With Reflections by
Blessed Saint Theresa of Calcutta
Graphics by St Jude Shrine, Baltimore MD,
Entrance Hymn: Blest Are They –David Haas

Lead: Jesus is condemned to die.

All: God through sin I crucify.

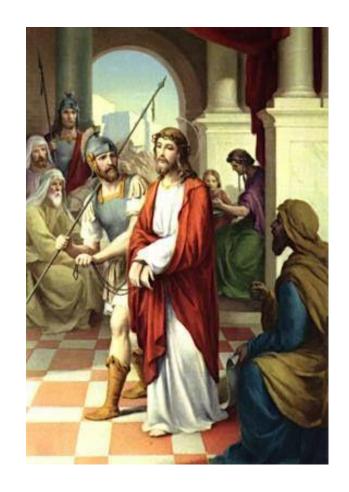
Lead: We adore You, O Christ,

and we thank You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, sorrowing, hears the death sentence
"Crucify Him, His blood be on us"

All: O Mary, hear my prayer. Blood of Jesus be my redemption.



Lead-1.- Reflection

 Each time Jesus wanted to prove His love for us, He was rejected by mankind. He was rejected by his own people. They did not want Him, they wanted Barabbas. The yesterday is always today to God, therefore today in the world, Jesus stands covered with our sins, in the distressing disguise of my sister, my brother. Do I want Him?

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Hymn: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom, Jesus remember me when you come your kingdom

Lead: Jesus bears the bitter cross.

All: Bear me up in grief and loss.

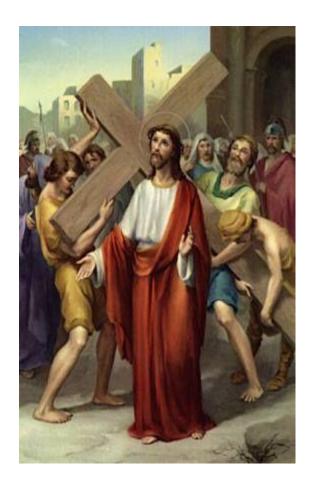
Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and

we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, uncomplaining, sees the precious blood flow from the wound in His shoulder.

All: O Mary, help me to shoulder my cross patiently in union with Jesus.



Lead - Reflection:

 We all have to take the cross, we all have to follow Christ to Calvary. If we want to rise with Him. And I think that's why Jesus, before He died, gave us His body, gave us His blood that we may live, that we may have the courage, that we may have the life to be able to carry the cross and follow Him, step by step.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Jesus falls in blood and woe.

All: Sins of mine have struck Him low.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

Lead: Mary more distressed, sees the parched earth quickly drink up His red life.

All: O Mary, when my soul is parched by earthly desires, recall to me the words of Christ, "He believes in Me shall never thirst".



Lead - Reflection

 In our Stations of the Cross we see Jesus, as the poor and hungry, falling. Are we there to help Him? Are we there with our sacrifice, with our bread, real bread. There are thousands and thousands of people who die for a piece of bread. There are thousands and thousands of people who die for a little bit of love, for a little bit of recognition. That is a station of the Cross, of Jesus in the hungry, falling.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Son and Mother meet in pain.

All: Must they grieve for me in vain.

Lead: We adore you O Christ and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary broken-hearted, sees Jesus in agony; Jesus sees her in anguish.

All: O Mary, inspire me with contrition and penance for causing such sorrow.



Lead- Reflection

 With the crowd Our Lady also moves towards Calvary. She meets Jesus on the way, face to face. She must have seen His body beaten, full of wounds, the head from the crowning[with thorns] bleeding, face dirty with spittle and swollen with blows, hands full of blood, What she must have felt! She had the courage to look at her Son and suffer with Him. We don't hear her voice. She followed Jesus until the Cross – the selfless love o a mother.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Simon helps to bear the load.

All: Lead me too along Your road.

Lead: We adore You O Christ and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, bewildered, sees all refusing to help Jesus.

All: O Mary, even as I ask Jesus to help me, may He ever find me ready in apostolic action for the whole Church and her missions.



Lead -Reflection:

 Simon of Cyrene took up the Cross and followed Jesus, helped Jesus to carry His Cross. What you ... Have done during this year as a sign of love, those millions and thousands of things that you have offered for Jesus in the poor, you were Simon of Cyrene, during those days, during each action that you did.

Everywhere there are hungry people looking up at you. There are homeless people looking at you. Do not turn your back to the poor, for they are Christ.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: On a cloth He prints His face.

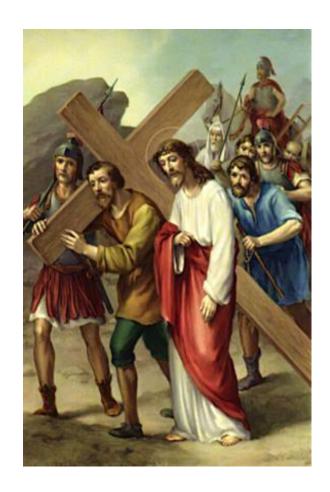
All: In my soul Your Image trace.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, calm in grief, sees Veronica brave the fury of the crowd.

All: O Mary, by the grace of confirmation, may I never fear what the crowd may say or think.



Lead - Reflection

Veronica was the only one who came forward to wipe the face of Jesus... What love she must have had for Jesus. The soldiers could have pushed her away, thrown her down; she took her veil which was on her head and wiped Jesus' face. Jesus printed His face with the blood from His face. See the gratitude of Jesus; still as much as He suffered, He was grateful to her..

Lead - Reflection cont'd

Are we Veronica to our poor? To the lonely ones, to the unanswered ones? Are we there to wipe the sorrow? Are we there to share their suffering? Are we there? Or are we one of the proud who pass by, look and can't see... That is Jesus who needs your hand to wipe that face. Are you there to do it or do you pass by?

Lead: Have mercy on us O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Marilia

7. Station of the Cross

Lead: Struck to earth again by me.

All: Help me rise to follow You.

Lead: We adore You O Christ, and

we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You

have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, in pain untold, sees the Cross crush Jesus, yet He rises.

All: O Mary, obtain for me the strength to rise and follow Christ, my leader.



Lead -Reflection:

Again Jesus falls...

Are we next to our young people when they fall out of their own weaknesses? Are we with them when they fall lonely and unwanted? Are we with them? Do we understand them?

Are we there to lift them up?

Lead: Have mercy on us O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Marilia

8. Station of the Cross

Lead: "Weep for sin," He tells them here.

All: Jesus make my grief sincere.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, suffering, sees Jesus suffer from desertion by His own; yet even now He comforts others.

All: O Mary, fill me with zeal for the spiritual works of mercy.



Lead - Reflection:

Our poor people do not need sympathy; they do not need pity from us; they really need love and compassion. But we must know that they are lovable people, that they are great people, and that knowledge will lead us to love them and love to serve them.

The poor are the hope of salvation of mankind, because we are going to be judged at the hour of death with what we have been to them, what we have done for them.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Cherylon

9. Station of the Cross

Lead: Thrice He falls by lashes torn.

All: In your blood I rise reborn.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and

we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You

have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, crushed in spirit, sees Jesus prostrate in the dust.

All: O Mary, least I fall again help me to prepare worthily and make proper thanksgiving at Confession and Holy Communion.



Lead - Reflection:

Jesus falls down again, for you and for me. A carrier of love means a carrier of the cross... Maybe carrying the cross on the way we fall. Each time we fall, it is a humiliation. Each time when you fall go to confession and say, "I am sorry." God is a merciful Father and He will forgive you.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Stripping Christ they tear His skin.

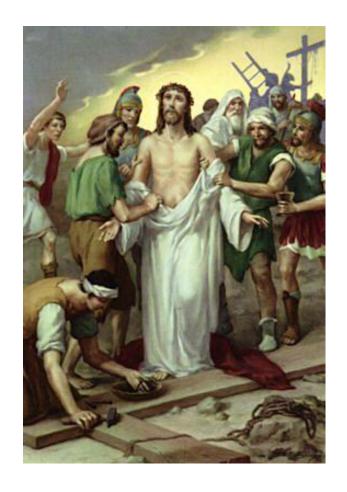
All: Help me tear my flesh from sin.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, torn from Christ, sees Him torn from the robe she made for Him.

All: O Mary, strip me from all that stains my baptismal robe.



Lead -Reflection:

He was stripped of His clothes.

I was naked, not only for a piece of cloth, but I was naked for that human dignity of a child of God.

To me the greatest injustice done to the poor is not so much that we have deprived them of material things but that we have deprived them of that dignity of the child of God, of the respect we owe to a person...we Think they are good for nothing, they're lazy, they're this, they're that, so many adjectives we add. To me, that is the greatest injustice.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: In His hands, they drive the nails.

All: In Your hands, I cannot fail.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary pierced anew, sees wells of His redeeming blood dug in His hands and feet.

All: O Mary, in His wounds help me to renew my vows and all my resolutions and with those nails bind me to Jesus forever.



Lead - Reflection:

His head is still crowned with thorns, His hands nailed to the Cross today. Let us find out, "Are the nails mine? That sputum on His face mine? What part of His body, of His mind has suffered because of me?" Not with anxiety or fear but with a meek and humble heart, let me find out what part of his body has suffered, what are the wounds inflicted by my sin.

11.

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Jesus dies His all to give.

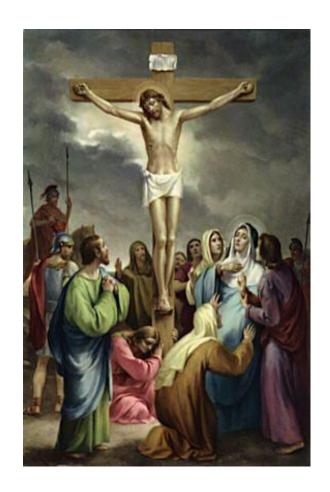
All: By Your death teach me to live.

Lead: We adore You O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, overwhelmed, sees Jesus die, His bleeding wounds pleading for me.

All: O Mary, place one drop of that redeeming blood on my sinful soul.



Lead - Reflection:

Jesus died on the Cross because that is what it took for Him to do good to us, to save us from our selfishness and sin. He gave up everything to do the Father's will, to show us that we, too, must be willing to give up everything to do God's will, to love one another as He loves each one of us. That is why we too, must give to each other until it hurts. It is not enough for us to say "I love God", but I also have to love my neighbour. St. John said that you are a liar if you say you love God and you don't love your neighbour. How can you love God whom you do not see if you do not love your neighbour whom you see?

12

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

(All Kneel)

Tania

13. Station of the Cross

Lead: Mary as you take your Son.

All: Take me too when life is done.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and

we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, mourning, receives her dead Jesus from the altar of the Cross.

All: O Mary, help me to receive the living Christ from the altar of the Mass with something of your reverence and love.



Lead- Reflection:

 Just think how much Mary loves Jesus. She always kept close to Him; in His humiliations when they wanted to stone Him and when they called Him Beelzebub, on the way to Calvary, when on the Cross, when they beat Him, nailed Him. Spat on Him, made Him die as a criminal. And Mary was not ashamed to own Him at all times as her only love, as everything she had and owned. She stood by Him. Do we stand by our poor in their sufferings and humiliations?

13

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Lead: Buried Christ who died for me.

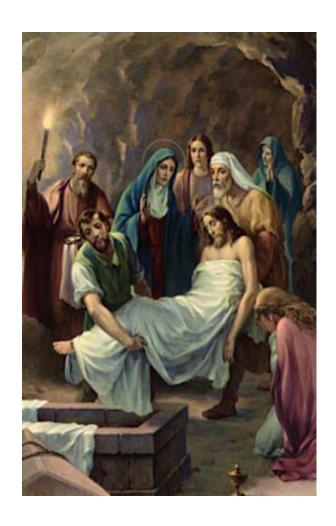
All: May I rest at last in You.

Lead: We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lead: Mary, now desolate, buries in death the Son to whom she once gave birth.

All: O Mary, renew your motherhood over me now and at the hour of my death.



Lead - Reflection:

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." God still loves the world and sends you and me to be His love, His compassion to the poor...The cup of water you give to the poor, to the sick, the way you lift a dying man, the way you feed a baby. The way in which you teach an ignorant child, the way you give medicine to a leper...your attitude and manners towards them all this is God's love in the world today. "God still loves the world!"

Lead: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Conclusion:

Mother Teresa often repeated:

"Let nothing so disturb, so fill us with sorrow, discouragement as to make us forget the joy of the resurrection." Let us keep the love of Jesus Crucified always in our hearts and let us be true witnesses of the joy of His resurrection, as we recall Mother Teresa's words: "May the joy and love of the Risen Jesus be always with you, in you and among you so that we all become the true witness of His Father's love for the world: "for God loved the world so much that He gave His Son". "Let us also love God so much that we give ourselves to Him in each other and in the poor."

Conclusion – Cont'd

Let us pray for the intensions of our Holy Father: Pope Francis

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...

Lead: Blessed Saint Teresa of Calcutta,

All: Pray for us!

Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross – Alan Jackson