



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



I

Jesus is condemned to death

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

THE PRAYER

O Jesus! so meek and uncomplaining, teach me resignation in trials.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified, R. have mercy on us!

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



II

Jesus is made to bear his cross

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders thought of us, and for us offered to His Father the death that He was about to undergo.

THE PRAYER

My Jesus, this Cross should be mine, not Thine; my sins crucified Thee.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

O, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole Begotten One.

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III

Jesus falls the first time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that He could scarcely walk, and yet He had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times in His journey.

THE PRAYER

O Jesus! by this first fall, never let me fall into mortal sin.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Christ above in torment hangs
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.



IV

Jesus is met by his blessed mother

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.

THE PRAYER

O Jesus! may no human tie, however dear, keep me from following the road of the Cross.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?



V

The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how the soldiers, seeing that at each step Jesus, from weakness, was on the point of expiring, and fearing that He would die on the way, when they wished Him to die the ignominious death of the Cross, constrained Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross behind our Lord.

THE PRAYER

Simon unwillingly assisted Thee; may I with patience suffer all for Thee.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain



VI

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance.

THE PRAYER

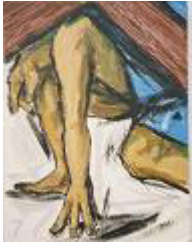
O Jesus! Thou didst imprint Thy sacred features upon Veronica's veil; stamp them also indelibly upon my heart

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.

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VII

Jesus falls the second time

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross - a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord.

THE PRAYER

By Thy second fall, preserve me, dear Lord, from relapse into sin.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hand in desolation
Till His spirit forth He sent.



VIII

Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable state, streaming with blood, as he walked along. But Jesus said to them: "Weep not for Me, but for yourselves and for your children."

THE PRAYER

My greatest consolation would be to hear Thee say: "Many sins are forgiven thee, because thou hast loved much."

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

O sweet Mother! Fount of love,



IX

Jesus falls the third time

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of His executioners excessive, who tried to hasten His steps when He had scarcely the strength to move.

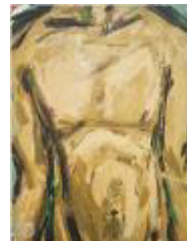
THE PRAYER

O Jesus! when weary upon life's long journey, be Thou my strength and my perseverance

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Make me feel as You have felt
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.



X

Jesus is stripped of his garments

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh, and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have compassion on your Saviour thus cruelly treated.

THE PRAYER

My soul has been robbed of its robe of innocence; clothe me, dear Jesus, with the garb of penance and contrition.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Holy Mother, pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.

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XI

Jesus is nailed to the cross

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how Jesus, after being thrown on the Cross, extended His hands, and offered to His Father the sacrifice of His death for our salvation. These barbarians fastened Him with nails, and then, raising the Cross, allowed Him to die with anguish on this infamous gibbet.

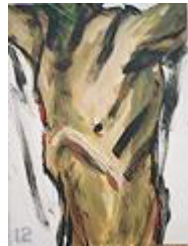
THE PRAYER

Thou didst forgive Thy enemies; my God, teach me to forgive injuries and FORGET them.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Let me share with you His pain
Who for all my sins was slain,



XII

Jesus dies on the cross

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how your Jesus, after three hours' Agony on the Cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandoned Himself to the weight of His body, bowed His head, and died.

THE PRAYER

Thou art dying, my Jesus, but Thy Sacred Heart still throbs with love for Thy sinful children.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Let me mingle tears with thee
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.



XIII

Jesus is taken down from the cross

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how, after the death of our Lord, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the Cross, and placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother, who received him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her heart.

THE PRAYER

Receive me into thy arms, O Sorrowful Mother; and obtain for me perfect contrition for my sins.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

By the cross with you to stay
There with you to weep and pray
Is all I ask of you to give.



XIV

Jesus is laid in the sepulcher

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

THE MEDITATION

Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His holy Mother, who arranged it in the tomb with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all drew sorrowfully away.

THE PRAYER

When I receive Thee into my heart in Holy Communion, O Jesus, make it a fit abiding place for thy adorable Body. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

V. Jesus Christ Crucified,
R. have mercy on us!

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request;
Let me share thy grief divine.