

11th Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross

Focus: The unimaginable physical, emotional and spiritual suffering Jesus endured

Action: Develop the habit of recalling Jesus' passion and of thanking him for all he endured for our sake



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

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

Reflection

We've arrived at the summit of Mount Calvary, reflecting on the worst of that which human beings are capable. Imagine if you can, what Jesus has been through up to this point. He likely hasn't slept for hours, nor has he eaten since the night before. He has been betrayed by one of his inner circle, abandoned by the rest, incarcerated, interrogated, abused, beaten, crowned with thorns and condemned to death by crucifixion. Exhausted, dehydrated, bleeding and broken, he has carried the cross upon which he will die a quarter mile or more uphill to the place of his execution. Amidst the jeers and abuse of the spectators, he collapsed three times, but somehow got up and continued on his way. Upon his arrival at the top, he was stripped naked, and now thrust down upon the cross in preparation for being affixed to it with iron spikes. Such barbarism even in the age of terrorism is hard to imagine, yet this is the truth of what Jesus endured. One by one, the spikes were hammered through each wrist and then through his feet. The pain, the agony must have been excruciating. If ever we doubt the depth of Jesus' love for us, we need only recall the suffering he endured to save us from sin and death.

Prayer

Almighty Father, we are people who would rather not look evil in the face, especially images of horrific violence. Such images make us so very uncomfortable for many reasons, and rightly so. In this case, however, meditating on Jesus being nailed to the cross is a meaningful way to acknowledge what he did for us and to pay him the homage he deserves for having endured such inexplicable violence. Let us never be so distracted as to forget what Jesus did, but rather, may the remembrance of his suffering, in particular him being nailed to the cross, give us strength to bear our own trials and agonies willingly, for love of him. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.