

## 8th Station

# Jesus speaks with the grieving women of Jerusalem

**Focus:** Jesus was always other-focused, rather than being self-absorbed

**Action:** Reach out tenderly to those most in need of help or support



### Leader

We adore you O Christ  
and we praise you.

### People

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

### Reflection

In Jesus' lifetime, Jewish law and culture limited what women could and could not do. They were second class citizens, considered inferior to men and forced to live under their authority. Ultimately their role in society was of little consequence. Jesus, however, did not subscribe to these and other oppressive rules imposed by the Jewish elite, which served to fuel their anger. The Gospels attest to this over and over. Take for instance the time when in a Nazarene synagogue, Jesus declared that the words the prophet Isaiah spoke long ago referred to him: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..., to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind..., to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord*" (Luke 4: 18). Denouncing this as blasphemy, from that moment, the Jewish leaders sought to kill him.

In this eighth station, we recall Jesus pausing to speak to a group of grieving women on the side of the road, some of whom he may have recognized as his followers. Keenly aware that he would no longer be present to advocate for them, and sensing the unstable political situation in Jerusalem and the imminent calamity that was fast approaching, he told them not to grieve for him but rather to pray, and to take care of themselves and their children. As always, Jesus' compassion for others outweighed his concern for himself.

### Prayer

Almighty Father, over and over, we see Jesus reaching out to help others, especially those who were the least powerful in society. Never did he turn a blind eye to those who were oppressed and living on the fringes, instead he sought them out and did what he could to comfort them, to heal them and restore their dignity. Jesus was and remains a role model for his disciples, demonstrating the mercy and compassion that is expected of his followers. Father, so we can most effectively be the presence of Christ in the world, grant us from this moment forward, to see with his eyes, to understand with his mind, to speak with his voice, to work with his hands and to love with his heart, especially those who are most in need of love and mercy. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.