

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 19

Invocation prior to each station:

LEADER: We adore you, O Christ and we bless you

RESPONSE: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

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. Amen.

SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS

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

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

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

FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS GRIEVING MOTHER

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. 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. Amen.

FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

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. Amen.

SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

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 savior, never let me ask why again, but help me to give all I have to you. Amen.

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

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. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

My savior, many times have I acted like these women, always seeing the faults of 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. Amen.

NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

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. Amen.

TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Lord, in my own way I too have 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. Amen.

ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

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. Amen.

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

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 that 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. Amen.

THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS

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 savior, I beg your forgiveness with all my heart. Help me to live a life worthy of you and your mother. Amen.

FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

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. Amen.