

**Reader 1:** We begin---In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**The first station: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

Look at the man sitting. He is Pontius Pilate. He is the Roman judge. The angry people standing around have told lies about Jesus, and they want Pilate to kill him. Pilate knows Jesus is a good man. He knows Jesus should not be killed. But Pilate is afraid. He wants the angry people to like him, to be his friends, or he might lose his job. So he tells them, "Go ahead and kill Jesus."

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. See how hard and fast He is breathing. He is afraid. Yes, He could stop these men if He wanted because He is the Son of God. But then who would make up for our sins? So Jesus is going to let it happen because He loves us. He wants to save us and win heaven for us. Still, He's afraid. Put your hand in His. Let Him know you care. Whisper to Jesus in our hearts: "Jesus, I'm here. I'll stay with you."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, please make me brave so I can do what is right even when it is hard to do....and don't let me be afraid to stand up for somebody when others are telling lies about that person.

**Reader 1: The second station: Jesus takes up His cross.**

Look at the quiet way Jesus does what they tell Him. He does not fight with the men who push the heavy wooden cross on Him. He does not hate them and say rough words to them. If they had known He was dying for them and for all of us, they would have acted differently. So Jesus forgives them. He thinks only of how Jesus He loves them and us. Then He takes up the cross but in His heart He asks His heavenly Father to help Him carry it bravely.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. See what a hard time he has getting the cross onto his shoulder. It is clumsy and heavy. And His shoulder is already sore because they have whipped Him long and hard. There are thorns around His head too. Sometimes the cross hits these thorns. They go into Jesus's head like sharp nails. Whisper in our hearts: "Jesus, make me brave like you."

**Reader 1 and 2:**

Dear Jesus, when something is hard for me to do, help me to remember how You took the cross without fussing about it...and help me to be good and kind to others even when it is not easy.

### **Reader 1: The Third Station: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Look at how Jesus is walking along. The cross is crushing His shoulder, and the sharp stones in the road cut His bare feet. All around Him people are shouting and pushing, and the Roman soldiers, who have been ordered to crucify Him, want Him to hurry. Jesus tries as hard as He can to move faster but He stumbles and falls.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. See Him trying to get up. He wants to keep carrying His cross. Everybody around Him is yelling and poking at Him. But Jesus does not get angry. He offers all this hurting to His heavenly Father for us because He loves us. Then He pulls Himself to His feet and walks forward. Imagine that you put your arms around Him. Whisper to Him in your heart: "Jesus, teach me to be loving like you."

### **Reader 1 and 2:**

Dear Jesus, if something hurts me today, remind me to offer my hurt to God.... and do not let me be mean to anybody who gets hurt, or to anyone who makes mistakes, or is different from me.

### **Reader 1: The Fourth Station: Jesus meets His mother.**

Look at that beautiful lady reaching out to Jesus from the crowd. She is His mother, Mary. She comes close. She puts her arms around Jesus, and her face is full of tears. Tears are on Jesus's cheeks, too. You can tell how much they love each other. But Mary is not allowed to stay close to Jesus, to say kind and loving words to Him. They make her go away.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. He feels so sad to have His mother see him all bruised and beaten. He knows it makes her unhappy. But she is brave like Him. She knows that He chose to carry the cross. And if that's what God planned for Jesus, she wants Jesus to do it. They both want to do what God wants them to do because they know that what God wants is always good for us. Whisper in our hearts: "Help me to always do what is good!"

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, when I have to be away from someone I love, help me offer my lonely feelings to You...and help me to do what God wants me to do today.

### **Reader 1: The Fifth Station: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS**

Look at that man helping Jesus carry the cross. This is Simon of Cyrene. He was on his way home from work when he was stopped and told to help carry Jesus's cross. At first Simon did not like to do it because he did not know Jesus. But later, when he found out who Jesus was, he was proud that he had helped to carry the cross.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. See how Simon is trying to get hold of the cross and carry it for Jesus. Simon is strong but the cross is heavy, yet not too heavy. Jesus never asks us to do something we cannot do. Sometimes, when you have hard things to do, it is Jesus asking you--as He asked Simon-- to carry the cross. Try to think then that Jesus is making you strong. Whisper in our hearts: "Jesus, I want to be proud like Simon that I helped you with your cross."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, make me strong when I have to do something hard....and when I don't like to do something, don't let me push it off on somebody else.

**Reader 1: The Sixth Station: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

Look at that woman kneeling before Jesus. We call her Veronica. She has pushed her way through the crowd to get to Jesus. That was a brave thing to do with all those rough people around to scare her. But she does not think of them. She thinks only of how she wants to give Jesus a handkerchief to wipe his face. When Jesus gives it back, there is a picture of His face on Veronica's handkerchief. It was Jesus' way of thanking her.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. Think how, if men can be proud because Simon helped Jesus, females can be proud because Veronica helped Jesus too. It does not matter who we are. What is important to God is what is in our hearts. If our hearts are good and kind, that is the best and most important thing. Whisper in our hearts: "Jesus, print your face on my mind and my heart, so I can learn to be more and more like you."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, let me be thankful to people who help me when I need help...and help me do kind things for other people even if I don't get any reward.

**Reader 1: The Seventh Station: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

Look at how hard it is for Jesus to walk. He feels weak and shaky. He has had nothing to eat or drink and He hurts all over. But the soldiers won't let Him stop and rest. They keep pushing at Him to walk faster. He tries, but again He falls down in the dirty street, and the heavy wooden cross falls on top of Him.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. Stoop down to where He has fallen in the street. He is out of breath and very tired. It would help if He could just lie there a minute. But He gets up and tries walking again. You were not there when all this happened; but remember, what you do or say to Jesus now counts as if you had been there. Whisper in our hearts: "Jesus, thank You for showing me how always to get up and to keep going."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, when I try to do something and mess it up, help me to start over again as You did...and if somebody falls down or gets hurt, let me feel for sorry for them and help them if I can.

**Reader 1: The Eighth Station: JESUS MEETS THE WEEPING WOMEN**

Look at the women of Jerusalem who are standing at the corner of the street where Jesus is passing. They feel sorry for Him and say loving words to Him. Jesus tells them that He will feel better if He knows they will always be kind and gentle toward everyone for love of Him and if they will teach their children to do the same. They are good women. They will do what Jesus asks.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. Listen when he talks to these women. It is hard to behave well when you are sick or feeling bad. It takes much courage to be unselfish like that. But Jesus does not think of Himself. He thinks only of being kind to these women. Whisper in our hearts: "Jesus, help me to be thoughtful of others as you are."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, show me how I can help others and make them happy....and teach me to share what I have with others and to not always try to keep the best of everything just for myself.

**Reader 1: The Ninth Station: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

Look at Jesus now. He is walking slower and slower. The soldiers wish He would hurry. They are afraid that all the excited people watching Jesus and yelling at Him may cause a riot. Jesus is packed in so close He can hardly breathe. He takes several more steps and then falls down in the dirty street for the third time

**Reader 2:** Step Up close to Jesus. He is flat on the ground. It is very hard for Jesus to move, but he gets to his knees and pushes himself up again. He knows He has to go on. Jesus does not like all this pain, and He would like to be rid of it. But He can't stop now if he wants to do what will help us. And . . . He wants to. He started this way of the cross for God and for us, and He wants to finish it. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, You are a hero!"

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, if I am slow and people rush me; help me not to get upset...and help me to be kind to everybody because every one of us needs help sometimes.

**Reader 1: The Tenth Station: JESUS' CLOTHES ARE TAKEN AWAY**

Look at Jesus. He is outside the city of Jerusalem now and standing on a hill called Calvary. The soldiers are going to crucify Him here. One of them is pulling off Jesus' clothes. The clothes

are sticking to Jesus' sore back. It hurts when they are pulled off just as it hurts when somebody pulls a Band-Aid off a sore on your knee.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. He stands there without His clothes. He is like a wrestler or boxer who takes off his ordinary clothes so he can fight better. Jesus is getting ready for a fight also. He is fighting against death and sin. He wants to win the fight. He wants to make it possible for all of us to have a life that lasts forever in heaven. We are on Jesus's side and want Him to win. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, I am cheering for You."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, keep me strong in the battles I will have to fight to be good and true to You...and let me never forget that I can pray for Your help when I am at Mass.

**Reader 1: The Eleventh Station: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

Look at Jesus. He has been laid flat down on the cross. One soldier takes spikes and hammers them through Jesus's hands. After Jesus' feet also are nailed, the soldiers fix the cross into a hole so it will stand straight. Everybody stands around and looks at Jesus. The good people feel unhappy because they love Jesus. The people who don't love him are unhappy too, because they have done something bad. It was a sad, sad day - that first Good Friday.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. He hurts all over. His head aches. He is thirsty. But in His heart, He is not sad like the people. He knows that what He chose to do was the right thing. Now He looks down at the men who nailed Him to the cross, and He forgives them. Then He tells Mary to be a mother to all of us and to count us as her children. He keeps thinking of others even when he is dying. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, I love you."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, when somebody hurts me, help me to be forgiving, and help me to live so Mary will be proud to count me as her child.

**Reader 1: Please kneel. The Twelfth Station: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

Look at Jesus hanging on the cross. He has been there for three hours. He hurts all over. He is still thirsty, but nobody brings Him any water. Jesus does not complain. He prays to His heavenly Father and tells Him that He has finished what had to be done. He bows His head and dies. A soldier runs a spear into Jesus's side. Blood and water come out, a sign that Jesus gave everything.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. He is dead on the cross. He suffered all this because He wanted to put down death and find a way to give life. He has met death and won the fight with it. But it does not look that way. He hangs there so still as if death has Him for good. But it doesn't. Jesus once said He was life. He told everybody that, if they would wait three days after His

death, He would show them that Life had won the fight over death. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, I believe You bring life. "

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, no matter where I am, how long I live, or what happens to me, let me always be thankful that you died for me.

**Reader 1: Please sit. The Thirteenth Station: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

Look at Jesus after His body has been taken down from the cross and the blood and dirt washed away. The sharp thorns have been taken off, too. Now He is lying on His mother's lap. She holds Him lovingly. She keeps saying His name over and over. How she loves him! Her heart is broken, but she does not cry or give up. She remembers about waiting three days.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. All His enemies are gone now, so those who love Him can come near and stay with His mother. If you had been there, you would have done the same. And you would have been proud of Mary's being so brave. You would not have cried either, even though your heart would hurt for Jesus. You would be thinking about the third day. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, I love You."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, when somebody dies, help me to remember that You have given new life and that I can see that person in heaven....and let me be kind and helpful if someone in my family is sad.

**Reader 1: The Fourteenth Station: JESUS IS PUT INTO THE TOMB**

Look at how Jesus' friends have put clean clothes on His body and sprinkled Him with a sweet smelling perfume. Now they are putting His body into a tomb. The tomb is a small cave-like room cut out of a big rock. After they lay Him inside, they leave the tomb and roll a giant stone in front of the doorway. It is so large that it takes several big men to roll it into place. Then they all go home.

**Reader 2:** Step up close to Jesus. You cannot get very close to Jesus because He is still inside the tomb. It is Saturday, the next day. Pontius Pilate, the bad judge who let Jesus be killed, sends soldiers to the tomb so that nobody would steal the body of Jesus. The soldiers sit by the tomb all day and all night. Imagine that you also sit there, too, and that you watch, pray, and remember the promise of the third day. Whisper to Him in our hearts: "Jesus, I am waiting for You."

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus, teach me how to wait when I cannot have what I want right away...and help me to pray even when You don't seem very near to me.

**Reader 1: The Fifteenth Station: Jesus Rises From the Dead**

It is Easter morning. People who come to visit Jesus's tomb find no body. They worry at first, but then they remember: This is the Third Day! Later, some see Jesus walking around alive. Everybody who knew and followed Him are full of joy. "Jesus is risen! Jesus is alive!"

**Reader 2:** Imagine you are there--and you, too, are very, very happy.

**Reader 1 and 2:** Dear Jesus...your death on the cross gave us eternal life. Thank you for this wonderful sacrifice.

**Reader 1:** We end our stations, "In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."