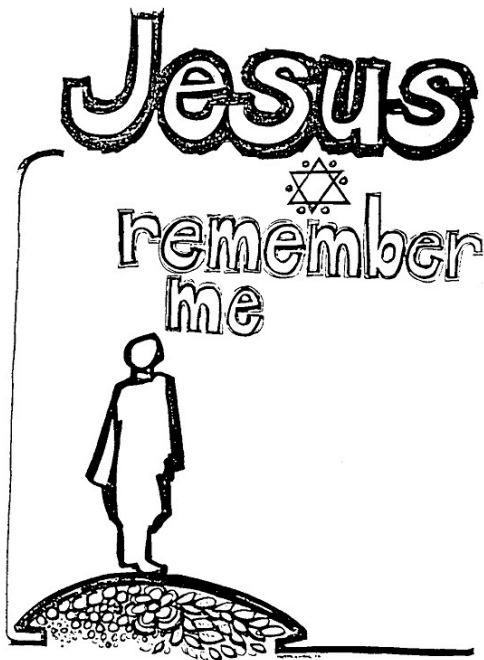


A Stations of the Cross

2018



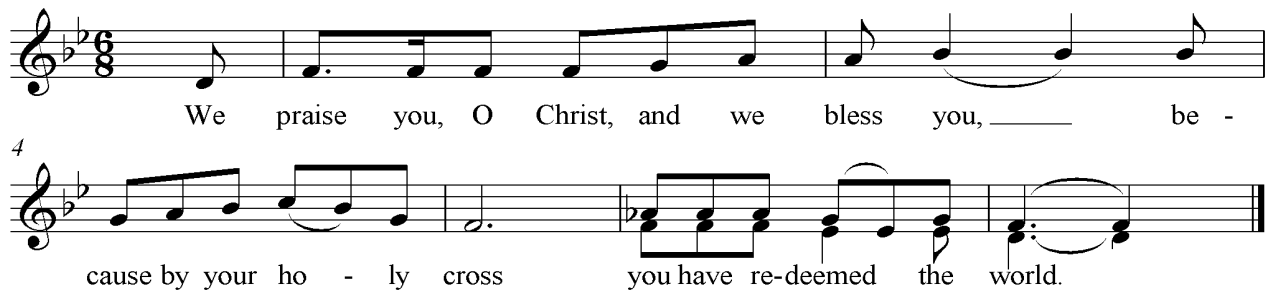
In the Christian West few devotional practices are as loved as the Way of the Cross, a devotion which recalls the last stage of the journey that Jesus walked in his earthly life: from when he and his disciples, 'after psalms had been sung, left for the Mount of Olives' (*Mk* 14, 26), 'until the Lord 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.

The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

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Leader 1:

Jesus, unjustly condemned, accepted this out of love for us.

pause

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

We sing: **Accepting death upon the cross: you gained us life.**

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 Christ 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.

(Canticle from the Letter to the Philippians 2: 6-11)

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.

Words of the Stations: adapted from a set by Sr Pat Graham SND. Canticle : Though Jesus Christ
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Gerry Fitzpatrick