

A Proclamation of the Kerygma

Stations of the Cross

## Processional Chant:



Je - sus, be\_\_ my cen - ter. Be my source, be my strength, be my guide.

## Station 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: "When Pilate washed his hands and after he had Jesus scourged, he ordered him to be crucified" (Matthew 27:24, 26).

Even though Pilate condemns Jesus to death, our Lord is obedient to the plan of the Father and is willing to die for our salvation. Are we obedient to the Father's plan for us or do we choose our own path?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for being obedient to the Father's will and choosing to die for me. Help me to follow God's plan for me more fully.**



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## Station 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: "And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him" (Matthew 27:31).

Jesus willingly takes up his cross with each of us lovingly in his mind, realizing fully the death he was about to suffer. How well do we carry the crosses we are given willingly out of love for God and others?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for bearing your cross out of love for me. Help me carry the crosses that I have been given with love and patience.



### Station 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:** "Carrying the cross himself, Jesus went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha" (John 19:17).

Jesus falls under the weight of the cross after the loss of blood from his scourging and crowning with thorns. Even though he is exhausted, Jesus presses forward in carrying the cross. How well do we persevere in living the Christian life?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for showing me how to persevere in fulfilling my mission. Help me overcome the obstacles and challenges in the Christian life.



## Station 4: Jesus Meets His Mother

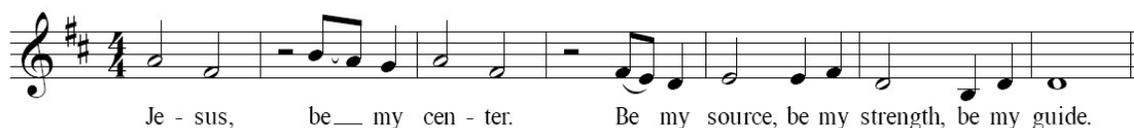
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:26-27).

Jesus chooses to entrust his mother to the faithful disciple as part of his sacrifice for us. Through this act, He offers his mother to the Church as the model of Christian discipleship, open to God's grace and responding in thanksgiving. How well do we emulate Mary's discipleship of love and thanksgiving?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for sharing your mother Mary with me. Help me to follow her example and always be ready to receive God's grace with an attitude of thanksgiving.**



## Station 5: Simon Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

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

All: **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Leader: "They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country to carry his cross" (Mark 15:21).

Even though Jesus is God and can do all things, he chooses to allow a simple man to help him carry the cross. Jesus invites us to participate in his passion, death, and Resurrection at every Mass and offer ourselves along with him. Do we recognize the gift of God to be able to offer ourselves along with Jesus to the Father?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for allowing me to share in your suffering and death so that I might also share in your resurrection. Help me to offer my sacrifices willingly and with joy.



### Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

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

**All:** Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** "Jesus turned around and saw her, and said 'Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you' And from that hour the woman was cured" (Matthew 9:22).

Jesus shows his gratitude to the holy woman Veronica by making the image of his face appear on the veil she used. Jesus calls each of us to share his face with others through our actions and words. How well do we reflect the face of Christ with those whom we meet?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for enabling me to share your face and your message to others. Help me to be more grateful for the opportunities in which you allow me to be your presence in the world.



### Station 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: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Jesus demonstrates the depth of his love by falling a second time in carrying the cross. Even though the pain he experiences is tremendous and he has fallen again, he gets back up and continues his saving mission. How often do we get back up after we fall and continue on our journey of following Christ?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for showing me again and again the depth of your love in which you continue to forgive me after I fall. Help me to move past my sinfulness, to experience your forgiveness, and to live my life serving you and others with joy.**



## Station 8: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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

All: **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Leader: "A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children'" (Luke 23:27-28).

In his ministry, Jesus embraced those who had little status or power in society and healed the brokenhearted. Jesus calls us to provide care for those on the peripheries and who feel lost, alone, or forgotten. How well do we serve those who are most in need of physical or spiritual comfort?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for allowing me to be an instrument of healing and comfort to those who are lonely, sad, and depressed. Help me to care as you did for the most forgotten and the most in need.**



## Station 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: "Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him" (Matthew 14:29-31).

With the weight of the cross on his shoulders, Jesus falls a third time, but he has the courage to get up again. Jesus summons us to have the courage to get out of the boat and follow him knowing that he is always there to save and protect us. How often do we have the courage to trust in Jesus completely with our lives?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for demonstrating the courage needed to surrender my life to boldly following you. Help me to offer myself completely and to recognize my need for you to be my Savior.**



## Station 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: "The soldiers crucified Jesus. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.' They divided his garments by casting lots" (Luke 23:33-34).

As one final act of humiliation, the soldiers strip Jesus of his clothing, leaving him vulnerable and exposed. Yet, in his supposed position of weakness, Jesus has the strength to forgive those who taunted and abused him. In what ways do we need to let go of grudges and resentments and forgive those who have hurt us?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for becoming vulnerable to show me true strength. Help me to forgive others who have humiliated, embarrassed, and hurt me throughout my life so that I may be open to your love.



### Station 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:** "There they crucified him, and with him, two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews'" (John 19:18-19).

Imagine the agony and pain that Jesus must have experienced in stretching out his hands and being nailed to the cross. Even when we are suffering, Jesus shows us that we must stretch out our hands to help others. How often do we put the needs of others ahead of our own?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for stretching out your hands to be nailed to the cross. Help me to stretch out my hands to serve others, even when it is difficult, that I may build up your Body, the Church.



## Station 12: Jesus Dies on the Cross

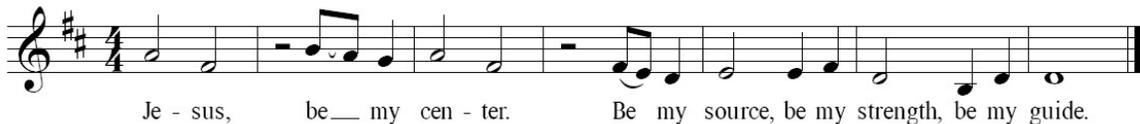
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Leader: "It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'; and when he had said this he breathed his last" (Luke 24:44, 46).

In his death on the cross, Jesus returns to the Father the Holy Spirit, who is the life and love that the Father had first given him. Jesus empties himself totally and completely when he offers his life, his identity, and the essence of who he is for our salvation. In what ways must we die to ourselves in order to receive the Holy Spirit Jesus has poured out upon us?

All: **Loving Jesus, I thank you for sharing with me the Holy Spirit that was given to you by the Father through your death on the cross. Help me to die to myself and my desires that I may fully receive your Holy Spirit.**



## Station 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: "Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom" (John 19:38, 40).

After Jesus offered his sacred body and blood on the cross, his disciples treat his body with reverence. Jesus continues to offer us his body and blood at every Mass. How well do we cherish the gift of the Eucharist at Mass and in our daily lives?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for the gift of the Eucharist and allowing me to receive your Body and Blood into my being. Help me to be reverent in receiving the Eucharist and bold in sharing your life within me with others.



### Station 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:** "Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb" (Matthew 27:59-61).

After his burial, the women disciples remain waiting for the Lord's return. These disciples demonstrated faith in Jesus' promises of new life and will be rewarded as first witnesses of his Resurrection. In what ways do we demonstrate our faith in the promise of a new life in Christ?

**All:** Loving Jesus, I thank you for offering me the opportunity to share in your promise of a new life of holiness. Help me to become the saint that you made and called me to be that I may enjoy eternal life with you.

