



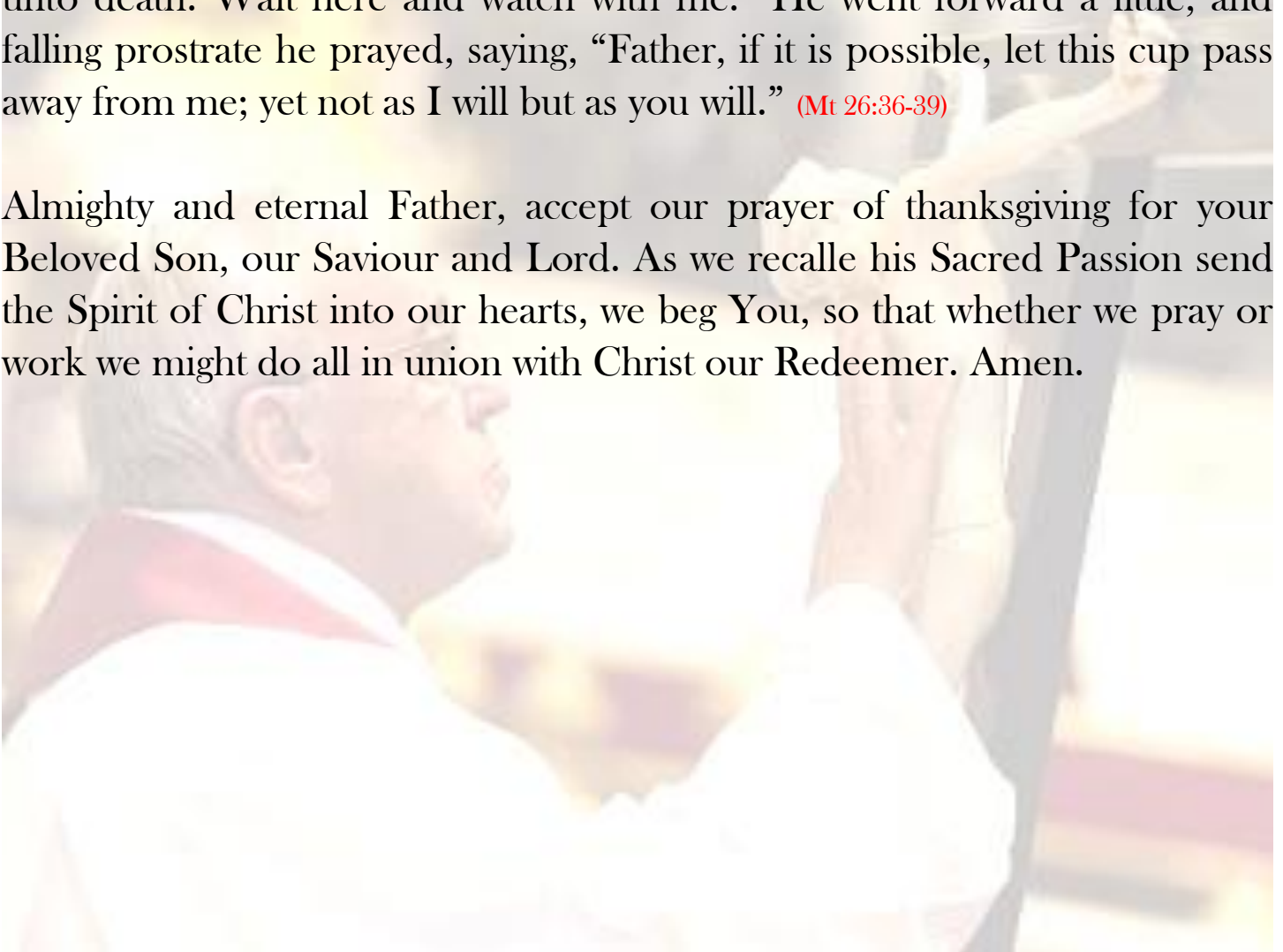
# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### OPENING PRAYER

Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemani, and he said to them, “Sit down here, while I go over yonder and pray.” Then he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them, “My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with me.” He went forward a little, and falling prostrate he prayed, saying, “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; yet not as I will but as you will.” (Mt 26:36-39)

Almighty and eternal Father, accept our prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son, our Saviour and Lord. As we recalle his Sacred Passion send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, we beg You, so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. Amen.





# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### FIRST STATION

#### *Jesus is condemned to death*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr:** But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. (*Mark 14:61-64*)

**Meditation Pope Francis:** Today there still occurs the same confrontation between good and evil, between hatred and forgiveness, between meekness and violence, which culminated in the cross of Christ. The divine salvation involving the battle against sin passes through the narrow door of the cross. This is the path which Jesus also clearly indicated to his disciples. Therefore pray specially for Christians who are discriminated against on account of their witness to Christ and the Gospel. Let us remain close to these brothers and sisters who are unjustly accused and made the objects of various kinds of violence.

**Pr:** Let us pray. All powerful and eternal God, for proclaiming the truth your son, Jesus Christ, is condemned to death by crucifixion. Stir up your love in our hearts so that we might be ever faithful to all that You have told us and fear nothing more than the loss of your friendship through sin.

**All:** Amen



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### SECOND STATION

#### *Jesus carries his Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** And Pilate said to the Jews, Behold, your king! But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "we have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. And so they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself. *(John 19: 14-17)*

**Pope Francis meditation:** Why the cross? Because Jesus takes upon himself the evil, the filth, the sin of the world, including the sin of all of us, and he cleanses it with his blood, with the mercy and the love of God. Let us look around: how many wounds are inflicted upon humanity by evil! Wars, violence, economic conflicts that hit the weakest, greed for money that you can't take with you and have to leave. And--as each one of us knows-- our personal sins: our failures in love and respect towards God, towards our neighbor and towards the whole of creation.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Father in heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ, still carries his Cross in his persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Make us feel the needs of all persons so that we might as readily help them as we would help Jesus himself.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### THIRD STATION

#### *Jesus falls the first time*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr:** If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love what is its own. Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also. (*John 15:18-20*)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Jesus knew well what awaited him in Jerusalem and which path the Father was asking him to take: it was the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificing himself for the forgiveness of our sins. Following Jesus means sharing his merciful love, entering his great work of mercy for each and every person and for all persons. The work of Jesus is, precisely, a work of mercy, a work of forgiveness and of love! Jesus is so full of mercy! And this universal pardon, this mercy, passes through the Cross.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. O God, to free us from sin and weakness your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced his fearful passion and crucifixion. Strengthen us in our baptismal resolutions by which we renounced sin and Satan, so that through the passion of this life's sufferings we might rise to a new life of joyful service free of all selfishness.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### FOURTH STATION

#### *Jesus meets his afflicted mother*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, 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 19:25-27)*

**Pope Francis Meditation:** Mary prayed, she worked, she went to the synagogue. But every action was carried out in perfect union with Jesus. This union finds its culmination on Calvary. Here Mary is united to the Son in the martyrdom of her heart and in the offering of his life to the Father for the salvation of humanity. Our Lady shared in the pain of the Son and accepted with him the will of the Father, in that obedience that bears fruit and grants the true victory over evil and death.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. O blessed Lord, at your passion a sword of sorrow pierced the loving heart of your mother as Simeon had foretold. Grant that we who look back on her sorrows with compassion might receive the healing fruits of your sufferings.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### FIFTH STATION

#### *Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him, and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning 'the place of the skull.' *(Mk. 15:20-22)*

**Pope Francis Meditation:** The king whom we follow and who accompanies us is a king who loves even to the cross and who teaches us to serve and to love. And you are not ashamed of his cross and embrace it, because you have understood that it is in giving ourselves, in emerging from ourselves that we have true joy and that, with his love, God conquered evil. You carry the pilgrim cross through all the world to tell everyone that on the cross Jesus knocked down the wall of enmity that divides people and nations and brought reconciliation and peace.

**Pr:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### SIXTH STATION

#### *Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** "Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?" And answering the king will say to them, "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me." *(Mt. 25:37-40)*

**Pope Francis meditation:** Let us open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise. May we be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith. Let us entrust ourselves fully to him and believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature. Let us remind ourselves that those who believe are never alone. May we see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path.

**Pr:** Let us pray. Almighty and ever-loving God, we feel your love and understanding in the consolation and support we receive from one another. Give us, we beg You, the courage and dedication to sacrifice and suffer with those who are in need, the least of your people.

**All:** Amen



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### SEVENTH STATION

#### *Jesus falls the second time*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** It was our weaknesses that he carried, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one struck by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. *(Is. 53:4-6)*

**Pope Francis meditation:** Jesus never ceased being meek, good, full of love, close to the little ones, close to the poor. However, he had the strength to take all our sins upon himself, all of them. Many times, when we examine our conscience, we find some sins there that are truly bad! But he carries them. He came for this: to forgive, to make peace in the world, but first in the heart. Perhaps each one of us feels troubled in our heart, perhaps experiences darkness or feels a little sad over a fault. He has come to take away all of this. He gives us peace, he forgives everything.

**Pr:** Let us pray Lord Jesus Christ, You shared in our weaknesses and accepted our guilt. Grant us the favor of rejoicing over our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all others.





# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

All: Amen.

### EIGHTH STATION

#### *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." *(Luke 23, 27-28)*

**Pope Francis meditation:** Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the culmination of the way he lived his entire life. Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep. Arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world. But we do so not from a sense of obligation, not as a burdensome duty, but as the result of a personal decision which brings us joy and gives meaning to our lives.

**Pr:** Let us pray. Beloved Jesus, with tears of pity these women of Jerusalem responded to You, broken, bruised, and beaten, on the road to Calvary. Deepen our faith, we beg You, so that we may see You in our brothers and sisters, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference.

All: Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### NINTH STATION

#### *Jesus falls a third time*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr.:** I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps because of grief, strengthen me with your words. (*Ps.119:25-28*)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a person, Jesus, in our midst. Our joy is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, You permitted your Son to be weakened, crushed, and profaned so that He might rise from the dead freed from the ravages of sin. Help us to accept our weaknesses and failings as forerunners of our glorious resurrection in union with your Son.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### TENTH STATION

#### *Jesus is stripped of his clothes*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr:** They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it, he would not drink. Then after they had crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, "They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garments they cast lots."  
(Mt. 27:34-35)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord's wounds at arm's length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness. Whenever we do so, our lives become wonderfully complicated and we experience intensely what it is to be a people, to be part of a people.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, stripped of everything, You stood exposed to the jeers and contempt of the people whom You loved. Clothe us with genuine love of others, so that nothing we suffer may ever fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### ELEVENTH STATION

#### *Jesus is nailed to the Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr.:** When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (*Lk. 23, 33-34*)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Within our suffering is the suffering of Christ who bears its burden with us and reveals its meaning. When the Son of God mounted the cross, he destroyed the solitude of suffering and illuminated its darkness. We thus find ourselves before the mystery of God's love for us, which gives us hope and courage: hope, because in the plan of God's love even the night of pain yields to the light of Easter, and courage, which enables us to confront every hardship in his company, in union with him.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Lord and Saviour, You have told us that we too must accept crucifixion if we are to accept resurrection with You. Help us to rejoice in the sufferings that come with the fulfillment of our daily duties, seeing in them the royal road of the cross to the resurrection.

**All:** Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### TWELFTH STATION

#### *Jesus dies on the Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr.:** It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then, bowing his head, he died. (*Lk. 23:44-46; Jn:19: 30b*)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Scourged, insulted and abused, crowned with thorns, Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it and defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the cross. Christ's cross embraced with love never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death. With his love, God conquered evil.

**All:** Our 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



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### THIRTEENTH STATION

*The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr.:** When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so that they did not break his legs, but one of them opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimathea, because he was a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission. (*Jn.19:33-34, 38a.*)

**Pope Francis meditation:** Death affects us all, and it questions us in a profound way, especially when it touches us closely, or when it takes the defenseless in such a way that it seems "scandalous." If it is understood as the end of everything, death frightens us, terrifies us, and becomes a threat that shatters every dream, every promise. It severs every relationship and interrupts every journey. If my life has been a journey with the Lord, a journey of trust in his immense mercy, I will be prepared to accept the final moment of my earthly life as the definitive, confident abandonment into his welcoming hands.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Beloved Saviour, You returned to the Father all that He had given You, so that He might restore all to You a hundred-fold in the glorious resurrection. Help us, we beg You, to give generously of ourselves in all that we do for You, so that like You we might be made perfect in a new resurrection.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

All: Amen.

### FOURTEENTH STATION

#### *Jesus is laid in the tomb*

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

**Ldr.:** Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed.

(Mt. 27, 59-60)

**Pope Francis Meditation:** Often it seems that God does not exist. All around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. However dark things are, goodness always reemerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, rising transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force.

**Pr.:** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, on the edge of sadness when all seemed lost, You restored to us the Saviour we thought defeated and conquered. Help us, we beg You, so to empty ourselves of self concern that we might see your hand in every failure and your victory in every defeat. These things we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.



# St. Denis Parish

## Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis

### FIFTEEN STATION

#### The Resurrection of Jesus

**Pr.:** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

**All:** Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. *(Stand)*

**Ldr.:** When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices that they might go and anoint Jesus. Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had just risen, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?", for it was very large. But looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back, and upon entering the tomb they were amazed to see a young man sitting at the right side and clothed in a white robe. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him." *(Mk. 16, 1 to 6)*

**Pr.:** Almighty and eternal Father, accept our prayer of thanksgiving for your Beloved Son, our Saviour and Lord. As we have recalled his Sacred Passion send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, we beg You, so that whether we pray or work we might do all in union with Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

**Pr.:** the Lord be with you.

**All:** and with your spirit.

**Pr.:** may almighty God bless you, The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.