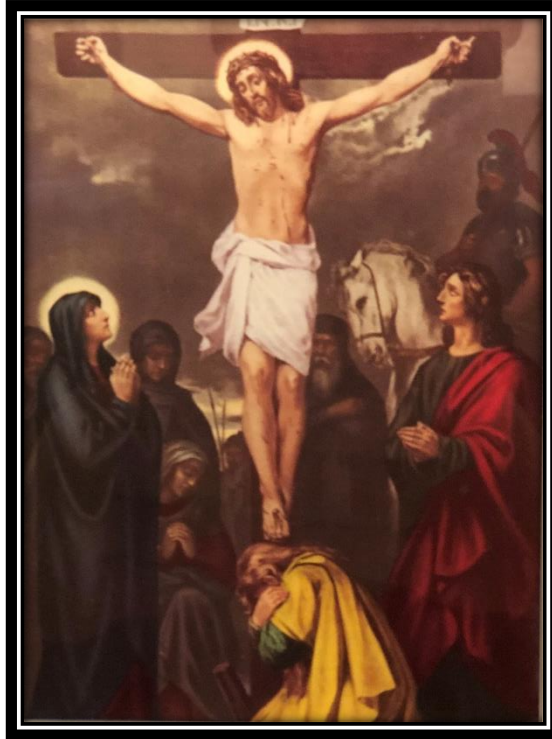


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# The Way of the Cross



## *The Nine Scriptural Stations*

A Liturgical Devotion  
for Lent and Holy Week

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# The Way of the Cross

## A LITURGICAL DEVOTION FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross, or the Stations of the Cross, first came into use in Western Christendom in the fifteenth century. Its origin is generally sought in the time of the Crusades, when pilgrims to the Holy Land marked off the sites associated with our Lord's Passion in Jerusalem and its environs. On returning to their homes in Europe, they continued the devotion by erecting in their churches, or in the fields, memorials of these stations. The number of the stations, no less than the scenes and occasions of the Passion story, varied a great deal. In the eighteenth century, they were fixed at fourteen in number; but five of these have no basis in the Gospel accounts of the Passion, but are the creation of legend or devotion.

The Content of these devotions has never been determined by any official Church authority, for they have generally been considered acts of private prayer and meditation. They have often been observed, however, by groups of worshippers, united in common prayers at each station, and in the singing of hymns (usually the *Stabat Mater*) as they passed from one station to another.

The following form is designed for corporate use. All its material is drawn from the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. It may be said as a separate office, or combined with Morning or Evening Prayer, or appended to the rite of Ante-Communion. Only nine stations, with an introduction, are provided, since these alone have an authentic source in the Biblical narratives of the Passion.

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# The Way of the Cross

## A LITURGICAL DEVOTION FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

### *Preparation*

IN the Name † of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength?

*People.*     **I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.**

*Minister.*   Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

*People.*     **I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me.**

*Minister.*   I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving-kindnesses. For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

*(Isaiah 63.1-3;7-9)*

The Lord be with you.

*Answer.*     **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.*   Let us pray.

**A**SSIST us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation; that we may enter with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given unto us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

V.   Let us go forth:

R.   **To follow Jesus along the Way of Sorrows.**

## I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**W**HEN Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. [*Silence.*] (St. Matthew 27.24-26)

### *The Responsory*

- V. Who will rise up with me against the wicked?  
R. **Or who will take my part against the evil doers?**  
V. They gather them together against the soul of the righteous,  
R. **And condemn the innocent blood.**  
V. But the Lord is my refuge,  
R. **And my God is the strength of my confidence.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**O**LORD God, whose blessed Son, our Saviour, gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame; Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## II. JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**T**HEN the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. *[Silence.]* *(St. Matthew 27.27-31)*

### *The Responsory*

- V. He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
R. **And we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not.**  
V. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows;  
R. **Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**  
V. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.  
R. **The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

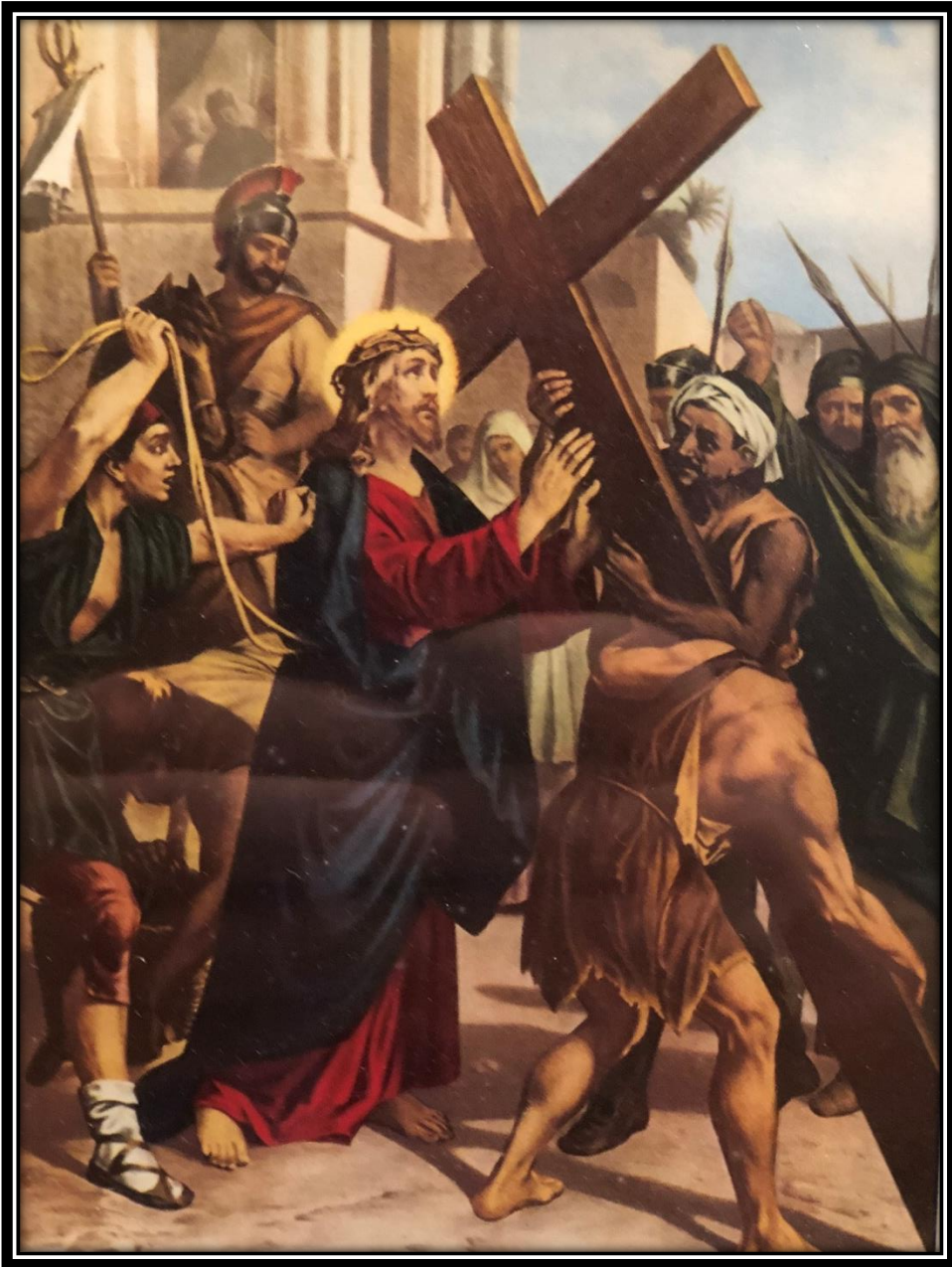
*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**A**Lmighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; Mercifully grant that we, walking the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



### III. THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

*The Lesson*

**A**ND they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. [*Silence.*] (St. Mark 15.21-23)

*The Responsory*

- V. The Lord ordereth a good man's going,  
R. **And maketh his way acceptable to himself.**  
V. Though he fall, he shall not be cast away;  
R. **For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.**  
V. The law of his god is in his heart,  
R. **And his goings shall not slide.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## IV. THE WOMEN MOURN FOR JESUS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**A**ND there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? *[Silence.]* *(St. Luke 23.27-31)*

### *The Responsory*

- V. Thou feedest them with the bread of tears,  
R. **And givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.**  
V. Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbors,  
R. **And our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
V. Turn us again, thou God of hosts;  
R. **Show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.**

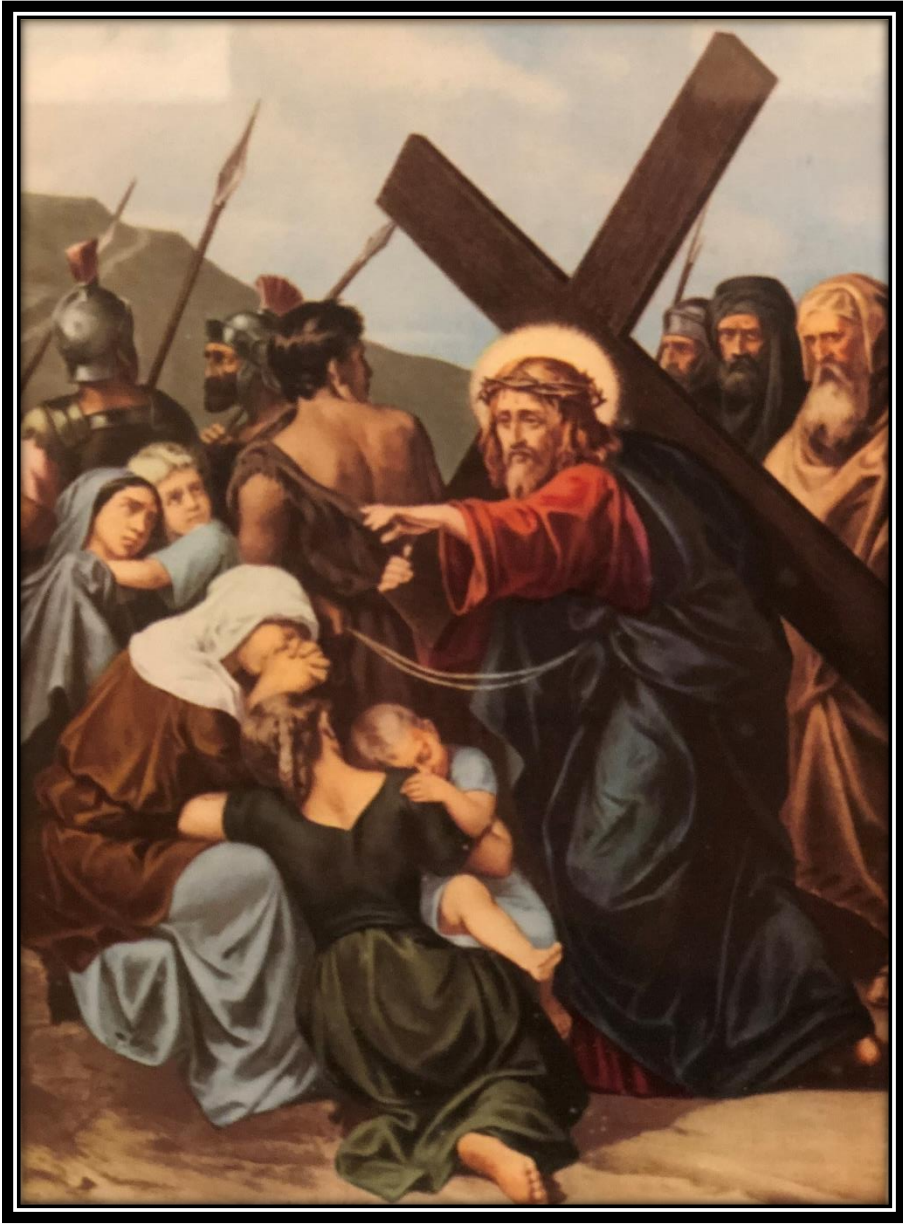
*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of mercies and giver of all comfort; Deal graciously, we pray thee, with all those who mourn, that, casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## V. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**T**HEN the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part: and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. *[Silence.]* *(St. John 19.23-24)*

### *The Responsory*

- V. They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones;  
R. **They stand staring and looking upon me.**  
V. They part my garments among them,  
R. **And cast lots upon my vesture.**  
V. But be not thou far from me, O Lord;  
R. **Thou art my succour, haste thee to help me.**

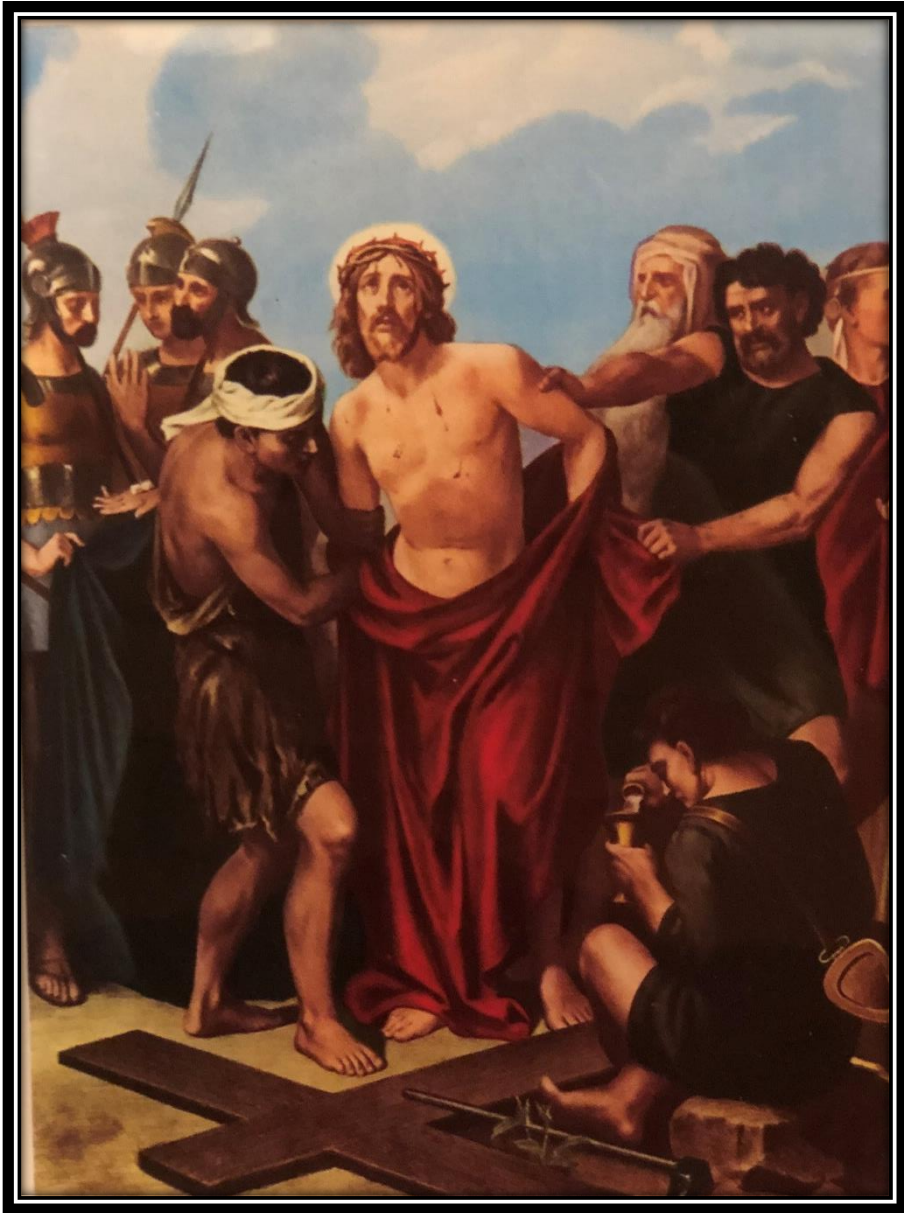
*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## VI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**A**ND when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, This Is the King of the Jews.

[*Silence.*]

(*St. Luke 23.33-34;38*)

### *The Responsory*

- V. My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me?  
R. **And art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?**  
V. All they that see me laugh me to scorn;  
R. **They shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,**  
V. He trusted in the Lord, that he would deliver him;  
R. **Let him deliver him, if he will have him.**  
V. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand,  
R. **And there is none to help me.**

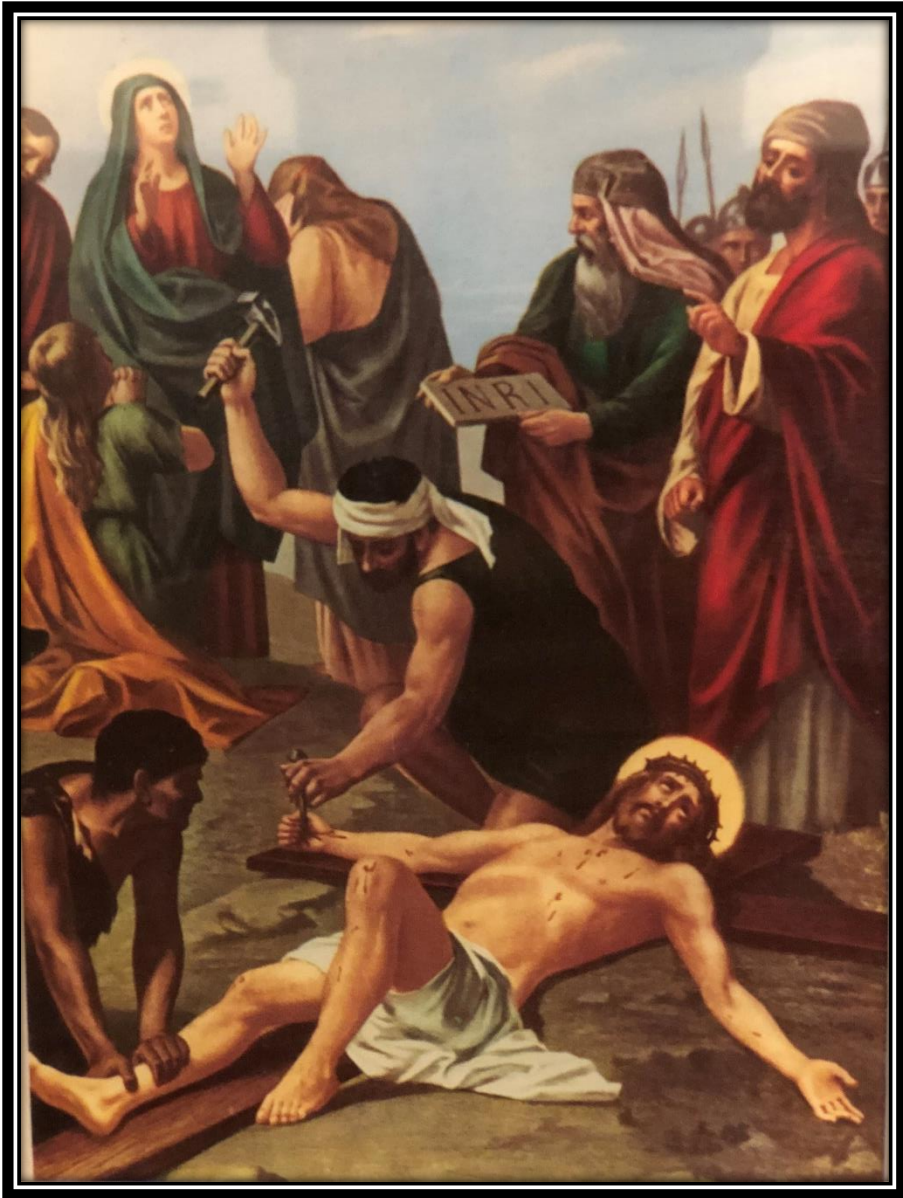
*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**G**RANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## VII. JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**A**ND it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. [*Silence – it is customary to genuflect momentarily.*]  
(*St. Luke 23.44-46*)

### *The Responsory*

- V. Consider, and hear me, O Lord my God;  
R. **Lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death;**  
V. Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him:  
R. **For if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice at it.**  
V. But my trust is in thy mercy,  
R. **And my heart is joyful in thy salvation.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy; Grant us so to die daily from sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## VIII. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

WHEN the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: he went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. *[Silence.]*  
*(St. Matthew 27.57-60)*

### *The Responsory*

- V. He was cut off out of the land of the living;  
R. **For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**  
V. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death.  
R. **Because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.**  
V. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great;  
R. **Because he hath poured out his soul unto death.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death; Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; through thy mercy, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



## IX. JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHRE

- V. We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. **Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.**

### *The Lesson*

**N**OW in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. *[Silence.]* (St. John 19.41-42 & St. Luke 23.55-56)

### *The Responsory*

- V. I have set the Lord alway before me;  
R. **For he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.**  
V. Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth;  
R. **My flesh also shall rest in hope.**  
V. For why? Thou shalt not leave my soul in hell;  
R. **Neither shalt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

**G**RANT, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- V. O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us;  
R. **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**



Let us pray together.

**O MY God, I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, and I love Thee, and I grieve that I have so often offended Thee by my sins, and I resolve henceforth by Thy grace and mercy to lead a better life.**

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*People:* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

**O UR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

V. Christ became obedient unto death for us,

R. **Even the death of the Cross.**

Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the Cross; Who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Minister:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*People:* **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Minister:* May the souls † of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
**Amen.**

*Minister:* Now let us depart in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

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