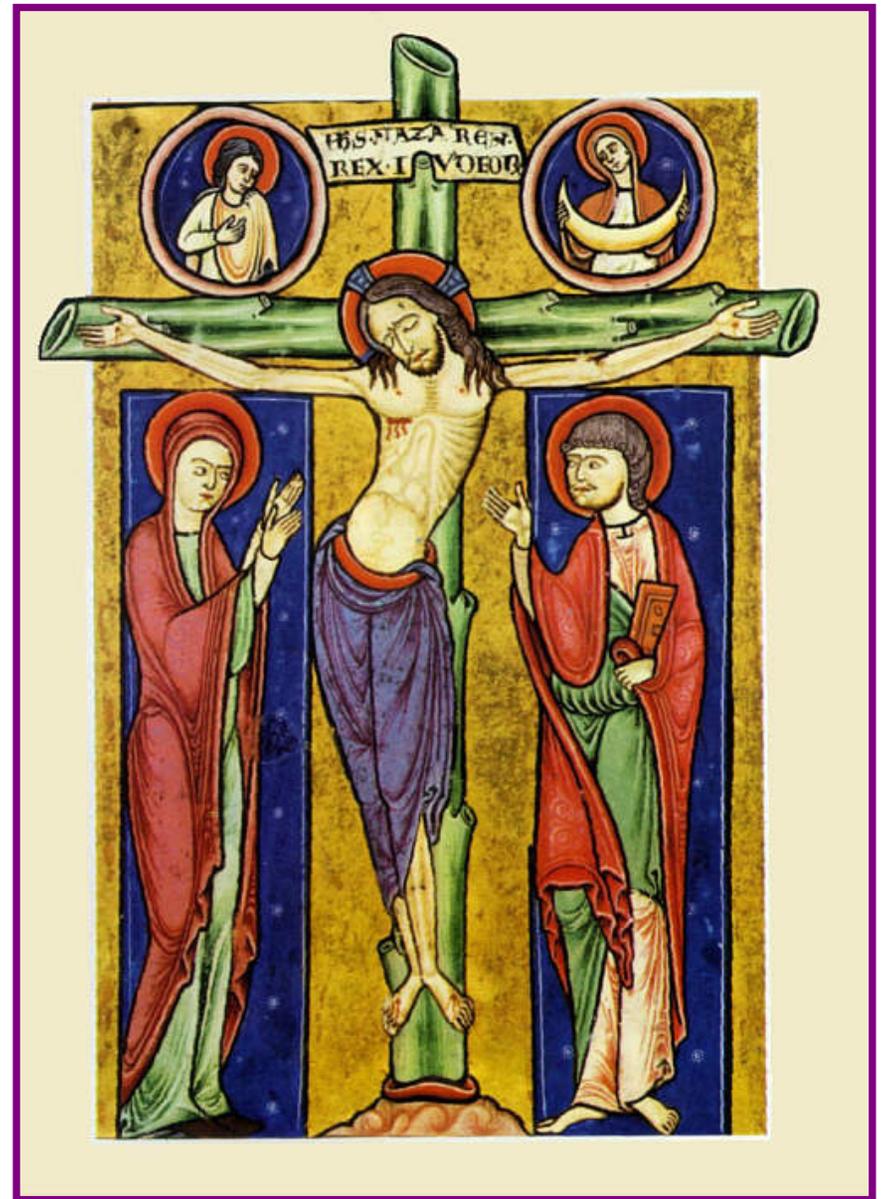


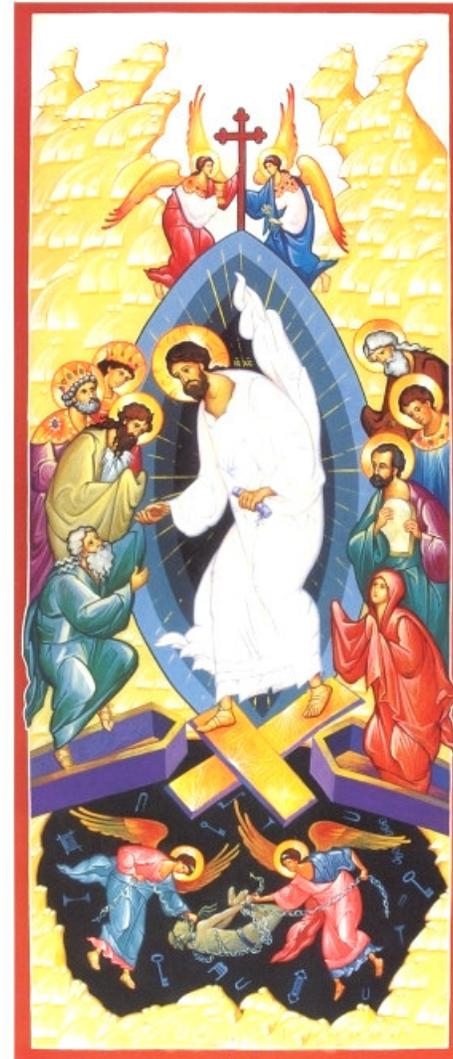
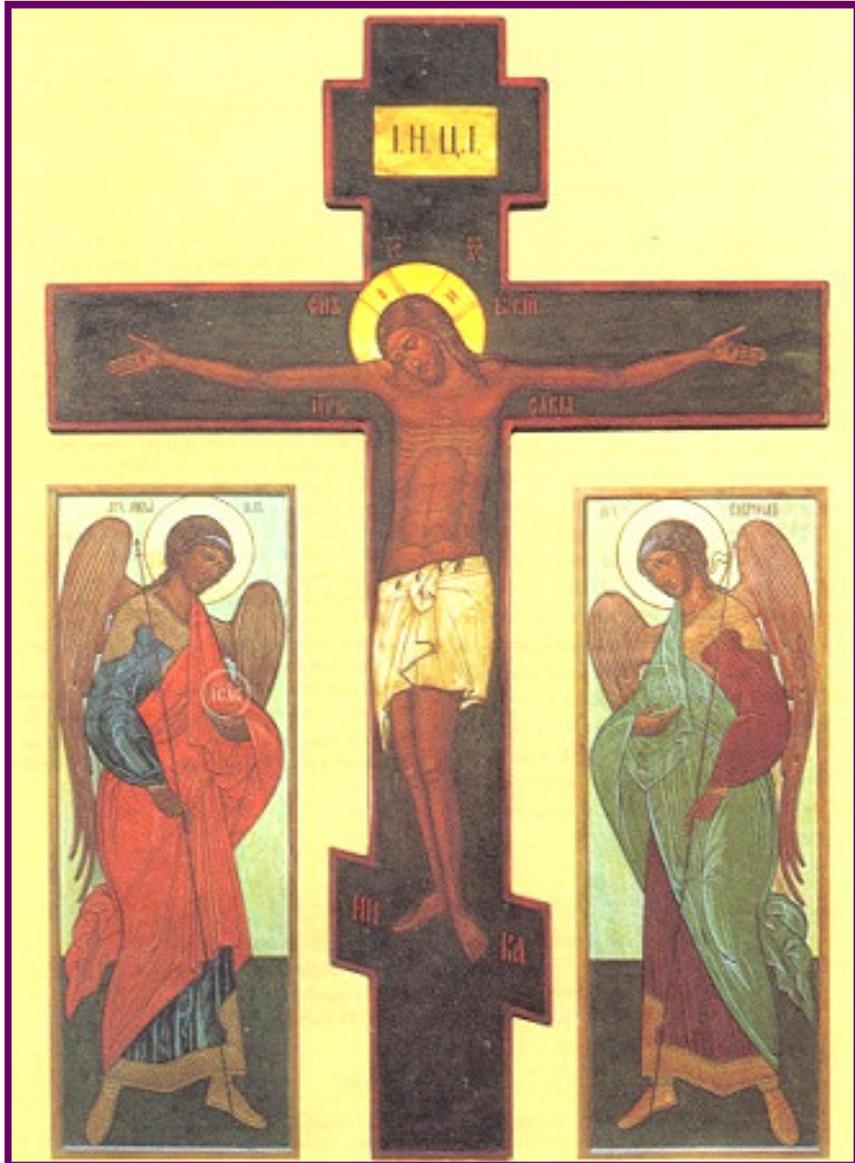
The Way of the Cross



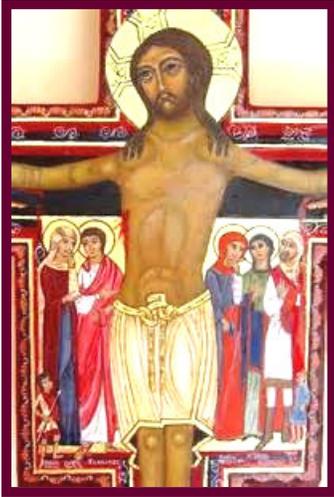
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Text by
Fr. Benet A. Fonck OFM

Artwork by
Rev. Ellen Francis



Conclusion:



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

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

Leader: Jesus replied, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:43)

ALL: God the Father delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)

Reader: “I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection; likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death. Thus do I hope that I may arrive at resurrection from the dead” (Phil 3:10-11).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, help me walk with you each day of my life, even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healings, the failures and triumphs of my life are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead me to closeness with you. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with you always.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.



*When my human body dies,
May my soul to life arise
And with Christ in glory be.*

The Way of the Cross

Introduction:

Leader: Let us walk the Way of the Cross in the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

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

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

Leader: Jesus said: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” (Jn 10:10)

ALL: “God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 Jn 5:11)

Reader: “Whoever wants to be a follower of mine is to renounce oneself and take up the cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save life will lose it; but anyone who want to lose one’s life for my sake will save it” (Lk 9:23-24).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, help me to be open to your closeness and presence as I begin this journey to Calvary with you. Help me to find in your Passion and Death the strength to take up my cross and follow you to the new life of Resurrection.

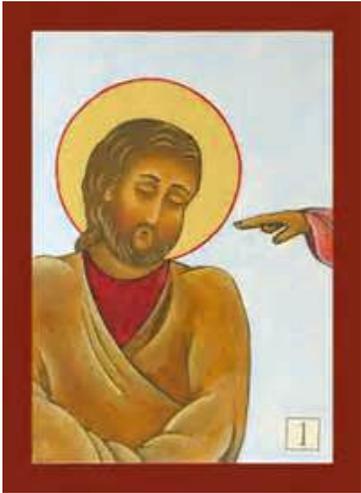
Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.



*At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.*

1. Jesus is condemned to death



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

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

Leader: Jesus prayed: “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!” (Mt 26:42)

ALL: “As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.” (1 Cor 11:26)

Reader: “When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and a purple cloak, Pilate said to them, ‘Look at the man!’” (Jn 19:5)

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through your eyes, not the eyes of Pontius Pilate.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

*♪ Through her heart, her sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing.
Now at length the sword has passed.*

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

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

Leader: Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mk 15:34)

ALL: We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. (2 Cor 4:8=10)

Reader: “Then having brought a linen shroud, Joseph of Arimathea took him down, wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of rock” (Mk 16:46).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free; **ALL: You are the savior of the world.**

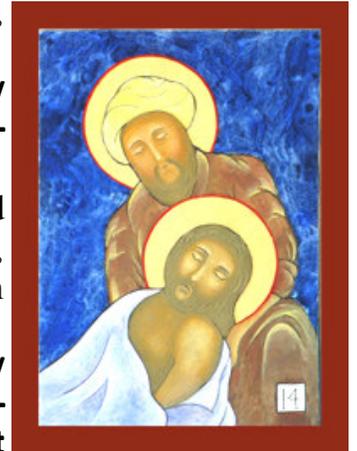
Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. Even though you sometimes seem distant or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and loving presence.

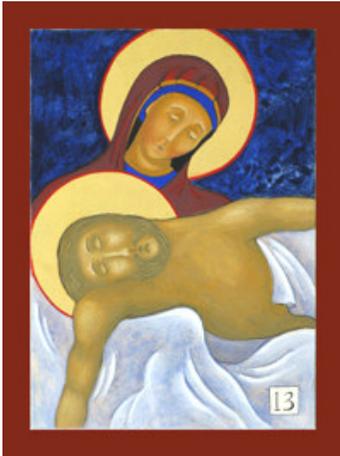
Leader: Lord Jesus crucified, **ALL: Have mercy on us.**

➔ To gain the plenary indulgence, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Creed

*♪ Virgin of all virgins best!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.*



13. Jesus is taken down from the cross



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

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

Leader: Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Lk 23:46)

ALL: “I urge you, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what

is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” Rom 12:1,2)

Reader: “They shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son” (Zech 12:10).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, seeing your body taken down from the cross reminds me how fearful I am of letting go of my life. I am frightened when I think of being unimportant, useless, helpless, or near death. Help me to place my life in your hands.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *By the cross with thee to stay;
There with thee to weep and pray,
All I ask of thee to give.*

2. Jesus takes up his cross

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

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

Leader: Jesus said: “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” (Mt 17:22-23)

ALL: May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal 6:14)

Reader: “He emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in human likeness” (Phil 2:7).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

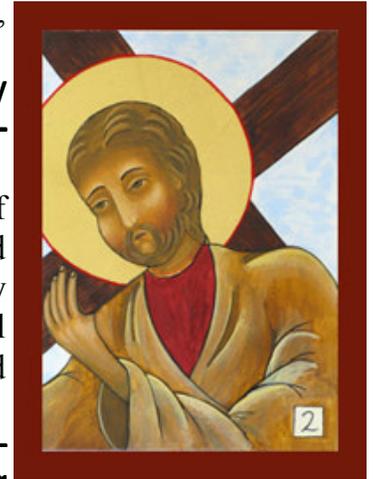
ALL: Lord Jesus, you embraced your cross to redeem the world. Help me to embrace the crosses in my life – the hardships, struggles, disappointments, and pains. Only by recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

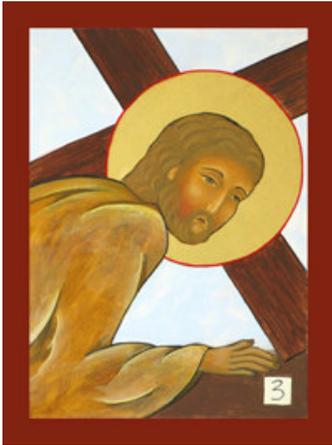
ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *O how sad and sore distressed,
Was that mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten one!*



3. Jesus falls the first time



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

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

Leader: Jesus said: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” (Jn 12:24)

ALL: “The benefit that you have leads to sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin

is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:22-23)

Reader: “Here is my servant, my chosen one, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the streets” (Is 42:1-2).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, you know how often I fall trying to follow you. Yet you are always there to lift me up. Help me always to trust in your loving care for me.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

*♪ Let me share with thee his pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.*

12. Jesus died on the cross

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

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

Leader: Aware that everything was now finished, he said, ‘It is finished.’ (Jn 19:28)

ALL: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to

be grasped. He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:6,8)

Reader: “At three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (Mk 15:34). **“Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit’”** (Lk 23:46). **“And bowing his head, he handed over his spirit”** (Jn 19: 30).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

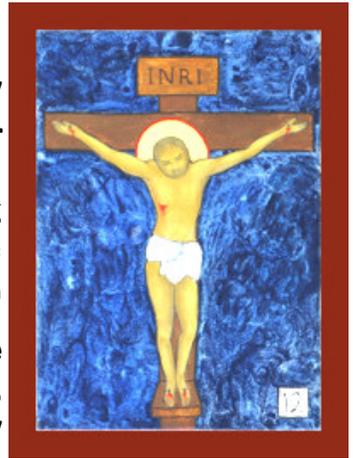
Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, your broken and lifeless body calls me to deeper faith. You chose death, even death on the cross. Help me to see my taking up the cross as my way of loving you.

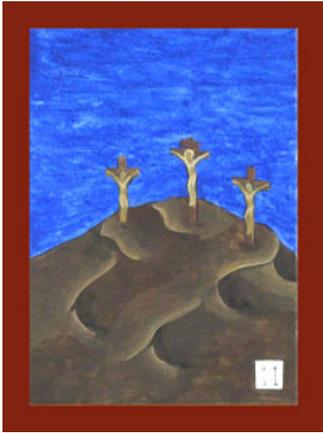
Leader: Lord Jesus crucified, **ALL: Have mercy on us.**

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

*♪ Let me mingle tears with thee.
Mourning him who mourned for me.
All the days that I may live.*



11. Jesus is nailed to the cross



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

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

Leader: Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Lk 23:34)

ALL: "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another." (1 Jn 4:10-11)

Reader: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up that all who believe may have eternal life in him" (Jn 3:14-15).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, I can never doubt your great love for me when I see you crucified. Help me to see your cross as the great sign of your love for me.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)



*Christ above in torment hangs.
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.*

4. Jesus meets his sorrowing Mother

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

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

Leader: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." (Jn 19:26-27)

ALL: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption." (Gal 4:4-5)

Reader: "Come, all you who pass by the way; look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering" (Lam 1:12).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, your mother Mary's grief was surpassed by her love for you. So often you come to me in others, and their love gives me new life. Help me to see how often you love me through the people in my life.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

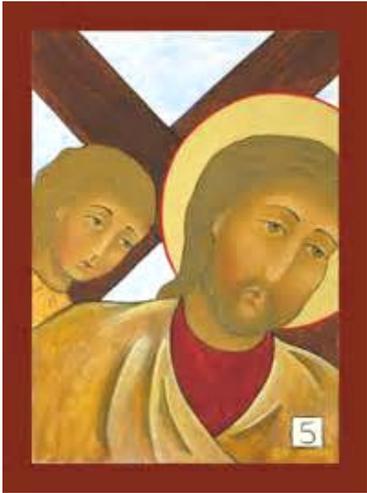
(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)



*Is there one who would not weep,
'Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*



5. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene



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

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

Leader: Jesus said: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” (Mk 8:34-35)

ALL: “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” (Gal 2:19-20)

Reader: “A man called Simon of Cyrene was coming in from the fields, and they pressed him into service to carry the cross” (Mk 15:21).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, sometimes I am indifferent to the needs of others in my life. I even neglect those whom I love. Help me to see that loving others is the surest way to find you in my life.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain
In that Mother’s pain untold?*

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

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

Leader: Jesus said: “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (Mt 6:25)

ALL: “The night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.” (Rom 13:12,14)

Reader: “They took his garments and divided them four ways” (Jn 19:23). **“They divided my garments among them and for my vesture they cast lots”** (Ps 22:19).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

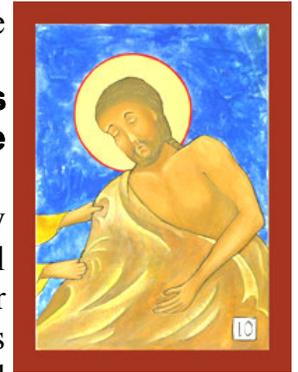
ALL: Lord Jesus, seeing you so cruelly humiliated makes me realize how I cling to my accomplishments, my possessions, my way. Help me to let go of those things in my life that prevent me from growing closer to you and others.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

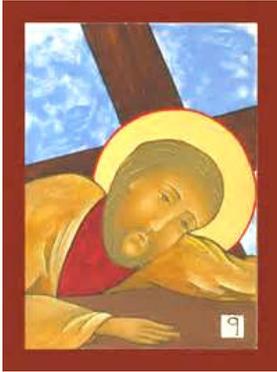
ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *Holy Mother, pierce me through.
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.*



9. Jesus falls the third time



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

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

Leader: Jesus said, "I thirst!" (Jn 19:28)

ALL: "O God, you are my God – for you I long! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, like a land parched, lifeless, and without water." (Ps 63:2)

Reader: As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God? Wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my savior and my God. (Ps 42:2-3,12)

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, your failing strength makes me see how helpless I am. Without you I can do nothing. Help me to rely on your strength, to see how much I need you.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

*♬ Make me feel as thou has felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.*

6. Jesus has his face wiped by Veronica

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

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

Leader: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

ALL: So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:13)

Reader: "He was spurned and avoided by others, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces" (Is 53:3-4).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

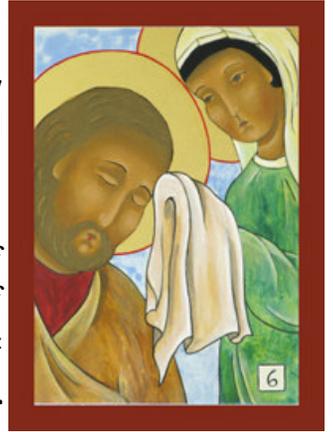
ALL: Lord Jesus, at times I am afraid to reach out to others. I do nothing when I should act, I say nothing when I should speak out. Give me a deeper and more courageous faith. Help me to trust that you are with me.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

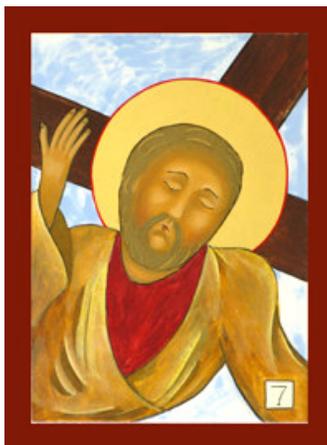
ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

*♬ Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.*



7. Jesus falls the second time



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

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

Leader: Jesus prayed: "Lead us not into temptation." (Mt 6:13)

ALL: No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor 10:13)

Reader: "It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole. By his stripes we are healed" (Is 53:4-5).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, disappointments and failures sometimes bring me down. I hide behind my pride and self-pity, withdrawing from you and others. Give me the hope I need and help me never to be afraid to begin again.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *For the sins of his own nation
Saw him hang in desolation
Till his spirit forth he sent.*

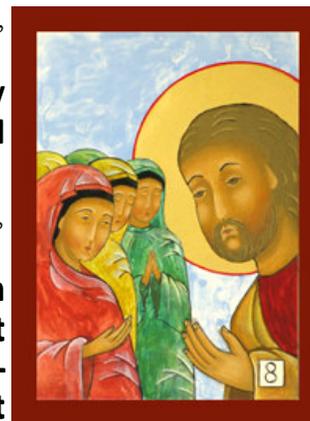
8. Jesus comforts the lamenting women

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

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

Leader: Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me." (Jn 1:43)

ALL: "To this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps." (1 Pt 2:21)



Reader: "A great crowd followed him, including women who lamented over him. Jesus turned and said, 'Do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children'" (Lk 23:27-28).

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free;

ALL: You are the savior of the world.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord Jesus, your great compassion for others overwhelms me. I feel pretty selfish when I think of you and the way you love. Help me to pour out my love, that you might fill me with your love.

Leader: Lord Jesus crucified,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

(Optional: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

♪ *O dear Mother! font of love!
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with yours accord.*