



OPENING PRAYER

O God, we are about to walk with your Son through the stages of His suffering and death. We know that Jesus saved us and brought us new life through His sacrifice on the cross and His rising from the dead three days later. Help us to understand a little better and to love a little more. Help us to live more unselfish lives. In these days when we are anxious and sad – help us to look to Jesus for hope and for peace.

Open our minds and hearts to help us see how we can better follow in Jesus' footsteps. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.



STATION ONE: JESUS BEFORE PILATE

LET US PRAY: God, many times people don't seem to understand me. Sometimes too, I feel like the criticism of others is unfair. Help me accept the mistakes of others as you accept me when I make mistakes. Help me be big enough to ask forgiveness for the mistakes I make and to forgive as Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION TWO: JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

LET US PRAY:

God, my problems may seem small to those around me, but you know how hard they are for me to carry sometimes. Help me remember and pray for those who are disabled, those who are sick today, and those whose voice is not being heard. When I'm tempted to complain, help me remember Jesus and the cross He carried for me. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION THREE: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

LET US PRAY:

God, I know there are many times when I give up before I should. I need to think of the cross Jesus carried, and how he got up again and kept moving. Help me to do my work as well as I can and to finish what I have started. When I fall, help me get up again and keep going. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

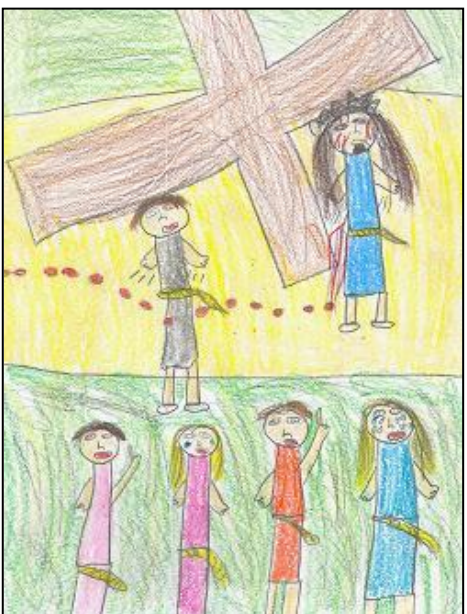


STATION FOUR: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

LET US PRAY:

God, you gave me my parents. Nobody can take their place. I thank you for that gift. Help me to show my love and appreciation to them. Help me to remember to pray for them often. If they have died, help me be challenged by the love they shared with me. When I feel alone, help me to realize that you are my parent, the friendly face that I can depend upon to give me the help I need. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION FIVE: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS TO CARRY THE CROSS

LET US PRAY:

God, help me notice the needs of those around me. Help me do more than just stand there and watch. Help me see the needs of others as opportunities for me to reach out and help as you did. Thank you for every act of kindness we see around us. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION SIX: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

LET US PRAY:

God, help me see the needs of others as being as important as my own needs. Remind me to go out of my way to be helpful, even if I'm not asked. Help me not be concerned about what others think of me. We thank you for all who care for others – especially those looking after people in hospital today.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION SEVEN: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

LET US PRAY:

God, sometimes life is hard. Sometimes I grow impatient with myself, and even take that impatience out on others. Help me realize how much you love me, just as I am. Help me keep trying when things get hard and when I fall, just like Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION EIGHT: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

LET US PRAY:

God, many times I am selfish. I expect others to serve me while doing very little for them. Help me notice and respond to the needs others have, even when I have problems of my own. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION NINE: JESUS FALLS AGAIN

LET US PRAY:

God, many times I feel like giving up. Sometimes I grow impatient with myself, especially when I make the same mistakes over and over again. Help me use this awareness to become more compassionate toward others. Help me get up and keep going, as Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION TEN: JESUS' CLOTHES ARE TAKEN AWAY

LET US PRAY:

God, help me be aware of the prejudices I have against others. Help me value those around me, rather than putting them down or exposing them to ridicule or hate. Help me to have love in my thoughts, words and deeds. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION ELEVEN: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

LET US PRAY:

God, sometimes I act without thinking. I can be easily led, just like the soldiers and the crowd that put Jesus to death. Never let me drive a nail into another by my prejudice, hatred or lack of compassion. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION TWELVE: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
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. Jesus, let me take a few moments now to consider how much you love me.

Help me thank you for your willingness to go to your death for me.
Help me express my love for you! (Take a moment of silence)

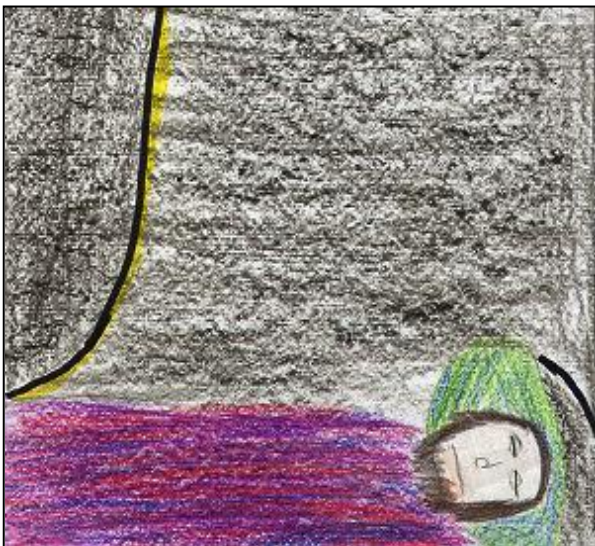


STATION THIRTEEN: JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

LET US PRAY:

God, I never know how many more days I will live. Perhaps it will be many years, perhaps not too many days. Help me make this a better day for those around me. Help me say kind things to the ones I love while they are with me, and while I am with them. It can make my life fuller and their lives happier when I do. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world.



STATION FOURTEEN: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

LET US PRAY:

God, sometimes life tells us you are dead. Sometimes we can't believe you can conquer death. Sometimes it is hard to hope just for another day – and have faith in a better tomorrow. Help us to watch and wait in hope – knowing that your love is stronger than death and your resurrection will bring us life in this word and the next. Amen.

We remember those who have died.



WAITING FOR RESURRECTION

LET US PRAY:

God, you so loved the world that you gave your only son, who died and rose for all of us. Help me be thankful for the eternal life promised me. Help me approach you often for the forgiveness I need, the forgiveness Jesus won for me through his passion, death and resurrection. Help me use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to face all the challenges that confront me. Help us all to reflect on how we work hard for the things we think we need – and forget to work for good relationships. Help us, save us, heal us – and repair our relationships with each other, with creation, with You and with our own selves.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.