

**FIRST STATION**  
*Jesus is condemned to death*

Lord,  
how easy it is to condemn!  
How easy to throw stones:  
the stones of judgement and slander,  
the stones of indifference and neglect!

Lord, you chose to stand  
on the losing side,  
on the side of the ignominious and the condemned!

Help us never to cause pain  
to our vulnerable brothers and sisters.  
Help us to take a courageous stand  
in defense of the weak.  
Help us to reject the water of Pilate,  
which does not cleanse our hands  
but sullies them with innocent blood.

**SECOND STATION**  
*Jesus takes up his Cross*

Lord Jesus,  
you entered human history  
and found it hostile to you, defiant towards God,  
maddened by the pride  
which leads us to think  
that we stand as tall  
.... as our shadow!

Lord Jesus,  
you did not attack us,  
but let yourself be attacked by us,  
by me, by everyone!

Heal me, Jesus, by your patience,  
cure me by your humility,  
cut me down to my rightful size,  
that of a creature, a tiny creature  
... yet the object of your infinite love!

**THIRD STATION**  
*Jesus falls for the first time*

Lord,  
we have lost our sense of sin!  
Today a slick campaign of propaganda  
is spreading an inane apologia of evil,  
a senseless cult of Satan,  
a mindless desire for transgression,  
a dishonest and frivolous freedom,  
exalting impulsiveness, immorality and selfishness  
as if they were new heights of sophistication.

Lord Jesus,  
open our eyes:  
let us see the filth around us  
and recognize it for what it is,  
so that a single tear of sorrow  
can restore us to purity of heart  
and the breadth of true freedom.  
Open our eyes,  
Lord, Jesus!

**FOURTH STATION**  
*Jesus meets his Mother*

Lord Jesus,  
we all need a Mother!  
We need a love  
that is faithful and true.  
We need a love  
that never wavers,  
a love that is a sure refuge  
at times of fear,  
at times of pain and trial.

Lord Jesus,  
we need women:  
wives and mothers  
who can restore to our world  
the fair face of humanity.

Lord Jesus,  
we need Mary:  
the woman, the wife and the mother,  
who never cheapens or refuses love!

Lord Jesus, we pray to you  
for all the women of the world!

### FIFTH STATION

*Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrene to carry his Cross*

Lord Jesus,  
 love is fading away,  
 and our world is becoming cold,  
 inhospitable, intolerable.  
 Shatter the chains that hold us back  
 from reaching out to others.  
 Help us, through love, to find ourselves.

Lord Jesus,  
 our affluence is making us less human,  
 our entertainment has become a drug, a source of alienation,  
 and our society's incessant, tedious message  
 is an invitation to die of selfishness.

Lord Jesus,  
 rekindle within us the spark of humanity  
 that God placed in our hearts at the dawn of creation.  
 Free us from our decadent narcissism,  
 and we will find new joy in life  
 and burst into joyful song.

### SIXTH STATION

*Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*

Lord Jesus,  
 a single step  
 and the world could change!

A single step,  
 and peace could return to families,  
 a single step,  
 and the needy would no longer be alone;  
 a single step,  
 and the suffering could feel a hand  
 reaching out to take their hand  
 ... and bring healing to both.

A single step,  
 and the poor could find a place at table,  
 lifting the sadness haunting the tables of the selfish,  
 who find no joy in feasting alone.

Lord Jesus,  
 a single step is all it would take!

Help us to take that step,  
 for our world is slowly depleting  
 all its store of joy.  
 Help us, Lord!

**SEVENTH STATION**  
*Jesus falls for the second time*

Lord Jesus,  
 the family is one of God's dreams  
 entrusted to humanity;  
 the family is a spark from Heaven  
 shared with all mankind:  
 the family is the cradle where we were born  
 and are constantly reborn in love.

Lord Jesus, enter our homes  
 and lead us in the song of life.  
 Rekindle the lamp of love  
 and make us feel the beauty  
 of being bound to one another  
 in an embrace of life:  
 a life warmed by God's own breath,  
 the breath of the God who is Love.

Lord Jesus,  
 save the family,  
 and save life itself!

Lord Jesus,  
 save my own family,  
 save our families!

**EIGHTH STATION**  
*Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

Lord Jesus,  
 you know well the tears of every mother,  
 you see in every home the corner of pain,  
 you hear the silent cry  
 of the many mothers hurt by their children:  
 bearing deadly wounds ... yet still alive!

Lord Jesus,  
 dissolve the clots of callousness  
 that prevent love from circulating  
 in the arteries of our families.  
 Make us, once again, conscious of being children,  
 so that we can give our mothers

– on earth and in heaven –  
 pride in having borne us,  
 and joy in blessing  
 the day of our birth.

Lord Jesus,  
 wipe away the tears of all mothers,  
 so that a smile may return to their children's faces,  
 to the faces of all.

**NINTH STATION**  
*Jesus falls for the third time*

Lord Jesus,  
 those who live to hoard riches  
 are the very ones you have called fools!

Yes, those who think they own anything  
 are really fools,  
 since there is but one Owner  
 of the world.

Lord Jesus,  
 the world is yours and yours alone.  
 Yet you have given it to everyone  
 so that the earth can become a home  
 where all find nourishment and shelter.

So hoarding riches is robbery,  
 if their useless accumulation  
 prevents others from living.

Lord Jesus,  
 put an end to the scandal  
 that divides the world  
 into castles and slums.  
 Lord, teach us once more the meaning of brotherhood!

**TENTH STATION**  
*Jesus is stripped of his garments*

Lord Jesus,  
 purity has everywhere fallen victim  
 to a calculated conspiracy of silence: an impure silence!  
 People have even come to believe  
 a complete lie:  
 that purity is somehow the enemy of love.

But the opposite is true, O Lord!  
 Purity is necessary  
 as a condition for love:  
 a love that is true, a love that is faithful.

In any event, Lord,  
 if we cannot be the master of ourselves?  
 how can we give ourselves to others?

Only the pure are capable of love;  
 only the pure can love without cheapening love.

Lord Jesus,  
 by the power of your blood poured out in love,  
 grant us pure hearts,  
 so that our world may see a rebirth of love,  
 that love for which our hearts so deeply yearn.

**ELEVENTH STATION**  
*Jesus is nailed to the Cross*

Jesus, Crucified Lord,  
 everyone else can deceive us,  
 abandon us, delude us:  
 you alone will never delude us!  
 You let our hands  
 nail you brutally to the cross,  
 as a way of telling us that your love is true,  
 sincere, faithful and irrevocable.

Jesus, Crucified Lord,  
 our eyes look upon your hands pierced with nails,  
 yet still capable of granting true freedom;  
 they look upon your feet, nailed to the cross,  
 yet still capable of walking  
 and making others walk.

Jesus, Crucified Lord,  
 The illusion of a happiness apart from God  
 is dead.  
 Let us return to you,  
 our sole hope and freedom,  
 our sole joy and truth:  
 Jesus, Crucified Lord,  
 be merciful to us sinners!

**TWELFTH STATION**  
*Jesus dies on the Cross*

Lord Jesus,  
in the silence of this evening, your voice is heard:  
*"I thirst! I thirst for your love!"*.

In the silence of this night, your prayer is heard:  
*"Father, forgive them! Father, forgive them!"*.

In the silence of history, your cry is heard:  
*"It is finished"*.

What is finished?  
*"I have given you everything, I have told you everything,  
I brought you the most beautiful message of all:  
God is love! God loves you!"*.

In the silence of the heart, we can feel the caress  
of your final gift:  
*"Behold, your mother: my mother!"*.

Thank you Jesus, for giving Mary  
the mission of reminding us each day  
that the meaning of everything is to be found in love:  
the Love of God planted in the world  
like a cross!  
Thank you, Jesus!

**THIRTEENTH STATION**  
*Jesus is taken down from the Cross and given to his Mother*

O Mary,  
in your Son you embrace every son and daughter,  
and share in the anguish of every mother throughout the world.

O Mary,  
your tears continue to fall in every age;  
they bathe the faces  
and mirror the grief of every man and woman.

O Mary,  
you have known sorrow ... yet you still believe!  
You believe that clouds do not darken the sun,  
you believe that night gives way to dawn.

O Mary,  
you who sang the Magnificat,

lead us in the song that conquers sorrow  
like the birth pangs that bring forth new life.

O Mary,  
pray for us!  
Pray that we too may experience  
the infectious power of true hope.

**FOURTEENTH STATION**  
*Jesus is laid in the tomb*

Lord Jesus,  
Good Friday is the day of darkness,  
the day of blind hatred,  
the day when the Just One was put to death!  
But Good Friday is not the final word:  
the final word is Easter,  
the triumph of Life,  
the victory of Good over Evil.

Lord Jesus,  
Holy Saturday is the day of emptiness,  
the day of bewilderment and dread,  
the day when everything seems over!

But Holy Saturday is not the final day,  
the final day is Easter,  
the Light that is kindled anew,  
the Love that conquers all hatred.

Lord Jesus,  
whenever we experience our own Good Friday,  
and we feel the anguish of Holy Saturday,  
give us Mary's unwavering faith,  
so that we can believe in the reality of Easter;  
give us her clear-sighted gaze  
so that we can see the brilliant dawn  
that announces the final day of history:  
*"new heavens and a new earth"*<sup>[4]</sup>  
already present in you,  
Jesus, Crucified and Risen. Amen!

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