

✝ Bearing the Cross Today

Opening Prayer

We gather to commemorate your suffering
on that last day in Jerusalem
so that it will not have been in vain.
You faced your death
with great courage and acceptance
and we want to learn from that.

Station Introduction

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

**All: Because by your holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.**

❶ Jesus is Condemned to Death

- 1: Christ Jesus, give us the strength and courage
to speak out and act against injustice.
 - 2: Jesus, help us to stand firm for peace and
compassion when fear, hatred, or rage
threatens to sweep us away.
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❷ Jesus Takes Up His Cross

- 1: Christ Jesus, forgive us for laying crosses
on the shoulders of other people.
 - 2: Lord Jesus, give us the strength
to bear our own crosses. Help us to know
your presence with us in our pain.
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❸ Jesus Falls for the First Time

- 1: Christ Jesus, we, too, sometimes falter
under the weight of the crosses we must bear.
When we do fall,
give us the strength to rise up again.
 - 2: Jesus, help us to know that you never abandon us,
even when we fall under the weight
of the crosses we must bear.
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❹ Jesus Meets His Mother

- 1: Mary, teach us to stand as a witness to the
suffering of others,
so that they know they are not alone.
 - 2: Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
teach us your compassion and love
for all those who are suffering.
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❺ Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

- 1: Everyone in this world has a cross to bear,
visible or invisible. Help us to be more aware
of those carrying heavy burdens
so that we may help them on their road.
 - 2: Jesus, may we be witnesses
of compassion and mercy
as we share the burdens of others.
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❻ Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

- 1: Thank you, Lord, for all the people who have not
been afraid to be near me in my times of suffering
and have helped to ease my pain.
 - 2: Help me, Lord, to recognize your face
in the faces of all those
who are suffering and in anguish.
Grant me the courage to reach out to them.
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❼ Jesus Falls for the Second Time

- 1: Jesus, you know the pain of people who are still
being tortured today. May we do everything in
our power to intervene.
- 2: Jesus, help us to see and respond to
those experiencing great suffering
so that in responding to them we respond to you.

8 Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

- 1: Give us the courage, Lord,
to speak out against injustice
and to stand by the suffering victims.
- 2: Lord, let us never become so hardened
that we are not moved in
the face of another person's pain.

9 Jesus Falls for the Third Time

- 1: Jesus, grant that we may provide strength
for others who have fallen.
- 2: Jesus, grant us the strength to rise up
and continue on our paths when we have fallen.

10 Jesus is Stripped of his Garments

- 1: Jesus, open our eyes to how you are being
stripped of your dignity even now when the least
of your brothers and sisters are stripped of theirs.
- 2: Lord Jesus, help us to see how we contribute to
your passion by causing others to suffer.
Grant us the courage and the integrity
to change our ways.

11 Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

- 1: Jesus, grant that we may never grow callous
to your suffering in this world today.
- 2: Jesus, give us the strength to stand with those
who are in pain so that they may know
at least the comfort of our presence.

12 Jesus Dies on the Cross

- 1: God, help us to know your presence with us,
even in our times of deepest darkness.
- 2: Jesus, give us the strength to go on,
even in our times of deepest despair.

13 Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

- 1: Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
thank you for your faithfulness.
- 2: Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
give us courage and fortitude
in the face of unspeakable pain.

14 Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

- 1: God of life and God of death,
let us know your presence
when we feel that life will never be able to
come out of death.
- 2: God of life and God of death,
give us hope and trust in the resurrection,
even in our darkest moments.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, help us to see your face
in the lives of those who are struggling.

May we always look to you for strength
as we endure our own trials.

We ask that you grant us trust
that suffering and death
will not have the last word
because of your death and resurrection.

We pray this all in your name.

Amen.