

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

WITH MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS



Opening Song: *Were you there #438 Verse 1 &2*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree ?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree ?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree ?

Presider

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
With the words "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you say" Mary set in motion the process of our redemption. Simeon told Mary at the very beginning of Your life that "a sword of sorrow" would pierce her heart.*

Lord Jesus, your mother Mary made that first way of the cross – she walked beside you from the Roman fortress up the hill of Calvary to the place called Golgotha. Tonight in an attempt to better understand Your sufferings we want to walk with her so that we might come out of this spiritual journey with a better appreciation of what You did for us, and a deeper love for You and for our brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, through Mary's eyes, help us to understand, the love hidden in your cross so that what happened may touch our hearts in a new and deeper way.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Amen

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Song: Were you there #438 Verse 3

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side ?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side ?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they pierced him in the side ?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?*

*The presider reverences the altar and brings the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar placing it in the Monstrance
then kneels in front of the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament twice from where he is kneeling during
the hymn*

Transition to First Station –

*Jesus Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread your holy Way.*

FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised and bleeding skin sent a sword of pain deep into my heart and tears down my cheeks. Then Pilate, from his chair of judgment, asked the crowd why they wanted my son executed. All around me they shouted, "Crucify him!" I wanted to plead with them to stop, but I knew this had to be. So I stood by and cried silently.

Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge ... ? "Crucify him!"

When I judge others ... ? "Crucify him!"

Doesn't this bring tears of anguish to both you and your mother?

Forgive me, Jesus.

HAIL MARY

*May we feel no bitter hatred,
When we too are persecuted,
Left alone to walk with You.*

SECOND STATION

JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Regaining a little strength, I walked with the crowds to the entrance of the square. A door flew open and my son stumbled out, the guards laughing behind him. Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on his shoulders. Then they shoved him down the road. My pain for him was unbearable. I wanted to take the cross from him and carry it myself. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on silently.

I beg you to forgive me for the many times I have added more weight to your cross by closing my eyes to the pain and loneliness of my neighbor.

Forgive me for gossiping about others and for always trying to find excuses to avoid certain people who wish to talk with me.

Help me to be like Mary, always seeking to lighten the crosses of others.

Forgive me, Jesus.

HAIL MARY

*Now the Cross as Jesus bore It
Has become for us who share it,
The jeweled Cross of Victory.*

THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I followed close behind my son as he stumbled toward Calvary.

Nothing had ever hurt me more than to see him in such pain. I saw the cross digging into his shoulders. My heart dropped when I saw him fall face to the ground, the heavy cross landing squarely on his back. For a moment I thought my beloved son was dead. Now, my whole body began to tremble. Then the guards kicked him. He rose slowly and began to walk again, yet they still whipped him. I wanted to protect him with my own body. But, I knew this had to be, so I walked on and wept silently.

Lord, how often have I seen you fall, and, unlike Mary, have left you there without concern?

How often have I seen people make mistakes and laughed at them?

How often do I find myself getting angry when someone does things differently than I?

Mary offered you her support through your entire passion.

Help me to do the same for you by the support I give to others.

Lord, have mercy on me.

HAIL MARY

*Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole Body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain*

FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS GRIEVING MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I managed to break through the crowd and was walking side by side with my son. I called to him through the shouting voices. He stopped. Our eyes met, mine full of tears of anguish, his full of pain and confusion. I felt helpless; then his eyes said to me, "Courage! There is a purpose for this." As he stumbled on, I knew he was right. So I followed and prayed silently.

Lord Jesus, forgive me the many times our eyes met and I turned mine away.

Forgive me the times things did not go my way and I let everyone know about it.

Forgive me the times I brooded over little inconveniences or became discouraged and did not heed your call to courage!

Yes, Lord, our eyes have met many times, but fruitlessly.

HAIL MARY

*Jesus meets his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.*

FIFTH STATION

SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I could now see almost complete helplessness on the face of my son as he tried to carry his heavy load. Each step looked as if it would be his last. I felt his every pain in my heart and I wanted the whole thing to end. Then I noticed some commotion near Jesus. The guards had pulled a protesting man from the crowd. They forced him to pick up the back of the cross to help lighten my son's load. He asked the guards why this had to be.

I knew, and so followed silently.

Lord Jesus, I have many times refused to help you.

I have been a selfish person who has often questioned your word.

Don't let me remain like Simon, but help me to be like your mother, Mary, who always silently followed and obeyed.

HAIL MARY

*Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of Christ*

SIXTH STATION

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As I continued close by Jesus, a woman pushed past the guards, took off her veil and began to wipe my son's sweating, bloody face. The guards immediately pulled her back. Her face seemed to say, "Why are you doing this to him?"

I knew, so I walked on in faith, silently.

Lord, this woman gave you the best she could.

On the other hand, I have wanted to take more than I give.

So many opportunities arise every day for me to give to you by giving to others but I pass them by.

My savior, never let me ask why again, but help me to give all I have to you.

HAIL MARY

*Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.*

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Again my son fell, and again my grief was overwhelming at the thought that he might die. I started to move toward him, but the soldiers prevented me. He rose and stumbled ahead slowly. Seeing my son fall, get up again, and continue on, was bitter anguish to me. But, since I knew this had to be, I walked on silently.

Lord, of all people Mary was your most faithful follower, never stopping in spite of all the pain she felt for you.

I have many times turned away from you by my sins and have caused others to turn away from you.

I beg you to have mercy on me.

HAIL MARY

*Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,
Flogged in Body He resembled
All our brothers poor and scorned.*

EIGHTH STATION

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I was walking a few steps behind Jesus when I saw him stop. Some women were there crying for him and pitying him. He told them not to shed tears for him. They had the opportunity to accept him as the messiah; like many others, they rejected him instead. He told them to shed tears for themselves, tears that would bring their conversion. They did not see the connection between that and his walk to death. I did, and as he walked on, I followed silently.

My savior, many times have I acted like these women, always seeing the faults of others and pitying them.

Yet, very rarely have I seen my own sinfulness and asked your pardon.

Lord, you have taught me through these women.

Forgive me, Lord, for my blindness.

HAIL MARY

*May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.*

NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

This fall of Jesus was agony to me. Not only had he fallen on the rocky ground again, but now he was almost at the top of the hill of crucifixion. The soldiers screamed at him and abused him, almost dragging him the last few steps. My heart pounded as I imagined what they would do to him next. But, I knew this had to be, so I climbed the hill silently behind him.

My loving Jesus, I know that many times I have offered my hand to help people but when it became inconvenient or painful to me I left them, making excuses for myself.

Help me, Lord, to be like your mother, Mary, and never take my supporting hand away from those who need it.

HAIL MARY

*Jesus falls again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain*

TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

With my son finally relieved of the weight of the cross, I thought he would have a chance to rest. But the guards immediately started to rip his clothes off his blood-clotted skin. The sight of my son in such pain was unbearable. Yet, since I knew this had to be, I stood by and cried silently.

Lord, in my own way I too have stripped you.

I have taken away the good name of another by foolish talk, and have stripped people of human dignity by my prejudice.

Jesus, there are so many ways I have offended you through the hurt I have caused others.

Help me to see you in all people.

HAIL MARY

Stripped and jeered by his own nation,

Jesus stood in desolation,

Giving all He had to give.

ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they threw Jesus on the cross, he willingly allowed himself to be nailed. As they punctured his hands and his feet I felt the pain in my heart. Then they lifted up the cross. There he was, my son, whom I love so much, being scorned as he struggled for the last few moments of earthly life. But I knew this had to be, so I stood by and prayed silently.

Lord, what pain you endured for me. And what pain your mother went through, seeing her only son die for love of me!

Yet, both you and she are ready to forgive me as soon as I repent of my sin.

Help me, Lord, to turn away from my sinfulness.

HAIL MARY

Pierced the hand. that blessed and cured us,

Pierced the feet that walked to free us,

Walked the hill of Calvary.

TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

What greater pain is there for a mother than to see her son die right before her eyes! I, who had brought this savior into the world and watched him grow, stood helplessly beneath his cross as he lowered his head and died. His earthly anguish was finished, but mine was greater than ever. Yet, this had to be and I had to accept it, so I stood by and I mourned silently.

My Jesus, have mercy on me for what my sins have done to you and to others. I thank you for your great act of love.

You have said that true love is laying down your life for your friends. Let me always be your friend.

Teach me to live my life for others, and not fail you again.

HAIL MARY

*Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head – the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.*

THIRTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The crowd had gone; the noise had stopped. I stood quietly with one of Jesus' friends and looked up at the dead body of our savior, my son. Then two men took the body from the cross and placed it in my arms. A deep sorrow engulfed my being. Yet, I also felt deep joy. Life had ended cruelly for my son, but it had also brought life to all of us.

I knew this had to be, and I prayed silently.

Lord, your passion has ended. Yet, it still goes on whenever I choose sin over you.

I have done my part in your crucifixion and now, my savior, I beg your forgiveness with all my heart.

Help me to live a life worthy of you and your mother.

HAIL MARY

*Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother
In your arms was placed our Brother
"Full of grace" now filled with grief.*

FOURTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We brought Jesus' body to a tomb and I arranged it there myself,
silently weeping, silently rejoicing. I took one more look at my
loving son, and then walked out. They closed the tomb and before
I left, I thought, I knew this had to be ...

It had to be for you!

I would wait in faith silently.

*Yes, my Lord, this had to be because you love me, and for no other
reason.*

*All you ask is that I live a good life. You never said such a life would
be easy.*

*I am willing to leave sin behind and live for you alone, in my
brothers and sisters.*

HAIL MARY

*Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days, You resurrected.
You did first what we shall do.*

FIFTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I could only be most grateful for the sacrifice of my son for us. Yet, what emptiness I felt trying to live without him whom I loved so! But, only two days later that emptiness was filled beyond belief He had risen!

Our savior had opened the doors to a new life. That is the way it had to be because his undying love for you would not stop at anything less. I could rejoice forever, but not in silence.

My savior, thank you! Thank you for such endless love that helps me to rise out of my own sinfulness.

I will try again to live a better life.

Help me to always remember that love.

Mary, mother of our risen savior, teach me to be like you, and in my love for others, love him in return.

HAIL MARY

Jesus Risen be our lover

In your Food and in our brother,

Lead us home to heaven with You.

BENEDICTION

The presider incenses the Blessed Sacrament twice from where he is kneeling during the hymn

You have given us bread from heaven.

Having within it all sweetness

Let us Pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Presider puts on Humeral Veil, genuflects and blesses the congregation with the monstrance

Presider returns to the foot of the altar, kneels and leads congregation in Divine Praises:

Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time. Amen.

Lord Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you were drawn by the Father from the darkness of death to the light of a new life in glory. Grant that the sign of the empty tomb may speak to us and to future generations and become a wellspring of living faith, generous love, and unshakeable hope.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be to the Father...

Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing us to walk with you tonight on your journey of pain and love. Allow this small act of faith to fill our lives with renewed love for you.

Chant for Repose of the Blessed Sacrament:

Jesus, Remember Me, When you come into your kingdom
Jesus, Remember Me, When you come into your kingdom

