

**The Way of the Cross**  
**with Pope Francis**  
*followed by*  
**Compline (Night Prayer)**



**How awesome is this place!**  
**This is none other than the**  
**House of God and the Gate of Heaven!**

Genesis 28:17

**FORGIVE OUR SINS**

tune: Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

**“Forgive our sins as we forgive.” You taught us Lord to pray,  
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heat  
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light Your Cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!**

**Lord cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease.  
Then bound to all in bonds of love our lives will spread Your  
peace.**

**MATTHEW 27:51-54**

**At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the  
top to the bottom. And the ground shook, and the rocks split  
apart. Graves also were opened, and many bodies of those who  
had died were raised, and coming out of the graves after Jesus’  
resurrection, they went into the Holy City and appeared to many.  
When the centurion and those with him, keeping watch over Jesus,  
saw the earthquake and what took place, they feared greatly and  
said, “Truly Jesus was the Son of God!”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If you want to hold the Processional Cross for a Station,  
when the Station is announced,  
(for example: "The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time)  
walk to the Station and take the Processional Cross from  
the hands of the person holding it  
during the previous Station.

We would like to have a different person holding the  
Processional Cross for each Station.

## WERE YOU THERE?

### Station # 1     *Jesus is Condemned*

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have  
redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord, who could be a better disciple of yours than Mary  
your Mother? She accepted the Father's will even at the  
darkest moment in her life, and she stood by you,  
heartbroken. She conceived you and bore you in her  
womb; she held you in her arms, she showered you

with her love, and she accompanied you throughout your earthly life. How could she fail to follow you on the road to Calvary and share in the most tragic and painful moment of your life and her own?

Leader: In times of difficulty and despair;  
All: Lord, help us to do your will!  
Leader: In times of physical and moral suffering;  
All: Lord, help us to do your will!  
Leader: In times of darkness and loneliness;  
All: Lord, help us to do your will!

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when they sentenced Him to die?  
Were you there when they sentenced Him to die?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they sentenced Him to die?

## **Station # 2      Jesus Carries the Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

Leader: We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

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

Station Leader:

Lord Jesus, it is easy to wear a crucifix on a chain

around our neck or to use it to decorate the walls of our beautiful churches or homes. It is less easy to encounter and acknowledge today's newly crucified: the homeless; the young deprived of hope, without work, and without prospects; the immigrants relegated to slums at the fringe of our societies after having endured untold suffering. How many people, too, suffer discrimination on the basis of their origin, the color of their skin or their social status?

**Leader:** When we feel abandoned and alone;

**All:** Lord, help us to hope!

**Leader:** When it is not easy to follow in Your footsteps;

**All:** Lord, help us to hope!

**Leader:** In times of darkness and loneliness;

**All:** Lord, help us to hope!

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when his shoulder bore the cross?**

**Were you there when his shoulder bore the cross?**

**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when his shoulder bore the cross?**



### **Station # 3      Jesus Falls the First Time**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord Jesus, on the steep path leading to Calvary, you chose to experience our human frailty and weakness. Where would the Church be today without the presence and generosity of so many committed believers. Do we always put our faith in action? How many times have we just walked by someone who needed our help?

**Leader:** When it is challenging to be the Good Samaritan;

**All:** Lord, help us have the courage to love.

**Leader:** When we find it hard to forgive;

**All:** Lord, help us to have the courage to love.

**Leader:** When we do not want to see the sufferings of others;

**All:** Lord, help us to have the courage to love.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when He fell beneath the cross?**

**Were you there when He fell beneath the cross?**

**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when He fell beneath the cross?**

## Station # 4 Jesus Meets His Mother

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Mary, when you presented the infant Jesus in the Temple, the aged Simeon predicted that a sword would pierce your heart. Now it is time to renew your "yes"; your acceptance of the Father's will, even though the experience of accompanying your child, to his crucifixion caused you heartrending pain.

**All:** Lord, grant that we may always give support and comfort, and be present to offer help;

**Leader:** to console mothers who weep for the fate of their children.

**All:** Lord, grant that we may always give support and comfort, and be present to offer help;

**Leader:** to those who have lost all hope in life.

**All:** Lord, grant that we may always give support and comfort, and be present to offer help;

**Leader:** to those who daily experience violence and contempt.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when Mary met her son?  
Were you there when Mary met her son?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when Mary met her son?

## **Station # 5 Simon Helps Jesus**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord Jesus, on the way to Calvary you were crushed by the weight of carrying that rough wooden cross. You hoped for a sign of help from a friend, from one of your disciples, from one of the many persons whose sufferings you relieved. Sadly, only a stranger, Simon of Cyrene, out of obligation, came to your aid. Where are the new Cyreneans? Where do we find them today?

**Leader:** When we are tired and disheartened;

**All:** Lord, help us to carry our cross.

**Leader:** When we feel the burden of our weaknesses;

**All:** Lord, help us to carry our cross.

**Leader:** When You ask us to share the sufferings of others;

**All:** Lord, help us to carry our cross.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when Simon held the cross?  
Were you there when Simon held the cross?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when Simon held the cross?

### **Station # 6 Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have  
redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Let us think of all those children in various parts of the world who cannot go to school but are instead forced to work.

Lord, cleanse our eyes so that we can see Your face in our brothers and sisters. We ask You to have mercy and compassion on the sick in our world. Help us rediscover the beauty of our dignity, and that of others, as human beings created in your image and likeness.

**Leader:** Lord, help us to see;

**All:** the faces of innocent children who ask for our help.

**Leader:** Lord, help us to see;

**All:** all injustices, not pretending that they are not there.

Leader: Lord, help us to see;  
All: people's inherent dignity.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when Veronica brought the towel?  
Were you there when Veronica brought the towel?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when Veronica brought the towel?

## **Station # 7      Jesus Falls Again**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

Leader: We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

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

Station Leader:

What a thirst for vengeance we see all around us! Our society has lost the great value of forgiveness, a gift second to none, a cure for wounds, the basis of peace and human coexistence. In a society where forgiveness is seen as weakness, you, Lord, ask us not to stop at appearances. Not with words, but by your example. To those who tortured you, you asked: "Why do you persecute me?" For you knew very well that true justice can never be based on hatred and revenge. Make us capable of asking for, and granting forgiveness.

Leader: Lord, help us to give comfort:  
All: to those who feel offended and insulted.  
Leader: Lord, help us to give comfort:  
All: to those who feel betrayed and humiliated.  
Leader: Lord, help us to give comfort:  
All: to those who feel judged and condemned.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when He fell unto the ground?  
Were you there when He fell unto the ground?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when He fell unto the ground?

## **Station # 8      *The Women Weep for Jesus***

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

Leader: We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

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

Station Leader:

We must have the courage, as Pope Francis firmly maintains, to denounce all injustices against humanity. All of us, and Christians, in particular, must come to realize that we are all responsible for these injustices and that all of us can and must be part of the solution. All of us, but above all, are challenged to be courageous. Courageous in knowing how to see and take action, as individuals and as a community.

**Leader:** Help us to share in the suffering of others:  
**All:** those grieving the death of loved ones.

**Leader:** Help us to share in the suffering of others:  
**All:** those who find it hard to ask for help and comfort.

**Leader:** Help us to share in the suffering of others:  
**All:** those who have experienced oppression and violence.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Did you weep with the women on the way?  
Did you weep with the women on the way?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Did you weep with the women on the way?**

## **Station # 9      Jesus Falls the Third Time**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord, how many times have you asked us this disturbing question: "Where is your brother? Where is your sister?" How many times have you reminded us that their heartbreaking cry rises up to you? Help us to share the sufferings of all those treated unjustly. It is

all too easy to condemn people and difficult situations that offend our false sense of decency. It is less easy to accept our responsibilities as individuals.

**Leader:** Lord, you fell a third time, exhausted and humiliated, beneath the weight of your cross. Help us recognize and accept the crosses in our lives.

**All:** "He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter."

Isaiah 53:7

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when He fell one final time?  
Were you there when He fell one final time?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when He fell one final time?

## **Station # 10 Jesus Is Stripped**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Money, comfort, power. These are the idols of every age. Everything can be bought. We have forgotten the centrality of the human being, the dignity, beauty, and strength of each man and woman.

Lord, help us to rediscover the beauty and richness present in every person and people as your unique gift, to be placed at the service of society as a whole and not used for our personal profit or gain. Grant, Jesus, that your example and your teaching on mercy and forgiveness, on humility and patience, may make us a little more human, and more Christian.

**Leader:** When faced with lust for pleasure, power, and money;

**All:** Lord give us merciful hearts.

**Leader:** When faced with injustices;

**All:** Lord give us merciful hearts.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?



## **Station # 11    Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:**    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:**            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Our society proclaims equal rights and dignity for all human beings, yet it practices and tolerates inequality.

**Leader:**    Lord have mercy

**All:**            on those in society who enact unjust laws and exercise their power to exploit.

**Leader:**    Lord have mercy

**All:**            on those unable to forgive and unable to love.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?**

**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?**

## **Station # 12    Jesus Dies on the Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:**    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:**            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

On the cross, Lord, you too bore the weight of scorn, mockery, insults, violence, abandonment, and indifference. Only Mary, your Mother, stayed with you as witnesses to your suffering and death. May her example inspire in us a commitment to stand by all those dying today on Calvaries throughout the world.

**Leader:**    Lord help us to give freely of ourselves

**All:**            to all those suffering from injustice, hatred, and vengeance.

**Leader:**    Lord help us to give freely of ourselves

**All:**            to all those unjustly slandered and condemned.

**Leader:**    Lord help us to give freely of ourselves

**All:**            to all those who feel alone, abandoned and humiliated.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

*After WERE YOU THERE is sung, IF ABLE, we all kneel in silence for a few moments.*

### **Station # 13 Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord, we implore you: help us to be true neighbors to those crucified and despairing in today's world. Teach us to wipe away their tears, to comfort them, even as you were consoled by the presence of Mary and the others beneath your cross.

**Leader:** Lord, may we join in weeping

**All:** at the sufferings of others.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when they took Him from the cross?**

**Were you there when they took Him from the cross?**

**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they took Him from the cross?**

## **Station # 14    Jesus Is Placed in the Tomb**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:**    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:**            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord, make us realize that we are all children of one Father. May the death of your Son Jesus grant to the leaders of nations and law makers consciousness of the role they must play in the defense of every person created in your image and likeness.

**Leader:**        We ask you, Lord, to teach us to keep watch, together with your Mother who stood by you on Calvary, in expectation of your resurrection. May it be a beacon of hope, joy, new life, fraternity, acceptance, and communion among peoples so that all will be truly recognized in their dignity as sons and daughters of God.

*After the closing prayer is said, we sing:*

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

## **NIGHT PRAYER Compline**

*If there are 36 people or less, we will process to the Saints' Chapel (former Blessed Sacrament Chapel) to pray Night Prayer.*

*If there are more than 36 people, we will sit in the center pews, as close to the altar as possible, to pray Night Prayer.*

### **PROCESSION TO THE SAINTS CHAPEL for NIGHT PRAYER.**

#### **The Litany of the Holy Cross**

**Cantor:** God the Father of Heaven, **All: HAVE MERCY ON US!**  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit, our Advocate,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Cross where the Lamb of God was offered,  
**All: SAVE US HOLY CROSS!**

Hope of Christians,  
Pledge of the resurrection of the dead,  
Shelter of persecuted innocence,  
Way of those who have gone astray,  
Consolation of the poor,  
Restraint of the powerful,  
Destruction of the proud,

Refuge of sinners,  
Victory over Hell,  
Hope of the hopeless,  
Light of those who sit in darkness,  
Wisdom of the foolish,  
Heralded by the prophets,  
Preached by the Apostles,  
Glory of Martyrs,  
Study of hermits,  
Foundation of the Church,  
Salvation of the world,  
Support of the weak,  
Medicine of the sick,  
Fountain of those who thirst,



*As the opening verse is said, all make the Sign of the Cross. The words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" are not said, just the Sign of the Cross is made.*

[STAND]

**Leader: O † God come to our assistance.**

**ALL: O LORD MAKE HASTE TO HELP US!**

**Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**

**ALL: AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW AND WILL BE FOREVER. AMEN.**

[Sit]

**Psalm 63**

**Leader: At the threshold of death, rescue us O Lord.**

**ALL: AT THE THRESHOLD OF DEATH, RESCUE US O LORD.**

**Leader:** O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;

**Women:** my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no  
water; Therefore I have gazed upon you in  
your holy place, that I might behold your power  
and your glory.

**Men:** For your loving-kindness is better than life  
itself; my lips shall give you praise.  
So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.  
My soul is content, and my mouth praises you  
with joyful lips,  
When I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

**Women:** For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will  
rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand  
holds me fast.

**Men:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit,

**Women:** as it was in the beginning, is now and will be  
forever, amen.

**[Silence is kept for private prayer.]**

**THE READING**      **Mark 14: 53-64**

They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest's courtyard and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified against him, alleging, "We heard him saying, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another, not made with human hands.'" Even so, their testimony did not agree. The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus saying: "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him and said to him, "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?" Jesus answered, "I am." At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as deserving to die."

Here ends the reading.

**ALL:      THANKS BE TO GOD!**

*We reflect on this night's reading, in silence. When the leader prays the verse of the Gospel Canticle, we all stand.*

**GOSPEL CANTICLE**    **Luke 2:29-32**

**[STAND]**

**Leader:**

**Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.**

*As the Gospel Canticle is prayed, all make the Sign of the Cross at the +.*

*The words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" are not said, just the Sign of the Cross is made.*

*The Gospel Canticle is prayed, all together.*

**Lord, + now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled:  
my own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

*We bow from our waist while praying these lines:*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:**

*We end our bow as we pray these lines:*

**as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us pray. Lord, give our bodies restful sleep  
and let the work we have done today bear fruit in  
eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

*As the Blessing is prayed, all make the Sign of the Cross at the +. The words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" are not said, just the Sign of the Cross is made.*

**Leader:** May the all-powerful Lord + grant us a restful night  
and a peaceful death. **ALL: AMEN.**



# SALVE, REGINA / HAIL, MARY

Chant, Mode V

Sal-ve, Re-gi-na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae: Vi-ta dul-  
Hail, Ma-ry, moth-er and queen of ten-der mer-cy, our life, our  
cé-do et spes no-stra, sal-ve. Ad te cla-má-mus,  
com- fort, and our hope, we hail you. From this for-eign land  
éx-su-les, fi-li-i He-vae. Ad te sus-pi-rá-mus,  
Eve's sons and daugh-ters cry to you. So lost, so full of fear,  
ge-mén-tes et flen-tes in hac la-crí-má-rum val-lé.  
we mourn, we grieve, we sigh from this tear-ful vale of ex-ile.  
E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta no-stra, il-los tu-os mi-  
Ah, then, our help, our ad-vo-cate and guide, turn now to us the  
se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te.  
gaze of your all-lov-ing eyes, so full of mer-cy.  
Et Je-sum, be-ne-dí-ctum fruc-tum ven-tris tu-i,  
And Je-sus- your Son, and Lord, your womb's most bless-ed fruit-  
no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.  
show him to us when we com-plete our so-journ.  
O cle-mens, O pi-a,  
O gen-tle, O lov-ing,  
O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-ri-a.  
be-lov-ed, O Vir-gin Ma-ry.

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