



WALKING WITH JESUS TO CALVARY TODAY

Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters, today let us walk alongside Jesus, on his path to Calvary, not only through the historical lens but through the lens of our present-day struggles, injustices, and global challenges which are Jesus' agony right here and now. Each station that we reflect upon connects us to the timeless message of Christ's love and redemption with the specific social, environmental, and ethical dilemmas that mark our contemporary scenario.

First Station: Jesus is unjustly condemned to death.

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In a world marked by injustice and prejudice, Christ continues to suffer in the faces of those wrongly accused, marginalized, and condemned. Let us reflect on the systemic injustices that persist today, praying for the strength to confront and transform them.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant us the courage to stand up against injustice and to advocate for those who are unfairly condemned. May we, like you, strive to create a world where justice and compassion prevail. Amen.

Leader: **Have mercy on us O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Second Station: Jesus accepts his heavy cross for our sake.

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: As we contemplate this station, let us reflect on the burdens people carry today, from mental health challenges to economic or job related hardships. In a world burdened by the weight of personal and societal struggles Christ walks alongside us, sharing the load of our crosses.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, help us find strength in our challenges and also compassion for others. May we be instruments of support, carrying one another's burdens, just as you shared in our human struggles. Amen.

Third Station: Jesus falls for the first time under weight of the cross.

Leader: **Have mercy on us O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In a world of sharp divide between the haves and have not's, powerful and the weak, Christ stumbles under the weight of our collective brokenness. As we witness this fall, let us reflect on the vulnerable and oppressed, recognizing the need for empathy and solidarity.

Prayer: Lord, grant us the grace to lift up those who have fallen and to walk with them in their moments of weakness without judging. May our compassion be a source of strength and hope for those who feel overwhelmed. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his sorrowing mother, Mary

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In our world where mothers not only suffer their own life's deprivations but grieve for their children due to violence, war, or injustice, Christ's encounter with Mary resonates profoundly. Let us reflect on the sorrow of mothers today and commit to working for a world where every mother's heart finds solace.

Prayer: Blessed Mother, intercede for all mothers who grief for their children. May we, inspired by your strength, strive to create a world, where no mother weeps for her children and where love and peace and equal opportunities prevail. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus carry the cross

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In a society, where people are becoming more indifferent and less caring or helpful, Christ's encounter with Simon of Cyrene highlights the importance of solidarity. Let us reflect on our role in supporting those who struggle and the opportunities we have to be Simon for others in the road of life.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to recognize the moments when we can be instruments of support for those in need. May we be willing to step forward, sharing the burdens of others with love and compassion and win love's reward. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: The compassionate act of Veronica wiping Jesus' face reminds us of the power of small gestures of kindness. Let us reflect on our ability to bring comfort and dignity to those who are

marginalized or forgotten in our own neighbourhood or society.

Prayer: Lord, help us see your face in the faces of those who suffer. May our acts of kindness and compassion be a reflection of your unconditional love that always reaches out, bringing light to the darkest corners of the world. Amen.

Hymn: Hymn: 431. We Hail Thee, Verse -1 (*Joyful Celebration*) or any other appropriate hymn.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In our struggles for justice and peace, Christ's second fall teaches persistence required to overcome obstacles. Let us strive to make the world a better place, even when faced with opposition.

Prayer: Lord, grant us the strength to rise again when we stumble on the path of justice. May our determination and resilience mirror your own, inspiring others to join us in the pursuit of a more compassionate and just world. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In the midst of his own suffering, Jesus turns to comfort those who mourn for him. This encounter underscore the interconnectedness of human suffering and the importance of reaching out to others in times of pain and not to be so caught up in our own little troubles of life.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to the cries of those who suffer in silence. May we be agents of comfort and healing, recognizing the dignity of every person and striving to create a world where all are valued and heard. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: The third time fall of Jesus speaks of the immense physical and emotional toll that Jesus bore on the path to his crucifixion. As I reflect on this station, I am struck by the profound humanity of Jesus, who, despite his divine nature, experienced the limitations of the human body.

Prayer: Lord, on our own way to Calvary, may we draw inspiration from the resilience you displayed and find strength in the knowledge that, you are by our side to help us rise even in our darkest moments. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us **O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In a world where vulnerability is often exploited, Christ's humiliation reminds us of the importance of preserving the dignity of every person. Let us reflect on our responsibility to protect the vulnerable and challenge the systems that strip people of their humanity and basic rights.

Prayer: Lord, help us recognize and resist the dehumanizing forces and may we be advocates for justice and defenders of human dignity, following your example of standing against injustice. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us **O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: Christ's crucifixion serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of hatred and injustice. Let us reflect on the wounds inflicted on individuals and communities today and strive to be agents of healing and reconciliation and peace.

Prayer: Lord, grant us the courage to confront the violence in our world. May we always look out for peaceful solution in times of conflicts or any sort of disagreements knowing well the futility and devastation of hatred. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us **O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross *(Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: Christ's ultimate sacrifice speaks to the transformative power of love. Let us reflect on our own capacity to love selflessly after the example of Christ and work towards a world where love triumphs and rules over our lives.

Prayer: Lord, may your sacrificial love inspire us to love one another genuinely. May we be instruments of your peace and agents of reconciliation, working towards a world where your love overcomes all things. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us **O Lord** **All:** Have mercy on us.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: The lifeless body of Christ taken down speaks of the cost of redemption and the gravity of human sin. The individuals involved in this scene, particularly those who take Jesus down, likely experienced a mix of sorrow and deep reverence, understanding the significance of the moment.

Prayer: Lord, we contemplate the tenderness with which your broken body is cradled in the arms of your mother. In this moment of profound vulnerability, we see the depth of your love for us. Continue to teach us about selfless love and how to surrender to the father's will. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Leader: *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

Reflection: In a world of uncertainty, Christ's burial invites us to reflect on the transformative power of resurrection. Let us contemplate the moments of darkness in our lives and in the world, trusting in the promise of new life and redemption.

Prayer: Lord, in the face of despair, help us cling on to the hope of your resurrection. For you died that we might have life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord All: Have mercy on us.

Concluding Prayer: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved humankind: Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen **(Hymn if needed)**

For the intentions of our holy father: Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be...

*-Commission for Liturgy
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