



### ***THE WAY OF THE CROSS 2020***

**+ "In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen"**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

##### **Minister:**

God of power and mercy, in love you sent your Son that we might be cleansed of sin and live with you forever.

Bless us as we gather to reflect on his suffering and death that we may learn from his example the way we should go.

We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

##### **All:**

Amen.

(Prayers written by fifteen young people between the ages of 16 and 27.)

### **First Station Jesus is condemned to death**

#### ***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

#### ***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Minister:***

From the Gospel according to Luke

A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him. But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and handed Jesus over as they wished (Lk 23: 22-25).

### **Silent reflection**

#### **Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, keep watch over our decisions, bring them clarity by your light, and lead us to ask the right questions.

Trees that sink their roots in the ground, wither, if watered by evil, but you have set our roots in heaven, and our branches on earth, to know and follow you.

#### ***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Second Station  
Jesus takes up his Cross**

***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Minister:***

From the Gospel according to Mark

[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it (Mk 8:34-35)

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, that in the light of the cross, the symbol of our faith, we may accept our sufferings and, enlightened by your love, embrace our own crosses, made glorious by your death and resurrection.

Give us the grace to look back on the story of our lives and to rediscover in them your love for us.

***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Third Station  
Jesus falls for the first time**

***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Minister:***

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted (Is 53:4).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, give us young people the courage to get up after every fall, as you did on the way to Calvary. Grant that we may always appreciate the great and precious gift of life, and that our failures and falls may never be a reason for throwing it away. We know that if we trust in you, we will be able to get up again and find the strength to keep going, always.

***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Fourth Station**  
**Jesus meets his Mother**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the Gospel according to Luke

Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Lk 2:34-35)

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord: help us always to keep before our eyes the example of Mary, who accepted the death of her son as a great mystery of salvation.

Help us to act with our gaze fixed on the good of others and to die in the hope of the resurrection, conscious that we are never alone or abandoned by God or Mary, the loving mother ever concerned for her children.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Fifth Station**  
**Simon the Cyrenean helps Jesus to carry the cross**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the Gospel according to Luke

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus (Lk 23:26).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, to give each of us the courage to be like Simone of Cyrene, who takes up your cross and follows in your steps.

May each of us be sufficiently humble and strong to take up the crosses of those whom we meet.

Grant that, when we feel alone, we may recognize on our journey a Simon of Cyrene who will halt and help bear our burden.

Grant that we may see the best in every person, and be open to all different kinds of encounter.

I ask that each of us may unexpectedly find himself or herself walking at your side.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Sixth Station**  
**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account (Is 53:2-3).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Jesus, grant me the strength to approach others, to approach every person, young or old, poor or rich, friends or strangers, and to see your face in all those faces.

Help me never to hesitate in coming to the aid of my neighbor, in whom you dwell, even as Veronica came to help you on the way to Calvary.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Seventh Station**  
**Jesus falls for the second time**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people... Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain (Is 53:8.10)

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, grant that we may be ready to get up after falling, that we may learn from our failures.

Remind us that, when it is our turn to make mistakes and fall, if we but stay with you, and hold fast to your hand, we can learn to get up again.

Grant that we young people may bring to everyone your message of humility, that future generations may open their eyes to you and learn to understand your love.

Teach us to help those who suffer and fall beside us, to wipe away their sweat, and to stretch out a hand to lift them up.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Eighth Station**  
**Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the Gospel according to Luke

A number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Lk 23:27-31)

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, grant that, together with the women and men of this world, I may become ever more charitable towards those in need, even as you were.

Give all of us the strength to go against the grain and to enter into authentic contact with others, building bridges and not enclosing ourselves in the selfishness that leads us to the solitude of sin.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Ninth Station**  
**Jesus falls for the third time**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Is 53:5-6).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, grant us every day the courage to go forward on our journey.

Grant that we may receive to the very end the hope and the love that you have given us.

May everyone confront the challenges of life with the strength and the fidelity which were yours in the final moments of your journey to death on the cross.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Tenth Station**  
**Jesus is stripped of his garments**

***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Minister:***

From the Gospel according to John

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top (Jn 19:23).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, grant that all of us may acknowledge the dignity belonging to our nature, even when we find ourselves naked and alone before others.

Grant that we may always see the dignity of others, respect it and defend it.

We ask you to grant us the courage needed to understand ourselves as more than the clothing we wear, and to accept our own nakedness.

It reminds us of our poverty, with which you fell in love, even to giving your life for us.

***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Eleventh Station**  
**Jesus is nailed to the Cross**

***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Minister:***

From the Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:33-34).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, that in the face of good I may be ready to recognize it, that in the face of injustice I may find the courage to take my life in my hands and to act differently.

Grant that I may be set free from all the fears that, like nails, immobilize me and keep me far from the life you have desired and prepared for us.

***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Twelfth Station**  
**Jesus dies on the Cross**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent" (Lk 23:44-47).

**(Kneel) Silent reflection**

**(Stand) Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, open my eyes to see you also in suffering, in death in the ending which is not the real ending.

Upset my complacency by your cross: shake off my drowsiness.

Challenge me always by your disturbing mystery, that overcomes death and grants life.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Thirteenth Station**  
**Jesus is taken down from the cross**

**Minister:**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Minister:**

From the Gospel according to John

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews (Jn 19:38-40).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, keep hope ever alive in us, and faith in your unconditional love.

Grant that we may continue, our hearts inflamed, to fix our gaze on eternal salvation, and thus find refreshment and peace on our journey.

**All:**

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**Fourteenth Station  
Jesus is laid in the tomb**

***Minister:***

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

***All:***

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Minister:***

From the Gospel according to John

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there (Jn 19:41-42).

**Silent reflection**

**Prayer:**

I ask you, Lord, who revealed yourself not in glory but in the quiet of a dark night.

You who see not the surface, but in secret, entering into the depths.

From the depths, hear our voice: grant that, in our weariness, we may find rest in you, seeing in you our nature, and in the love of your sleeping face, the beauty we have lost.

***All:***

Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

**CONCLUSION:**

**Minister:**

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you.

May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

**All:**

Amen.