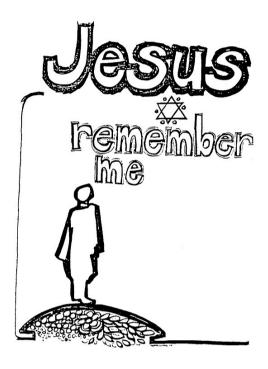
# A Stations of the Cross

## 2017



In the Christian West few pious practices are as loved as the Way of the Cross, a devotion which recalls with mindful affection the last stage of the journey that Jesus walked in his earthly life: from when he and his disciples, 'after psalms had been sung, left for the Mount of Olives' (*Mk* 14, 26), 'until the Lord was taken to the « place called Golgotha, The Skull' (*Mk* 15, 22), to be crucified and then buried in a garden nearby, in a new tomb hewn out of the rock.

## Let us pray

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We live in a land far away from Jerusalem,
Nevertheless,
today we walk with your Son, Jesus, on his Way of the Cross
to have some share in his generous self-giving,
so that we may live life more fully,
and finally share in his resurrection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

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pause

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you, \_\_\_\_ be - cause by your ho - ly cross you have re-deemed the world.

# Leader 1: Jesus, unjustly condemned, accepted this out of love for us.

ALL: Help us, Lord, to accept what we find hard in life,
As a share in your self-sacrifice
and to offer our lives in love for you and each other.

The Second Station: Jesus takes up his cross

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 1: With great courage Jesus took up his cross.

Pause

ALL: Help us, Lord, to follow your example and to walk together as we follow you.

The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 1: Jesus became like us in human weakness and frailty.

Pause

ALL: Support us Lord, when we stumble and fall, and let us, and all your people, grow in patience with ourselves and each other.

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 2: Mary your mother was always there for you.

Pause

ALL: Help us to be there for our families and friends, and to work with our parishes for the common good.

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 2: Simeon shared the weight of your cross as you went forward to lay down your life for us all.

#### **Pause**

ALL: Help us to walk with each other and with anyone in our community who struggle with hardship or pain.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 2: Veronica's compassion for you in your hour of need is a pale reflection of your great compassion for all of us.

Pause

All: Help us to show your love in kindness to all we meet in our parishes & in the wider community.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 3: With great courage you went on the road to Calvary.

Pause

ALL: Help us to be strong and to draw courage from you In the hardships that affect us and those we love.

Eighth Station: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 3: Jesus knew of the grief these women showed for him, and he in turn showed great concern for them & their children.

Pause

ALL: When we hurt, help us to remember that we are loved and to remain sympathetic to the pain of others.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 3: When all seemed lost, Jesus persevered in doing the will of the Father, and drew strength from his Father.

Pause

ALL: Teach us how to draw strength from you,
And from the faith and kindness of others
when we feel we cannot cope.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 4: Everything was taken from Jesus, his human dignity and his very clothing.

Pause

ALL: Help us to recognise the dignity of a child of God in ourselves and everyone we meet.

### Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 4: Nailed to the cross,

Jesus freely offered his life for us
and for the whole human race.

### Pause

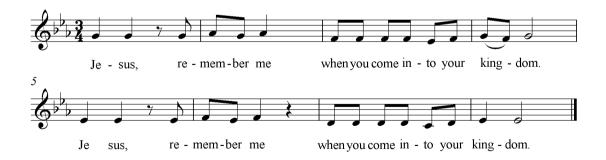
ALL: When we feel trapped by confusion and fear, give us the grace of inner freedom which sees your hand at work in all the circumstances of our lives.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 4: With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last and sent forth the Spirit.

### Pause



Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

**Leader 5:** The small group of followers gave you in death to Mary, your Mother, to hold you one last time.

Pause

ALL: May Mary, & all holy men and women throughout the ages walk together with us and the people of our time who follow Chris or who seek the face of God.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross: You have redeemed the world.

Leader 5: The tomb accepts you but does not retain you, and the witness of Mary and the disciples to your rising to new life strengthens us in faith and in the hope of eternal life.

Though Jesus Christ was in the form of God, he did not count such equality to be grasped.

Instead, he freely emptied out himself, and took the form of a servant, was born like us.

In human form he chose humility, and gave himself up to dying upon a cross.

Because of this our God exalted him, and raised him gave him a name above every name.

At Jesus' name now every knee should bow be they in heav'n or on earth or creation's depths. (Canticle from the Letter to the Philippians 2: 6-11)

