

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 DEATH

My Jesus, Lord, obedience cost You Your life. For me it costs an act of will - no more - and yet how hard it is for me to bend. Remove the blinders from my eyes that I may see that it is You loving me at all times in all places. Lord, it is You. Amen

SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS

My Jesus, Lord, I take my daily cross. I welcome the monotony that often marks my day, discomforts of all kinds, the summer's heat, the winter's cold, my disappointments, tensions, setbacks, cares. Remind me often that in carrying my cross, I carry Yours with You; and though I bear a sliver only of Your cross, You carry all of mine, except a sliver, in return. AMEN

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

My Jesus, Lord, how can I refuse? I willingly accept my weaknesses, my irritations and my moods, my headaches and fatigue, all my defects of body, mind and soul. Because they are Your will for me, these 'handicaps' of my humanity, I gladly suffer them. Make me content with all my discontents but give me strength to struggle after You. AMEN

FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

My Jesus, Lord, I know what You are telling me. To watch the pain of those we love is harder than to bear our own. To carry my cross after You, I too, must stand and watch the sufferings of my dear ones -- the heartaches, sicknesses and grief of those I love. I must let them watch mine, too. I believe that for those who love You, all things work together unto good. AMEN

FIFTH STATION: JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON

My Jesus, Lord, make me realize that every time I wipe a dish, pick up an object off the floor, assist a child in some small task or give another preference in traffic or the store; each time I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, teach the ignorant or lend my hand in any way -- it matters not to whom -- my name is Simon and the kindness I extend to them, I really give to You. AMEN

SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

My Jesus, Lord, what You ask is hard. It calls for courage and self-sacrifice and I am weak. Please, give me the strength. Don't let me run away because of fear. Lord, live in me, act in me, love in me -- and not in me alone -- in all of us -- so that we may reveal no more Your bloody but Your glorious face on earth. AMEN

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

My Jesus, Lord, give me your courage. When failure presses heavily on me and I am desolate, stretch out Your hand to lift me up. I know I must not cease, but persevere, in doing good. Help me, Lord. Alone, there is nothing I can do. With You, I can do anything You ask. I will. AMEN

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

My Jesus, Lord, your compassion in Your passion is beyond compare. Lord, teach me; help me to learn. When I would snap at those who hurt me with their ridicule, those who misunderstand or hinder me with some misguided helpfulness, those who intrude upon my privacy -- then help me to curb my tongue. May gentleness become my cloak. Lord, make me kind like You. AMEN

NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

My Jesus, Lord, I see You take a moment's rest then rise and stagger on. I can do the same because my will is mine. When all my strength is gone; when guilt and self-reproach press me to earth and seem to hold me fast, protect me from the sin of Judas - save me from despair! Lord, never let me feel that any sin of mine is greater than Your love. No matter what my past has been I can begin anew. AMEN

TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

My Jesus, Lord, I offer You my all - whatever I possess - and more - myself. Detach me from the craving for prestige, position or wealth. Root out of me all trace of envy of my neighbor who has more than I. Release me from the vice of pride, my longing to exalt myself and lead me to the lowest place. May I be poor in spirit, Lord, so that I may be rich in You. AMEN

ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

My Jesus, Lord, I look at You and think: Is my soul worth this much? What can I give You in return? I accept, here and now, for all my life, whatever sickness, torment or agony may come. To every cross, I touch my lips; O Blessed Cross that lets me be -- with You -- a co-redeemer of humanity. AMEN

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

My Jesus, Lord, what can I say or do? I offer You my death with all its pains, accepting know the time and kind of death in store for me. Not by a single instant would I lengthen my life's span. I offer You my death for my own sins and for those of all humanity. My God! My God! Forsake us not. We know not what we do. AMEN

THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

My Jesus, Lord, I beg You, help me accept the partings that must come -- from friends who go away, my children leaving home and most of all, my dear ones when You shall call them to Yourself. Then, give me grace to say: "As it has pleased You, Lord, to take them home, I bow to Your most holy will. And if by just one word I might restore their lives against Your will, I would not speak." Grant them eternal joy. AMEN

FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

My Jesus, Lord, You know my spirit is as willing as my flesh is weak. The teaching You could not impart, the sufferings You could not bear, the works of love You could not do in Your short life on earth, allow me to impart and bear and do through You. But I am nothing, Lord. Help me! AMEN