I stood by and cried silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, in my own way I too stripped you. I have taken away the good name of another by foolish talk, and have stripped people of human dignity by my prejudice. Jesus, there are so many ways I have offended you through the hurt I have caused others. Help me to see you in all people.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn
NEARER, MY GOD

**Deep in thy Sacred Heart,
Let me abide.**

**Thou that has bled for me,
Sorrowed and died.**

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

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross



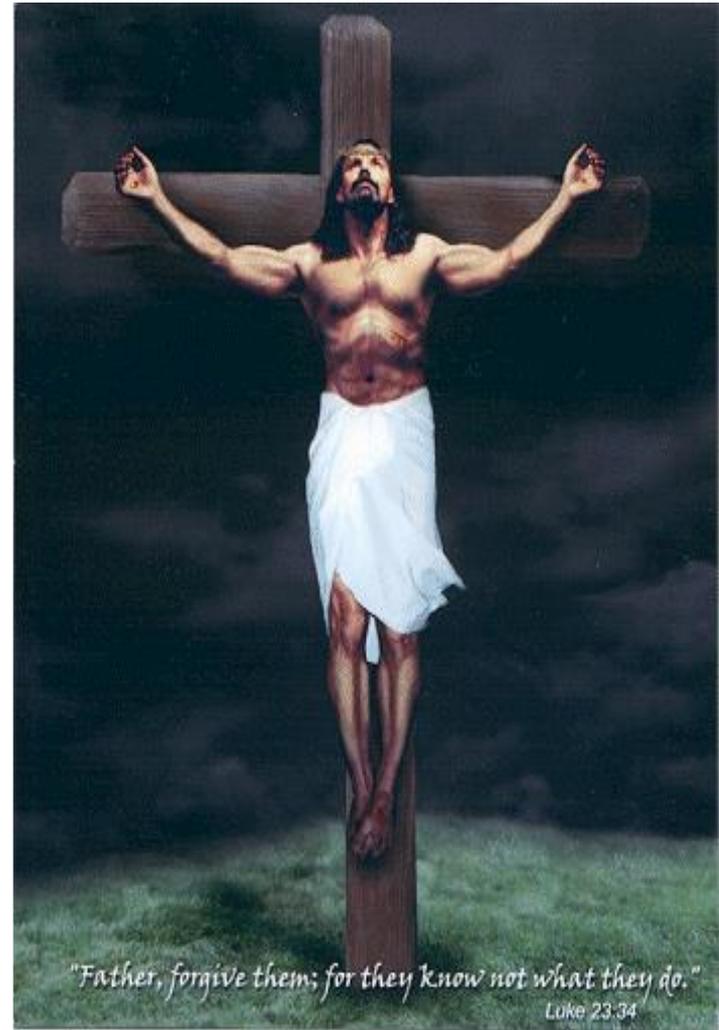
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

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People

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Meditation – Leader

As they threw Jesus on the cross, he willingly allowed himself to be nailed. As they punctured his hands and feet I felt the pain in my heart. Then they lifted up the cross.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

There he was, my son, whom I love so much, being scorned as he struggled for the last few moments of earthly life. But I knew this had to be, so I stood by and prayed silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, what pain you endured for me. And what pain your mother went through, seeing her only son die for love of me! Yet, both you and she are ready to forgive me as soon as I repent of my sin. Help me, Lord, to turn away from my sinfulness.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn
WERE YOU THERE?

**Were you there when they
nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they
nailed him to the tree?**

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble**

**Were you there when they
nailed him to the tree?**

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross



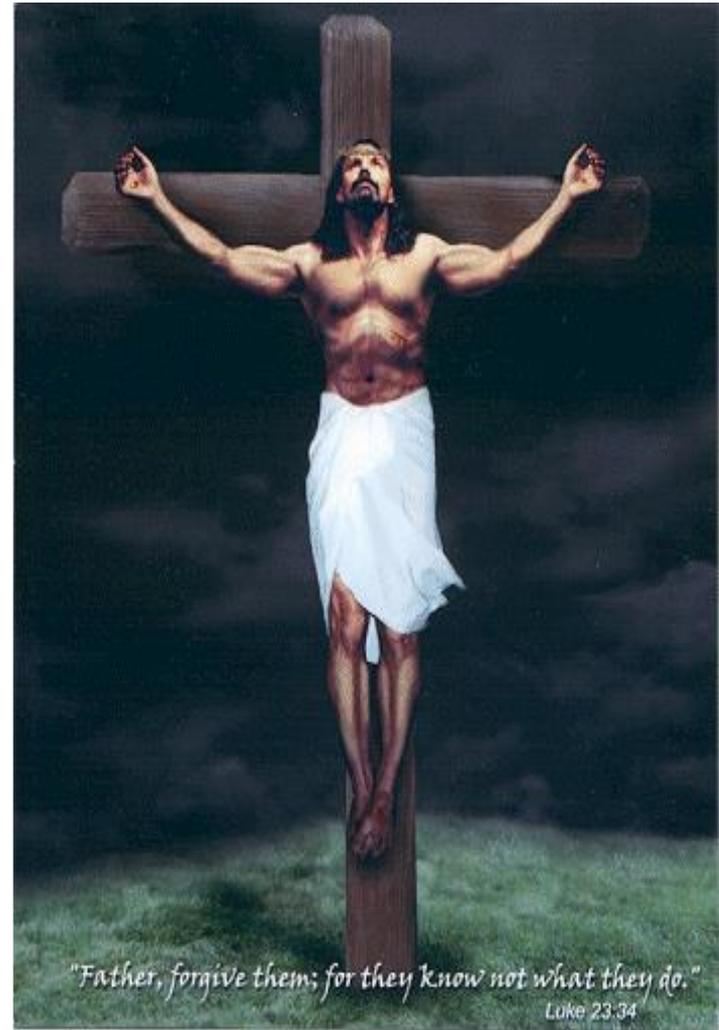
PLEASE KNEEL

Leader

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People

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Kneel

Silent prayer for a moment



Meditation – Leader

What greater pain is there for a mother than to see her son die right before her eyes! I, who had brought this Saviour into the world and watched him grow, stood helplessly beneath his cross as he lowered his head and died.

(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

His earthly anguish was finished, but mine was greater than ever. Yet, this had to be and I had to accept it, so I stood by and I mourned silently.

Prayer – All

My Jesus, have mercy on me for what my sins have done to you and to others. I thank you for your great act of love. You have said true love is laying down your life for your friends. Let me always be your friend. Teach me to live my life for others, and not fail you again.



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.**

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is taken from the Cross



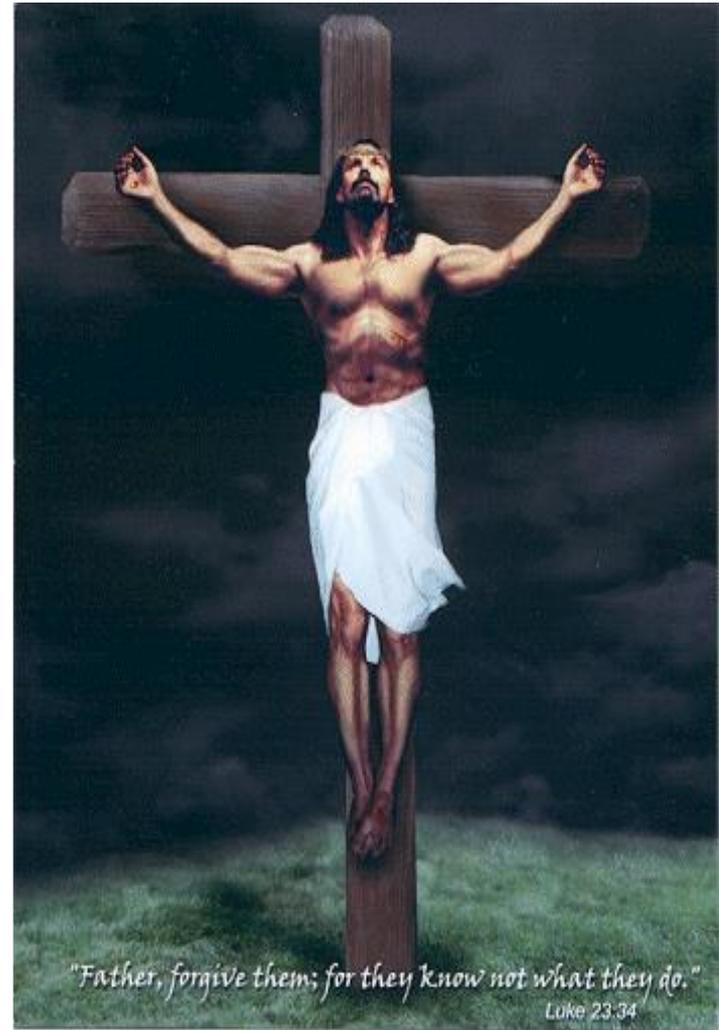
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Meditation – Leader

The crowd had gone; the noise had stopped. I stood quietly with one of Jesus' friends and looked up at the dead body of our Saviour, my Son. Then two men took the body from the cross and placed it in my arms. A deep sorrow engulfed my being.

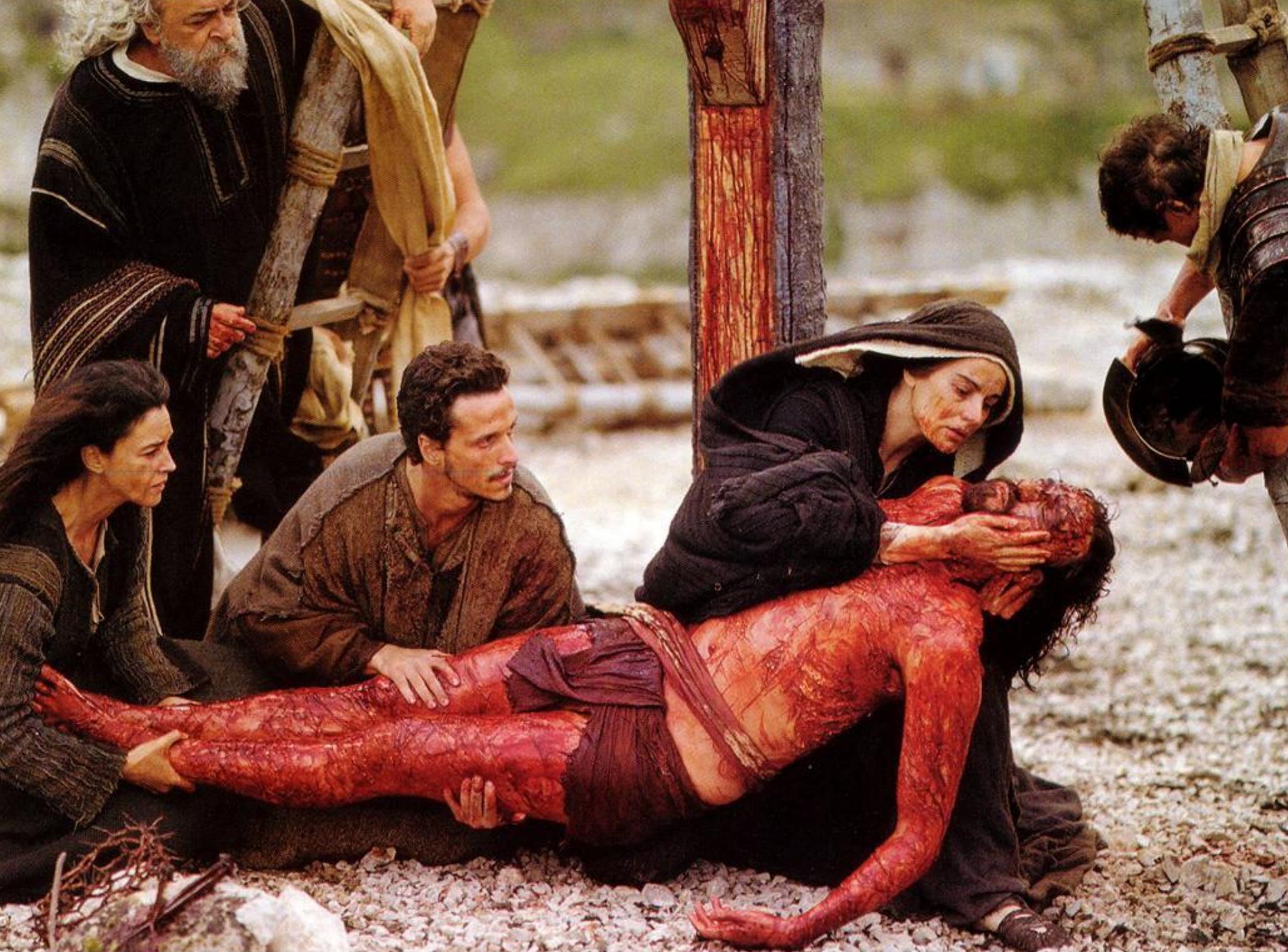
(cont'd)

Meditation – Leader (cont'd)

Yet, I also felt deep joy. Life had ended cruelly for my son, but it had also brought life to all of us. I knew this had to be, and I prayed silently.

Prayer – All

Lord, your Passion has ended. Yet, it still goes on whenever I choose sin over you. I have done my part in your crucifixion and now, my Saviour, I beg your forgiveness with all my heart. Help me to live a life worthy of you and your mother.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn

AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

**Wounded with His every
wound,
Steep my soul till it hath
swoon'd.
In His very blood away.**

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is placed in the tomb



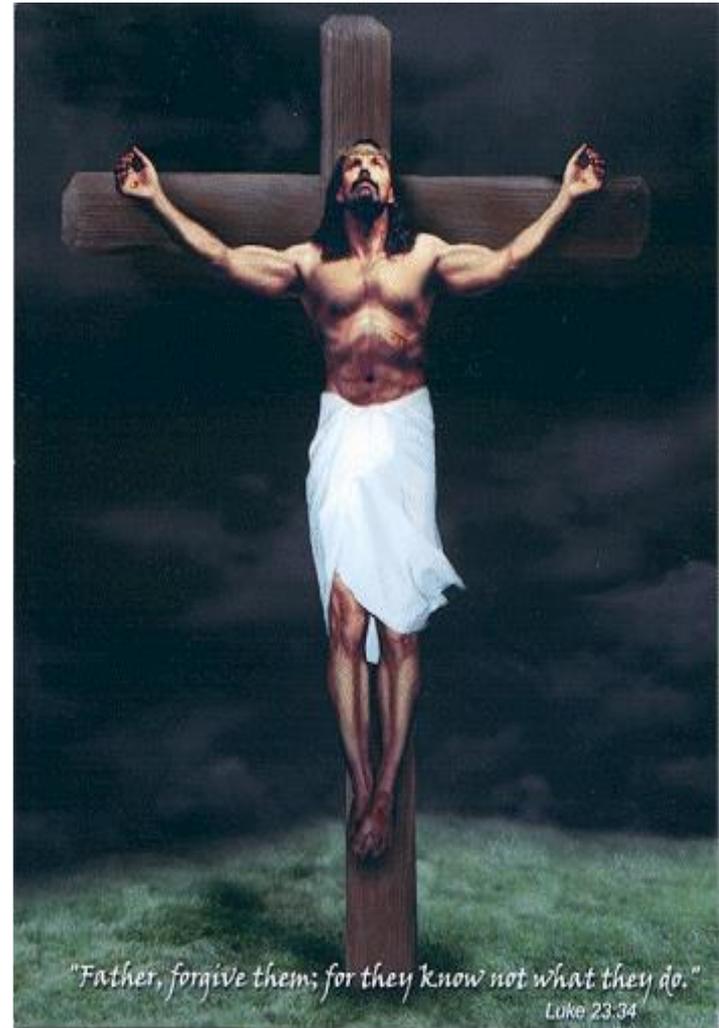
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Meditation – Leader

We brought Jesus' body to a tomb and I arranged it there myself, silently weeping, silently rejoicing. I took one more look at my loving son, and then walked out. They closed the tomb and before I left, I thought, I knew this had to be... it had to be for you! I would wait in faith silently.

Prayer – All

Yes, my Lord, this had to be because you love me, and for no other reason. All you ask is that I live a good life. You never said such a life would be easy. I am willing to leave sin behind and live for you alone, in my brothers and sisters.



PLEASE STAND

Hymn
YES, I SHALL ARISE

**Yes, I shall arise
And return to my Father!**

**Happy is he, forgiven by God,
His sins blotted out,
His guilt is no more.**

**Yes, I shall arise,
And return to my Father!**

Closing Prayer – All

Have mercy on us O Lord, in your kindness, through your compassion, you have removed all our sins through the suffering of Jesus. You have washed us clean from our guilt and enabled us to love truth in our hearts.

(cont'd)

Closing Prayer – All (cont'd)

With joy and gladness we cry out to you, Lord and ask you to open our hearts, to sing your praises and announce your goodness and truth before all the nations by serving one another.

Leader

Give us the strength to submit our wills and our lives to our Father in Heaven in the words that you taught us:

Congregation

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Congregation (cont'd)

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Amen.

Leader

**Let us join Mary, our Mother to
be our model in following Jesus.**

Congregation

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Hymn : WE STAND FOR GOD

VERSE

**We stand for God and for His glory
The Lord supreme and God of all
Against His foes we raised His
standard,
Around His Cross we hear His call.**

Hymn : WE STAND FOR GOD

CHORUS

**Strengthen our faith, Redeemer
Guard us when danger is nigh,
To Thee we pledge our lives and
service,
Strong in a trust that ne'er can die.
To Thee we pledge our lives and
service,
Strong in a trust that ne'er can die.**

