



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

I STATION

Jesus is condemned to Death

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: Jesus faces Pilate. There is a battle to the death going on in the world, represented by Pilate and Christ.

One must choose king and country. The world that enjoys condemning Christ, or Christ, who, by loving is condemned to death.

I know which side I've been on up until today. I'm sorry. Where will I be from tomorrow onwards?

Lord! Tell me that I am not of the world; tell me that it's not possible to serve two masters.

II STATION

Jesus carries His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: He receives, with love, the wood where all my sins and miseries go. Those that I committed and did not pay for, because He made the payment. He paid for them. They fell on His shoulders. Therefore, I was His executioner and not His disciple.

Now I want to learn about Him, and follow Him with my cross, the one I manufactured, and He carried...

Now I promise to do penance, to pay my debts, to love in return....

Lord! Because I want to be Your disciple, I want to deny myself and carry my cross.

III STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: He fell because He carried my burden. He fell so that I would not be discouraged by my falls.

If life weighs me down, if I fall, He agrees to take on the weight of my cross and fall. He carried on His shoulders my sins, my incapacities, my failures, my inabilities....All mine....

Because He is my brother, and He travels through life with me; He carries my life and my works, the cross I've made, on His shoulders.

Lord! Give me Your easy yoke and Your light burden.

IV STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: Seven swords pierce her heart.... It is I who stuck them in, and I take Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. I, who made so many weeps, also caused her to weep....

I, who have such a hardened heart. How well do I know how to heap wood onto the strong back of the Lord. How well do I know how to plunge swords into the tender heart of the Mother.

Lord! Change my heart of stone into a heart of flesh.

V STATION

Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: Selfish like Simon, I look at Jesus with His burden. The soldiers obliged this man to step out of his indifference and take the cross.

Will it not be love, contrition, which obliges me to step out of my apathy and cowardice, to ask the Lord to help me carry part of His Cross? Because in it is found health and life; because I need it; because I deserve it, because I want to carry with my Brother the weight of my life.

Lord! Give me, give me Your cross....

VI STATION

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: Coward, like all those who look at the procession; coward, I do not dare confess Jesus before men; I do not dare leave the side of the road as Veronica did and wipe Your face.... I do not dare to be pious before others....I do not dare to be merciful, wiping the face of the other Christs, of all those who suffer....I do not dare....

Lord! Take away my cowardice so that before the world I proclaim You!

VII STATION

Jesus Falls for the Second time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: Humiliated, He falls at the feet of the soldiers. He did not come to be served, but to serve. Despised by the masses and wretched disgrace of the people....Jesus, trampled upon, so that I can trample on the glories of the world, its pomps and vanities, my pride, and my arrogance. Jesus, at the feet of the Apostles; Jesus at the disposal of all, so that we all may eat His Body... so that I may be humble!

Lord! Your disciple doesn't want to be greater than the Master! Send me failures and disgraces!

VIII STATION

Jesus and the Women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: The Lord reprimands their tears. He prefers a deeper compassion, one that flourishes in contrition and penitence. The one He wants of me. We avoid self-sacrificing piety, that which makes a heroic profession out of mortification and following of Christ. There are many withered branches in the vineyard and how few are alive and heavy with fruits.

Lord! Look at me; correct me; You know my weakness, which keeps me sitting on the sidelines. Say to me as You did to Lazarus "Arise and walk"!

IX STATION

Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: One more time. He falls to the ground; and one more time the Lord pulls Himself up to teach me the lesson of heroic perseverance. Because exhaustion in the way of Christ is everyone's and is forever.... I get tired following Him, I get tired of virtue, I get tired, I get bored. Christ falls and stands until the end. Thus, Lord, You are there until the end of my life, when the road is hard, when it is long; always lifting me up, always....

Jesus! When You see I am drowning, losing confidence....Your hands reach out to me, Your lips speak to me: "You of little faith! Why do you doubt?"

X STATION

Jesus is stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: He is stripped of everything, free, without the thousand little things that tie us down to the earth.

Jesus, stripped, with nothing, set against my lust for things, for the world, for pleasures, for affection....Jesus, poor Jesus, alone....I, rich; magnificent; I spoiled and loved...By my faults and bad desires, my greed and my injustice, Jesus suffers poverty, dishonor and solitude...He continues to suffer in the poor; images of Him, members of His Mystical Body. He continues to suffer in His sanctuary....

Lord! Will I ever learn to empty my heart to the things of the world; to understand what poverty is; what humility is; who are You?

Speak Lord, your servant is listening!

XI STATION

Jesus is Crucified

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: The hammer falls, the nails pierce the flesh of God; my sins strike Him; my sins are taken out on Him; my lasciviousness causes wounds in the chaste body of Jesus; my lust bloodies His purity.....

His open hands and feet stay nailed. And I, out in front, with the world that laughs at you, say: " Come down from your cross! Come down from your cross!! " But no, Lord, don't come down. What would become of me if You left Your place, since it is mine, the torture that I earned and that You suffer?

Don't come down Lord, hide me in your wounds so that my spirit repents there, and my flesh becomes chaste.

XII STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: And after crying out on a loud voice, He bowed His head and breathed His last. Into the hands of His father, He placed his spirit; and into those of men, His pardon, His blood, and His Mother. Everything was finished. Nothing more needed to be done. Does it mean so little to me? Does it mean so little to us? Surely it must, because we still keep on sinning and sinning, the blood and death of God mean so little to me. He knew it, and from His cross, tenderly, He looked at me: "I thirst".

Still, He loves me in return and thirsts to suffer more for me, yet, still more. Day after day, His sacrifice continues on the altar, through the centuries, the years, and the minutes. And I keep on sinning!

Lord, Lord! How long?

XIII STATION

The Descent from the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: The Body of Jesus lies on Mary's breast. She in silence, looks on and cries. It is my work, the one I cared for most, the best I fulfilled: Dear Lady, I did it, I killed your Son, with my cruelties and lukewarmness, with my injustice and cowardice, with my impieties; it was I, Dear Lady! You gave Him to me alive, and I returned Him to you dead... It is my work, the one big thing that I did in my life, the only efficacious thing. She in silence looks on and cries.

Jesus has died. And I after looking and asking for pardon, will I return to start again?

XIV STATION

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: (Genuflect) Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Leader: The grave of the Lord is an urn of hope. It is silent, promising victories. Yearning for the resurrection. Just like the Tabernacle, the small mystical grave of Jesus, with its door sealed, its expressive silence, and its promises of life.....

The guards stood watch, and I will watch; the women waited in hope, and I will wait... I will await the dawn of the day, when my resurrection comes, and I see Him face to face, and feel His Divine and Intimate Embrace that will last forever.

Come, Lord, Jesus come! May the day dawn from on high!