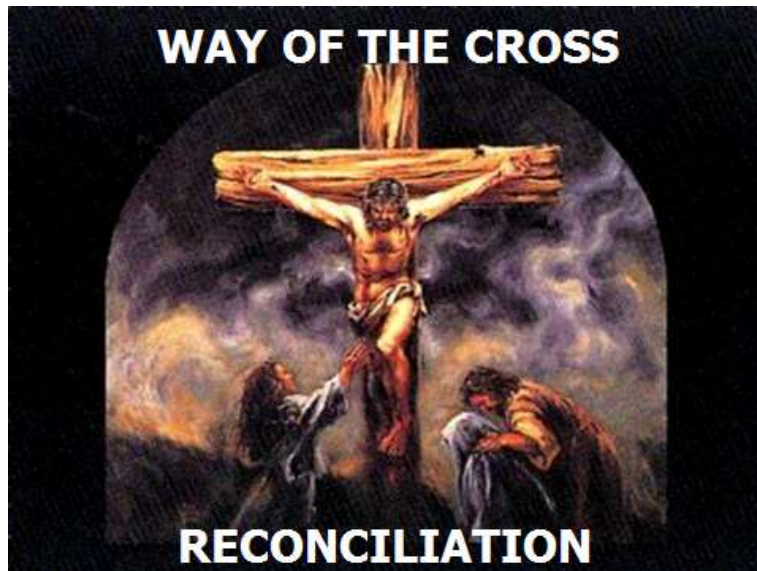


WAY OF THE CROSS – RECONCILIATION



(Stand)

Leader: Today, the Way of the Cross is focusing on RECONCILIATION. In each station, Jesus suffered for our sins that hurt Him. With a repented heart, let us ask Jesus for forgiveness as we journey with Him in the Way of the Cross.

HYMN – VICTORY

O Cross, reign victorious!
O Cross! Thou wilt redeem us
For all who yearn to see
Give light, let darkness cease
True source of liberty
O Cross, God's seal of peace.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

All: "O God, You willed Your Son to undergo for us the humiliation of the Cross to deliver us from the power of evil. We pray, You fill our hearts with love for Christ and sorrow for our sins, and grant that we may gain the grace of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord and Saviour." Amen.

FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death

Leader: Why do they condemn Jesus?

He wants to change everything:

He blesses the poor;

He is a friend to sinners;

He does not respect money and power;

He asks everyone to repent and change their ways...

He disturbs everybody...

It is easier to get rid of Him than to change oneself.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, convert us :

Help us to be at least willing to change our ways.

Help us to repent and be converted.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

This is My Commandment

Love one another as I have loved you

Charity is mild, charity thinks no evil

Charity can hope to the end.

SECOND STATION: Jesus carries the Cross

Leader: What is the Cross?

No man looks for it.

On the contrary, we do all we can to escape from it...

Yet it is one of the basic values of our faith:

“If anyone wants to be a follower of Mine, let him

renounce himself

and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Mark 8:34).

The Cross is the sign of the Christian!



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, we are afraid of the cross. Help us to be generous enough to accept it, as You did, to save the world!

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE STRENGTH

God gives His people strength

If we believe in His way,

He's swift to repay

All those who bear the burden of the day,

God gives His people strength.

THIRD STATION: Jesus falls the first time

Leader: We fail... We fall...

We would like to change, but we are too comfortable in our ways – and we like them – “I am like that” – and so we stop repenting. What a difference with our Lord! As soon as He falls down, He gets up again. He does not give up.



(kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, give us light... so that we may see ourselves as we really are. Give us the courage to change, with Your help, what ought to be changed within us.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – GOD OF MERCY

**God of mercy and compassion
Look with pity upon me!
Father! Let me call Thee "Father"
'Tis Thy Child returns to Thee**

CHORUS

**Jesus! Lord! I ask for mercy
Let me not implore in vain!
All my sins I now detest them,
Help me not sin again.**

FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets His Mother

Leader: There was never a greater union or communion than the one between Jesus and His mother. Sometimes their thoughts ran on quite different lines, as happened at the marriage at Cana or when Mary found her young Son in the Temple, but never do we find any sign of anger, impatience or rejection between them.



(kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: What an example, Lord, You and Your mother give us! Jesus, Mary, help us to remain one in mind, in spite of our differences in age, education, and our ways of thinking.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing

All His bitter anguish bearing

Now at length the sword has passed.

FIFTH STATION: Simon helps Jesus to carry the Cross

Leader: Co-operation is also one of the basic Christian values.
Christ made the Way of the Cross for us... and He still makes it with us.
Do we co-operate with Him, as Simon did? Do we really do our share in bringing salvation to people around us?

(Kneel)



Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, help us to hear the call of John the Baptist: "Repent! Change your ways!"... so that we really share with You that act of love which reunited men with God and with one another.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – GOD IS LOVE

**Love it was that made us
And it was love that saved us
Love was God's plan when He made men
God's divine nature is love
Born of God's love we must love Him
That's why He made us: to love Him**

**But only when we love all men
Can we partake of God's love.] X2**

SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Leader: Veronica is a woman who goes out of her way to show sympathy to one who is sentenced to death. It may be that there are people around us who are rejected... hopeless, drunkards, drug addicts, beggars.

Shall we take the opportunities which are offered to us by going out of our way to do something for them?



(kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, it is not easy to go against the tide... yet, it could be that some of those we consider to be "hopeless cases" are mere victims of prejudice and bad backgrounds than personally guilty.

Give us the courage to try at least to approach and understand them.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

**This is My commandment
Love one another as I have loved you
Charity is meek,
Charity seeks not its own,
Charity has faith to the end.**

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls the second time

**Leader: We follow the crowd and accept popular prejudices without thinking.
We are tied down by what people may say and by our self-centredness.
And so we refuse to try and take on ourselves the mind of Jesus Christ Who accepted to be treated unjustly for the salvation of sinners.**



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: By the humiliation of Your second fall, open our eyes and give us the sense of sin.
Make us realize the harm done by sin to God, to others and to ourselves, because we will never repent if we remain blind to our guilt and self complacency.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

**Deep in Thy Sacred Heart, let me abide
Thou that hast bled for me, sorrowed and died
Sweet shall my weeping be
Grief surely leading me
Nearer, my God to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.**

EIGHTH STATION: The women of Jerusalem mourn for our Lord

Leader: To weep may be a sign of repentance, we weep because we fail to be reconciled with our neighbour.
But weeping is of no value if we only weep through self-pity and without doing anything to improve ourselves. Feelings of guilt and remorse should lead us to effective contrition.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, once again we pray to You for the courage to repent and to change. Let us not simply moan and do nothing. Let the experience of our past sins teach us to rely on God's grace and be aware of our weakness.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – WE STAND FOR GOD

**We stand for God and for His glory
The Lord supreme and God of all
Against His foes we raise His standard
Around His Cross we hear His call.**

NINTH STATION: Jesus falls the third time

Leader: If somebody fails us once, we may excuse him.
If he fails us the second time, we become impatient.
But if he fails us the third time, we are likely to wash our hands off him.
“He can't be relied on,” we say.
Yet, when we ourselves let someone down, it is very different.
We always seem to have good reasons: which explain and excuse everything.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, through this meditation on Your third fall, help us to be patient with others, and not so ready to find excuses for ourselves.
We remember Your words: “The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given.”

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN - VICTORY

**O Cross, reign Victorious!
O Cross! Thou wilt redeem us
Renew our strength and valour
Uplift the downcast man
Prize hope in life's dark hour
The deathless Life the span.**

TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Leader: We put our trust in the things which we can see and touch first of all, and only afterwards in God. We want to feel safe and protected. We rely more on a solid bank-account and on knowing the right people than we do on God. Yet You, O Lord, allow Yourself to be stripped of everything. You were never anxious to do the Father's will.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, help us to know and love what is essential – the building up of Your Kingdom... and teach us to rid ourselves of all that does not lead to You and Your Kingdom.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – AT THE CROSS HER STATION KEEPING

**Christ, when Thou shall call me hence
Be Thy Mother my defense
Be Thy Cross my victory.**

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Leader: Jesus has walked on earth doing good,
announcing the Kingdom, forgiving sins
and curing the sick.

Those days of activity are behind Him
now.

On the cross He can move neither hand
nor foot.

Yet it is now above all that He is perfecting the work of reconciling men with God and
one another.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, when we suffer and can do little or nothing for ourselves and for others,
may we remember that we are hanging with You on the cross,
sharing in Your power of making all men one with the Father and each other.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – YES I SHALL ARISE

Yes, I shall arise
and return to my Father!
Look down on me,
have mercy O Lord;
Forgive me my sins,
behold all my grief.

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the Cross

Leader: Unless the grain of wheat is buried in the earth, it will remain what it is – a single, unimportant little grain of wheat.

But if it is buried, it changes and grows into a new life and comes to bear many grains of wheat.

We believe through our faith in Jesus that we go from this life to a richer and a happier life without end.

But still we are afraid of losing our grip on this material life.

To give us the courage we need to make this sacrifice with love, Jesus has gone before us to show us the way.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, You consented to lose Your life so that we may gain eternal life. Your death on the Cross teaches us that we have to die to sin and selfishness in order to bear fruits of holiness and salvation.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – O CROSS ERECTED ABOVE THE WORLD

O Cross, erected above the world
Cross of our Saviour King!
Fount from which gushed the waters
Straight from the wound in His side
Filling our lives with His gift of grace
Cross of our Saviour King!
O Cross, erected above the world
Cross of our Saviour King!

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Leader: The struggle between life and death is over for Jesus.
He is beyond the reach of His enemies and their power to inflict pain.
But they are not at peace, because they have shed innocent blood, and they will have to give an account of their life to God.
They will not be at peace until they are reconciled with God their Father, and with their fellowmen.



(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord Jesus, You give us Your peace.
May we understand that we can only share in Your peace and bring Your peace to the world if we set aside selfishness and learn to love as You love.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT

This is My commandment:

Love one another as I have loved you

Charity is kind,

Charity feels no envy,

Charity bears up to the end.

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb

**Leader: The enemies of Jesus appear to have won.
Jesus is laid in a tomb: His friends are hiding,
afraid they will be arrested.
But this victory is a victory only in appearance.
God has a surprise in store of the enemies and
for the friends of Jesus:
The Cross will become a Sign of Victory.**



**Does it seem more important to us to be well-to-do, popular and influential, than to
be faithful to Jesus and to His commandment to love one another as He has loved us?**

(Kneel)

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

All: Lord, we end as we began – by asking with insistence: "convert us: change our ways"
without Your loving help we will never be able to accept the fact that the only way to
Your glorious, risen life is through the cross and death of self.

(Pause and reflect)

(Stand)

HYMN – NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

**Nearer, my God, To Thee,
Nearer to Thee;
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer my God, to Thee
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.**

Conclusion

Leader: As we come to the end of the way of the cross, let's be truly sorry for our sins. Please pause a moment and ask God for forgiveness.

(Pause)

All: We entreat You, O Lord, that Your people who have devoutly commemorated the passion and death of Your Son may receive Your abundant blessing and consolation. May they increase in holy Faith and ever draw strength from Your redemption through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray for the Holy Father's intentions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be (one each)

FINAL HYMN – O CROSS ERECTED ABOVE THE WORLD (V1 & 4)

O Cross erected above the world, cross of our Saviour King!

Fount from which gushed the waters, straight from the wound in his side, filling our lives with his gift of grace, Cross of our Saviour King!

O Cross erected above the world, cross of our Saviour King!

O Cross, all honour and praise to Thee Cross of our Saviour King!

Thou art the sign of vict'ry Sign of redemption and life;

Homage and glory belong to Thee Cross of our Saviour King!

O Cross, all honour and praise to Thee Cross of our Saviour King!

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.