

+ The Way of the Cross +

+ I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

Leaving the house of Caiphas, where He had been blasphemed, and the house of Herod where He had been mocked, Jesus is dragged before Pilate, His back torn from being whipped, His head crowned with thorns; and He, who on the last day will judge the living and the dead, is Himself condemned to a disgraceful death reserved only for the lowest criminal.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

HYMN: STABAT MATER

At the Cross, her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother, weeping,
When her son was crucified.

A Stanza of this hymn is repeated after each meditation, verse and response of the XIV Stations.

+ II. JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

A heavy cross is laid upon the bruised shoulders of Jesus. He receives it with meekness, nay, with a secret joy, for it is the instrument with which He is to redeem the world.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

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

+ III. JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

Labouring under the weight of the cross, Jesus slowly sets forth on the way to Calvary, amidst the mockeries and insults of the crowd. His agony in the garden has exhausted His body; He is sore with blows and wounds; His strength fails Him; He falls to the ground under the cross.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. (scroll down) Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

Oh, what sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole begotten One!

+ IV. JESUS IS MET BY HIS BLESSED MOTHER

Still burdened with the cross and wounded yet more by His fall, Jesus proceeds on His way. He is met by His mother. What a meeting it must have been! Oh, what a sword of anguish must have pierced that mother's heart!

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be....

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

+ V. THE CROSS IS LAYED UPON SIMON OF CYRENE

As the strength of Jesus fails, and He is unable to proceed, the executioners seize and compel Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed

the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

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

+ VI. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

As Jesus proceeds on the way, covered with the sweat of death, a woman-Veronica, moved with compassion, makes her way through the crowd, and wipes His face with a handkerchief. As a reward of her piety the impression of His sacred countenance is miraculously imprinted upon the cloth.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.
Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain, In
that mother's pain unto'd?

+ VII. JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

The pain of His wounds and the loss of His blood increasing at every step of His way, again His strength fails Him, and Jesus falls to the ground a second time.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

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

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

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

**+ VIII. THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM
MOURN FOR THE LORD**

At the sight of the sufferings of Jesus, some holy women in the crowd are so touched with sympathy that they openly bewail and lament Him. Jesus turns to them and says: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but for yourselves and for your children."

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His spirit forth He sent.

**+ IX. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME
UNDER THE CROSS**

Jesus has now arrived almost at the summit of Calvary; but before He reaches the spot where He is to be crucified, His strength again fails Him and He falls for the third time, to be again dragged up and goaded onward by the brutal soldiery.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

Oh, sweet Mother! Fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord.

**+ X. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS
GARMENTS**

Arrived at last at the place of sacrifice, they prepare to crucify Him. His garments are torn from His bleeding body, and He, the Holy of holies stands exposed to the vulgar gaze of the

and scoffing multitude.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

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

+ XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

The cross is laid upon the ground, and Jesus is stretched upon His bed of death. At one and the same time, He offers His bruised limbs to His heavenly Father in behalf of sinful man and to His fierce executioners to be nailed to the disgraceful wood. The blows are struck and the blood gushes forth.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew Of
my Saviour crucified.

XII. JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.

**+ XIII. JESUS IS LAID IN THE ARMS OF
HIS MOTHER**

The multitude have left the heights of Calvary, and none remain save the beloved disciple and the holy women, who, at the foot of the cross, are striving to stem the grief of Christ's inseparable mother. Later Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take the body of herdivine Son from the cross, and deposit it in her arms.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. 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.

**+ XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE
SEPULCHRE**

The body of her dearly beloved Son is taken from His mother and laid in the tomb. The tomb is closed, and the lifeless body remains there.

V. I adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Our Father, Hail, Mary, Glory be.

By the cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and
pray, Is all I ask of thee to give.