

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WITH PRAYERFUL REFLECTIONS ON EACH STATION BY

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Our Lady of Lourdes, weekly commemoration of the Stations of the Cross is centred on reflections and prayers composed for the occasion by St. John Henry Newman (1801-1890). Including brief meditations accompanied by traditional, 19th-Century spirituals, our *Way of the Cross* is a devotional "work-in-progress" that will inspire you from week to week.

Presider: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: As we move through these fourteen Stations of the Cross, let us become aware of Christ's suffering, his pain, and his love for us. And so as we begin our pilgrim journey, let us look inward, calling to mind our faults, our failings, and those times in our lives when we neglected to feel the love of God, that dwells within the depths our hearts. Let us call to mind our sins.

Choir: (sings) You were sent to heal the contrite of heart. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Choir: You came to call sinners. Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Choir: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Presider: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Lector: We will glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

All: In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Almighty and Ever-living God, through the Passion of your beloved Son, you reveal to us your heart and shower your mercy on all your children. With Mary, his Mother and ours, and all your saints, we bring you these prayers. We raise them for ourselves and for all humanity, so that the grace of this Way of the Cross might reach every human heart, and fill us with that unflinching hope in your promise of life and immortality. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to first station:

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Presider: FIRST STATION: Jesus Is Condemned to Death. (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (pause) As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation. They bound Jesus, delivered him to Pilate, and persuaded the crowds to ask for Jesus to be killed. Pilate said to the crowd, "What should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. [*Matthew 27: 20-26*]

Presider: The Holy, Just, and True was judged by sinners, and put to death. Yet, while they judged, they were compelled to acquit him. Judas, who betrayed him, said, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Pilate, who sentenced him, said, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person," and threw the guilt upon the Jews. The Centurion who saw him crucified said, "Indeed this *was* a just man." [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) "God did not spare his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Thus ever, O Lord, You are justified in your words, and you overcome when You are judged. And so, "They shall *look* on him whom they pierced," and he who was condemned in weakness shall judge the world in power. And even those who are condemned will confess that their judgment is just. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station:

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Presider: SECOND STATION: Jesus Bears His Cross. (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (pause) The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him. They mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. [*Matthew 27: 27-31*]

Presider: Jesus supports the whole world by His divine power, for He is God; but the weight was less heavy than was the Cross which our sins hewed out for Him. Our sins cost Him this humiliation. He had to take on Him our nature, to appear among us as a man, and to offer up for us a great sacrifice. He had to pass a life in penance, and to endure His passion and death at the end of it. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation (pause) "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all; for the transgression of my people he was stricken."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O Lord God Almighty, who must bear the weight of the whole world without weariness, who bore the weight of all our sins, though they wearied you, as you are the Preserver of our bodies by your Divine Providence, so be the Saviour of our souls by your precious blood. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station:

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Presider: THIRD STATION: Jesus Falls Under the Weight of His Cross, the First Time. (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. (pause) Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. And because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. [*Hebrews 2: 17-18*]

Presider: Satan fell from heaven in the beginning; by the just sentence of his Creator he fell, against whom he had rebelled. And when he had succeeded in gaining man to join him in his rebellion, and his Maker came to save him, then his brief hour of triumph came, and he made the most of it. When the Holiest had taken flesh, and was in his power, then in his revenge and malice he determined, as he himself had been struck down by the Almighty Arm, to strike in turn a heavy blow at Him who struck him. Therefore it was that Jesus fell down so suddenly. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation (pause) “Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright. Dear Lord, by this your first fall raise us all out of sin, who have so miserably fallen under its power. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: FOURTH STATION: Jesus Meets His Mother. (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke. (pause) Then Simeon blessed them and said to the Blessed Mother, “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. [*Luke 2: 34-35*]

Presider: There is no part of the history of Jesus but Mary has her part in it. There are those who profess to be his servants, who think that her work was ended when she bore Him, and after that she had nothing to do but disappear and be forgotten. But we, O Lord, your children of the Catholic Church, do not so think of your Mother. She brought the tender infant into the Temple, she lifted Him up in her arms when the wise men came to adore Him. She fled with Him to Egypt, she took Him up to Jerusalem when He was twelve years old. He lived with her at Nazareth for thirty years. She was with Him at the Wedding at Cana. Even when He had left her to preach, she hovered about Him. And now she shows herself as He toils along the Sacred Way with his cross on his shoulders. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “A sword will pierce your own soul, also, and fill your heart with bitter pain.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Sweet Mother, God willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce your soul, let us ever think of you when we think of Jesus. And when we pray to Him, ever aid us by your powerful intercession.

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross. (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke. (pause) As they led Jesus 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. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” [Luke 23: 26]

Presider: Jesus could bear his Cross alone, did He so will; but He permits Simon to help Him, in order to remind us that we must take part in his sufferings, and have a fellowship in his work. His merit is infinite, yet He condescends to let his people add their merit to it. The sanctity of the Blessed Virgin, the blood of the Martyrs, the prayers and penances of the Saints, the good deeds of all the faithful, take part in that work which, nevertheless, is perfect without them. He saves us by his blood, but it is through and with ourselves that He saves us. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “Whoever does not bear their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. **[Song]**

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Dear Lord, teach us to suffer with You, make it pleasant to us to suffer for your sake, and sanctify all our sufferings by the merits of your own. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: SIXTH STATION: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew. (pause) The king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you in the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ [Matthew 25: 34-40]

Presider: Jesus let the pious woman carry off an impression of His Sacred Countenance, which was to last to future ages. He did this to remind us all, that his image must ever be impressed on all our hearts. Whoever we are, in whatever part of the earth, in whatever age of the world, Jesus must live in our hearts. We may differ from each other in many things, but in *this* we must all agree, if we are his true children. We must bear about with us the kerchief of St. Veronica; we must ever meditate upon his death and resurrection, we must ever imitate his divine excellence, according to our measure. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts; Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. **[Song]**

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Dear God, through the passion of your only-begotten Son, grant that we, too, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. Lord, let our countenances be ever pleasing in your sight, not defiled with sin, but bathed and washed white in your Precious Blood. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Falls a Second Time (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. (pause) We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. [Isaiah 53: 4-5]

Presider: Satan had a second fall, when our Lord came upon the earth. By that time he had usurped the dominion of the whole world, and he called himself its king. And he dared to take up the Holy Saviour in his arms, and show Him all kingdoms, and blasphemously promised to give them to Him, his Maker, if he would adore him. Jesus answered, "Be gone, Satan!" and Satan fell down from the high mountain. And Jesus bore witness to it when He said, "I saw Satan, as lightning, falling from heaven." The Evil One remembered this second defeat, and so now he smote down the Innocent Lord a second time, now that he had Him in his power. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) "But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility. Dear Lord, teach us to suffer with You, and not be afraid of Satan's buffetings, when they come upon us from resisting him. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: EIGHTH STATION: The Women of Jerusalem Mourn for Our Lord (pause)
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke. (pause) A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." [Luke 23: 27-28]

Presider: Ever since the prophecy of old time, that the Saviour of man was to be born of a woman of the stock of Abraham, the Jewish women had desired to bear Him. Yet, now that He was really come, how different, as the Gospel tells us, was the event from what they had expected. He said to them "that the days were coming when they should say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that have not borne, and the breasts which have not suckled."

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) "Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O Lord, we know not what is good for us and what is bad. We cannot foretell the future, nor do we know, when you come for us, in what form you will come. Therefore look upon us, and give us the grace of your bitter Cross and Passion, and console us in your own way and in your own time.

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: NINTH STATION: Jesus Falls a Third Time (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Peter (pause) If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. [*1 Peter 2: 20-24*]

Presider: Satan will have a third and final fall at the end of the world, when he will be shut up for good in the everlasting fiery prison. He knew this was to be his ending; he has no hope, but despair only. He knew that no suffering which he could at that moment inflict upon the Saviour of men would avail to rescue himself from that inevitable doom. But, in horrible rage and hatred, he determined to insult and torture while he could the great King whose throne is everlasting. Therefore a third time he smote Him down fiercely to the earth. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter: and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O Jesus, Only-begotten Son of God, the Word Incarnate, we adore with fear and trembling and deep thankfulness your awful humiliation, that you who are the Highest, should have permitted Yourself, even for one hour, to be the sport and prey of the Evil One. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: TENTH STATION: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John. (pause) When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means ‘The Place Of a Skull’), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And the soldiers 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. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” [*John 19: 23-24*]

Presider: Jesus would give up everything of this world, before He left it. He exercised the most perfect poverty. When He left the Holy House of Nazareth, and went out to preach, He had nowhere to lay His head. He lived on the poorest food, and on what was given to Him by those who loved and served Him. Therefore He chose a death in which not even his clothes were left to Him. He parted with what seemed most necessary, and even a part of Him, by the law of human nature, since the fall. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “They gave me gall to eat. And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Like Jesus, stripped of his dignity, grant us in like manner, O Lord, to care nothing for anything on earth, and to bear the loss of all things, that we may endure even shame, reproach, contempt, and mockery, rather than that you should be ashamed of us on the last day. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke. (pause) 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. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors.” Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” [Luke 23: 33-34]

Presider: Jesus is pierced through each hand and each foot with a sharp nail. His eyes are dimmed with blood, and are closed by the swollen lids and livid brows which the blows of His executioners have caused. His mouth is filled with vinegar and gall. His head is encircled by the sharp thorns. His heart is pierced with the spear. Thus, all His senses are mortified and crucified, that He may make atonement for every kind of human sin. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “They pierce my hands and my feet; they stare and gloat over me.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O Jesus, mortify and crucify us with You. Let us never sin by hand or foot, by eyes or mouth, or by head or heart. Let all our senses be a sacrifice to You; let every member sing your praise. Let the sacred blood which flowed from your five wounds anoint us with such sanctifying grace that we may die to the world, and live only to You. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Dies on the Cross (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke. (pause) It was 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. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And he breathed his last. [*Luke 23: 44-46*]

Presider: "CONSUMMATUM est." It is completed; it has come to a full end. The mystery of God's love towards us is accomplished. The price is paid, and we are redeemed. The Eternal Father determined not to pardon us without a price, in order to show us especial favour. He condescended to make us valuable to Him. What we buy we put a value on. He might have saved us without a price, by the mere fiat of His will. But to show His love for us He took a price, which, if there was to be a price set upon us at all, if there was any ransom at all to be taken for the guilt of our sins, could be nothing short of the death of His Son in our nature. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) "Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on a cross."

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) O my God and Father, You have valued us so much as to pay the highest of all possible prices for our sinful souls, and shall we not love and choose You above all things as the one necessary and one only good? [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross and Laid in the Arms of His Blessed Mother (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah. (pause) And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. [*Zechariah 12:10*]

Presider: He is your property now, O Virgin Mother, once again. For He and the world have met and parted. He went out from you to do his Father's work, and He has done and suffered it. Satan and bad men have now no longer any claim upon Him - too long has He been in their arms. Satan took Him up aloft to the high mountain; evil men lifted Him up upon the Cross. He has not been in your arms, O Mother of God, since He was a child, but now you have a claim upon Him, when the world has done its worst. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “Her tears run down her cheeks, and she has no one to comfort her.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [**Song**]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Mary most holy, you are the all-favoured, all-blessed, all-gracious Mother of the Highest. We rejoice in this great mystery: He has been hidden in your womb, He has lain in your bosom, He has been suckled at your breasts, He has been carried in your arms, and now that He is dead, He is placed upon your lap. Virgin Mother of God, pray for us. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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Presider: FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus Is Laid in the Sepulchre (pause) We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Lector: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John. (pause) Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with some spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. [*John 19: 40-42*]

Presider: Jesus, when He was nearest to his everlasting triumph, seemed to be farthest from triumphing. When He was nearest to entering upon his kingdom, and exercising all power in heaven and earth, He was lying dead in a cave of the rock. He was wrapped round in burying-clothes, and confined within a sepulchre of stone, where He was soon to have a glorified spiritual body, that could penetrate all substances, go to and fro quicker than thought, and was about to ascend on high. [St. John Henry Newman]

Please be seated for our meditation. (pause) “You will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your Holy One see corruption.”

Choir performs for approximately 2 minutes. [Song]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Make us to trust in You, O Jesus, that You will display in us a similar providence. Make us sure, O Lord, that the greater is our distress, the nearer we are to You. The more men scorn us, the more You will honour us. The more men insult us, the higher You will exalt us. The more they forget us, the more You will keep us in mind. The more they abandon us, the closer You will bring us to Yourself. [St. John Henry Newman]

Lector: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One...

All: Have mercy upon us.

Very brief musical interlude as procession moves to next station.

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CONCLUDING PRAYERS (AT THE ALTAR)

Presider: Saviour of the world, by your Cross and Precious Blood You have redeemed us.

All: Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech You, O Lord.

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. (pause) He is the image of the invisible God...For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his Cross. [*Colossians 1.15: 19-20*]

Presider: Let us pray. (pause) Loving God, who by the Precious Blood of your only-begotten Son did sanctify the standard of the Cross, grant, we beseech You, that we who rejoice in the glory of the same Holy Cross may at all times and places rejoice in your protection, through the same Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen [St. John Henry Newman]

Choir performs final hymn. [Song]