

THE WAY OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

Guide me, O thou great redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty, Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer; Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Dear Lord, as we accompany you on this Way of the Cross, deepen our love for you and our faith in your love for us. Let not our devotion be empty or lukewarm but heartfelt and spirit-filled, so as to make us each day more nearly what you would have us be. Lead us,

Lord, and guide us, lest we lose our way, for without you we will surely be lost.
Amen.

1st Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus was taken in chains to Pilate. The chief priests were accusing Jesus of many things, so Pilate questioned him. ‘Aren’t you going to answer?’ he said. ‘Listen to all their accusations.’ Jesus refused to say a word and Pilate was amazed. Pilate spoke to the crowd. ‘What do you want me to do with this one you call King of the Jews?’ They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’ ‘But what crime has he committed?’ Pilate asked. They shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify him!’ Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified. (Mark 15:1-5, 11-15)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those on trial this week and for those appointed to judge them:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

2nd Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The soldiers took Jesus inside, to the courtyard of the governor's palace and called together the rest of the company. They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorn branches, and put it on his head. Then they began to salute him: 'Long live the King of the Jews.' They beat him over the head with a stick, spat on him, fell on their knees and bowed to him. When they had finished mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those appointed to keep public order, and for those tempted to abuse their power:

God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

3rd Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Who would have believed what we now tell? Who could have seen God's hand in this? (Isaiah 53:1)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those who are tired or in pain:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

4th Station: Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, 'This child is chosen by God for the destruction and salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart. (Luke 2:22,25,34,35)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For parents whose children are in pain or in trouble:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

5th Station: Simon Helps Jesus To Carry His Cross

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

On their way through Jerusalem they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Mark 15:21)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For a willingness to serve you, in friends and in strangers:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

6th Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you received me into your home, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. Whenever you did this – you did it to me. (Matthew 25:35-36,40)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those whose faces we wipe and for those who wipe away our tears:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

7th Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Ill-treated and afflicted, he never said a word. Like a lamb led to the slaughter house, like a sheep dumb before its shearers, he never opened his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those who today will struggle and fall:

God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

A large crowd of people followed Jesus; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, 'Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me, but for yourselves and for your children.' (Luke 23:27,28)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those who live in places of conflict and danger; for peacemakers and peacekeepers in every land:

God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

9th Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God; but because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those whom I love, for those whom I struggle to love, for those who find me difficult:

God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

10th Station: Jesus is Stripped of his Clothes

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. They tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothing among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get each piece of clothing. (Mark 15:22-24)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For those deserted by friends, for those who are alone and vulnerable:

God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

11th Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him; the people stayed there watching him, the leaders jeered at him and the soldiers mocked him. Some women, his friends from Galilee, looked on at a distance. (Luke 23:35,49)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For the depth of your love for us, we thank you:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock. And the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father in your hands I place my spirit.' He said this and died. (Luke 23:44-46)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For all who have died today, for all who love them and will miss them:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

13th Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

And when evening came, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph took the body down and wrapped it in a linen sheet (Mark 15:42-46)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For our families and friends who have died, for ourselves as we carry their stories:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

14th Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Joseph placed the body in a tomb which had been dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body of Jesus was placed.
(Mark 15:46-47)

SILENT REFLECTION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

For all who are waiting. For all who are longing for light:
God in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Sing: *This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

15th Station: The Resurrection of the Lord

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

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to anoint the body of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they said to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' It was a very large stone. Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they entered the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting on the right wearing a white robe, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised. Look! Here is the place where they put him. Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: He is going to Galilee ahead of you. There you will see Him, just as he told you.' (Mark 16:1-7)

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love. It is truly right and just, to acclaim you, O Lord, for Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. He is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Therefore, overcome with Easter joy, we join with angels and saints as we joyfully sing:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee.
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever living through eternity.
Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity.
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!