

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All

Paul Turner

These Stations of the Cross accompany members of the Church in our time of atonement for the sins associated with the sexual abuse of our children, and with our yearning for healing.

The titles of the fourteen stations are the Scripture-Based Stations of the Cross from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. Pope Saint John Paul II led something similar on several occasions as an alternative to the traditional stations. Missing are non-scriptural events such as the three falls of Jesus and the appearance of Veronica. The Scripture-Based Stations fill out the meditation on the Passion with more details from the gospel accounts.

These stations envision four leadership roles:

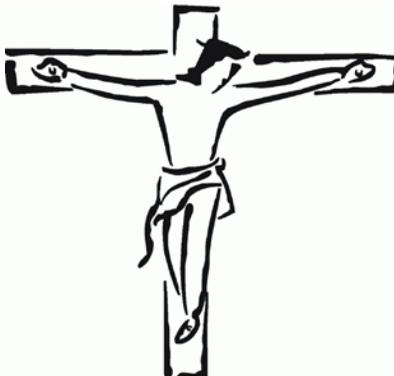
- 1) The leader may be a lay person, preferably one who can sing two simple chants drawn from the Roman Missal, one associated with Good Friday, the other with the penitential act of the Mass. These may be sung without accompaniment. However, if the leader cannot sing, these parts may be recited.
- 2) The reader proclaims the pertinent passages from the Bible.
- 3) The Abuse Victim's Voice reads actual quotes from those who have suffered abuse.
- 4) It is suggested that the person reading the "Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy" be an ordained cleric. It is recommended that this person allow generous silence after each "Let us pray" to help the community meditate on the biblical passage and the abuse victim's voice.

The four leaders may process to all 14 stations. They may be led by cross and candles, though this is not required. Any who are able may accompany them in procession.

(All stand throughout. All who are able may process to each of the 14 Stations.)

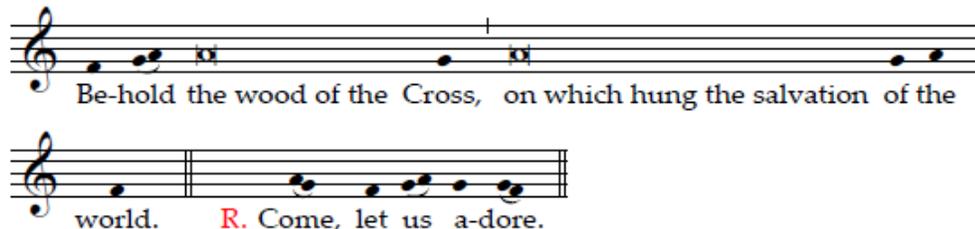
Leader (Cantor): **Though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,**

All: **he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:6 -8)**



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The First Station. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.**



Reader:

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt 25:36-41)

Abuse Victim's Voice:

When I came to you, I was vulnerable and abused, but you turned me away.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
in your Son's time of trial,
he trusted in his apostles, his chosen religious leaders,
but they turned away.
We confess the times we have not heard the voice of Jesus your Son
in the cry of those who suffer.**

All:

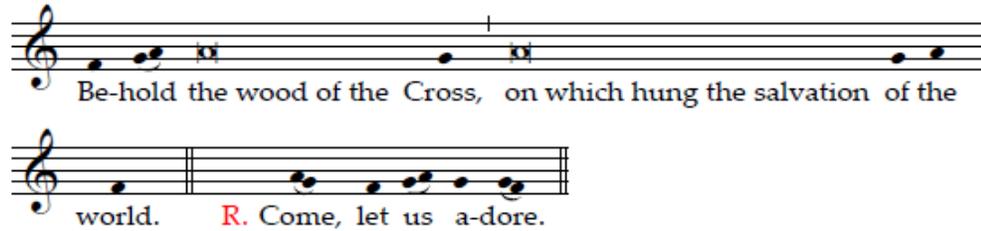
**Lord Jesus Christ, abused and abandoned,
hear the cries of your wounded church,
and strengthen us in our trial.
We sometimes feel alone in the garden of life,
even when shepherds accompany us there.
When the weaknesses of our leaders uncover their disloyalty,
let your will be done. Save us from disillusion and despair.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Second Station. Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, Is Arrested.**



Reader: **Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. (Mark 14:43-46)**

Abuse Victim's Voice:

**At first his attention made me feel special,
but now I feel dirty and worthless.**

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
a friend of your Son Jesus betrayed him with a sign reserved for love.
We confess the times when we have confused our desires
with true affection.**

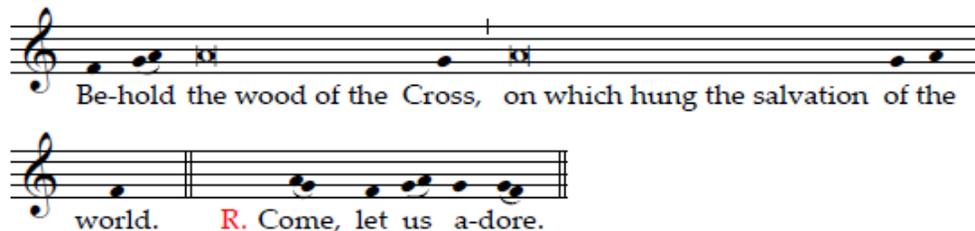
All: **Lord Jesus Christ, betrayed by one you trusted,
look upon your broken church.
When we confide in shepherds who later yield to sin,
strengthen our faith in you and in your call.
When others put their trust in us,
suppress our lust, restrain our hate, show us how to love.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Third Station. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin.**



Reader: **When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us,” but he replied to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied to them, “You say that I am.” Then they said, “What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth.” (Luke 22:66-71)**

Abuse Victim’s Voice:

**When I was brave enough to tell you the truth,
you chose to side with my abuser.**

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus spoke the truth to those with power over him,
but they could not accept it.
We confess that in our pride we were deaf to the words of those we hurt.**

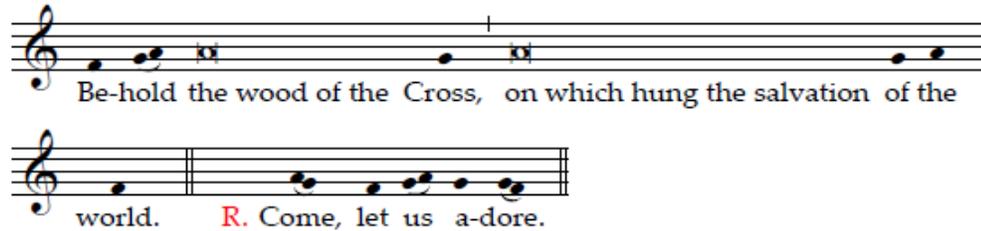
All: **Lord Jesus Christ, innocent but accused,
make us always eager to speak the truth,
to hear the truth, to live by the truth.
Help us to judge right from wrong,
to defend those who suffer though they have not sinned,
and to listen to those who summon the courage to speak.
When we feel disappointment in your church,
remind us of this truth: You are the Son of God.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Fourth Station. Jesus is Denied by Peter.**



Reader:

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Mark 26:69-75)

Abuse Victim's Voice:

You were my shepherd. Why did you abandon me?

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus chose Peter to shepherd his church,
but Peter betrayed him again and again.
We confess the times when we have failed to be good shepherds
of your flock.**

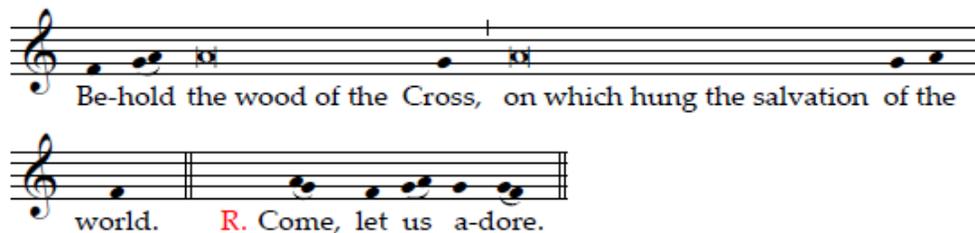
All:
**Lord Jesus Christ, distanced and denied,
in our anger and our fear let us never stray from you.
When hurtful words spoken in private become public scandal,
we weep bitterly.
When people curse and swear,
when strong opinions spread in the courtyard, at the gate,
and among bystanders,
keep us from denying you.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Fifth Station. Jesus Is Judged by Pilate.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas...[and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified. (Mark 15:1-5, 15)**

Abuse Victim’s Voice:

You took away my innocence and left me broken within.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
no one defended your Son Jesus
while others lied about him.
We confess our silence when you counted on us
to safeguard the body of Christ.**



All: **Lord Jesus Christ,
trapped and trivialized,
beyond our words give us deeds that protect your children.
You were bound, led away, and handed over.
Keep the helpless from the same fate.
Let us never feel satisfied when an abuser walks free
- even a relative or a friend.
Protect victims from blaming themselves for someone else’s guilt.**

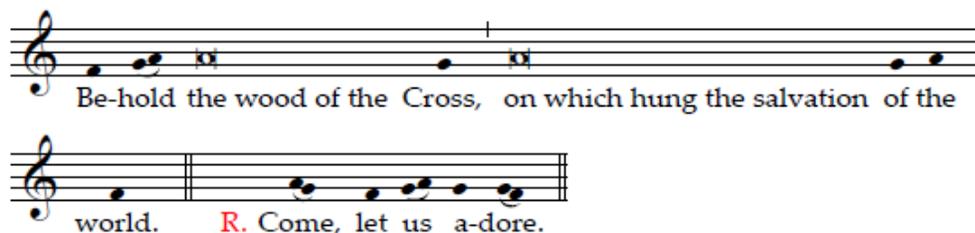
Leader (Cantor):



V. Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son. **R.** Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son.

Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): The Sixth Station. Jesus Is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns.



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (John 19:1-3)**

Abuse Victim's Voice:

The pain was so intense that I didn't want to live.



Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
the tormenters of Jesus your Son abused his body and spirit.
We confess the times we scoffed when we should have served.**

All: **Lord Jesus Christ, ridiculed and crushed,
lift us from self-pity
and make us serve the dignity of every human person.
We sense your pain when we recall the crown of thorns upon your head.
We sense the pain of all your children struck in any way.
Your tormentors forced clothing on you in order to mock.
Clothe us in righteousness.**

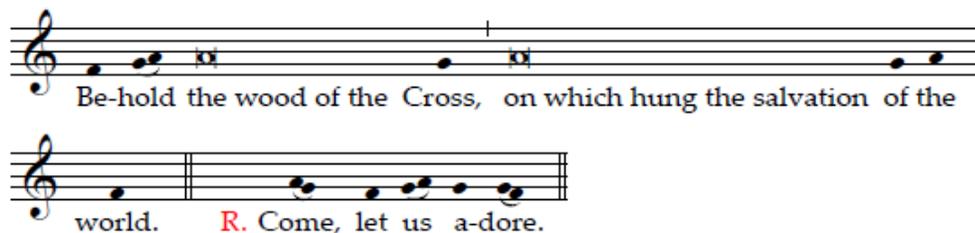
Leader (Cantor):



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Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Seventh Station. Jesus Bears the Cross.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus], they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” ... They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19:6, 15-17)**

Abuse Victim’s Voice:

Your safe house of God is the home of my torment.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus entered the halls of justice and found no justice there.
We confess the times when we have not defended
the rights of the oppressed.**

All: **Lord Jesus Christ, judged and convicted,
help us who have borne the cross of shame
to walk with you who set us free.
At times we are swept up in the rage of the crowd.
At times we choose solutions that prolong injustice.
Help us set down the cross of shame,
and shoulder the cross of righteousness.**



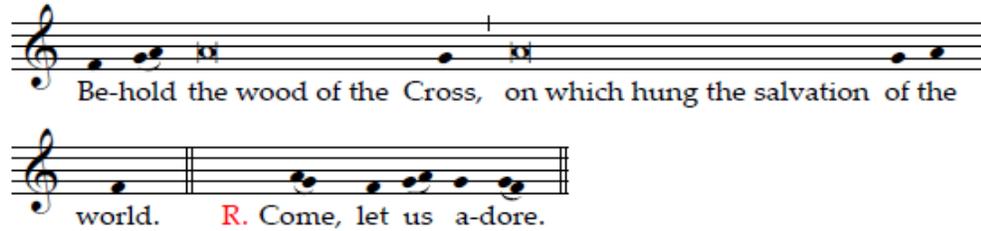
Leader (Cantor):



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Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Eighth Station. Jesus Is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross.**



Reader: **They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.**
(Mark 15:21)

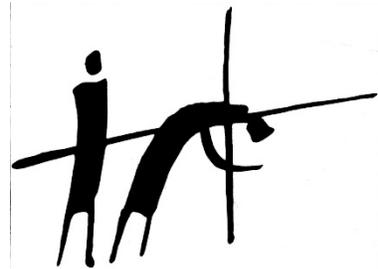
Abuse Victim's Voice:

I am sad and weary and can't find my path to healing.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your beaten, weakened Son Jesus
no longer had to climb alone.
We confess that we did not seek partnership
with those who could have eased your church's pain.**



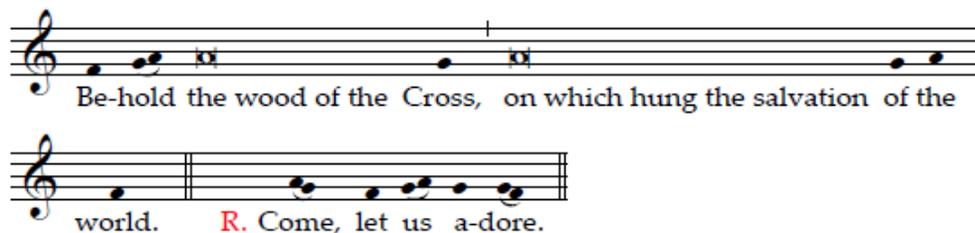
All:
**Lord Jesus Christ, loved and lifted,
you received a stranger's help.
When all we feel is the weight of the cross, the distance of the path,
and the silence of our friends, lift us up.
Raise our eyes to look beyond public wrath and anger.
Let us find the hands of those who care.
Make us humble enough to share our cross with them.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Ninth Station. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.**



Reader:

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’” At that time people will say to the mountains, “Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, “Cover us!” for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?” (Luke 23:27-31)

Abuse Victim’s Voice:

I cannot love myself. How can anyone love me?

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus took no cheap solace in compassion.
We confess we did not grasp the aftermath of agony.**



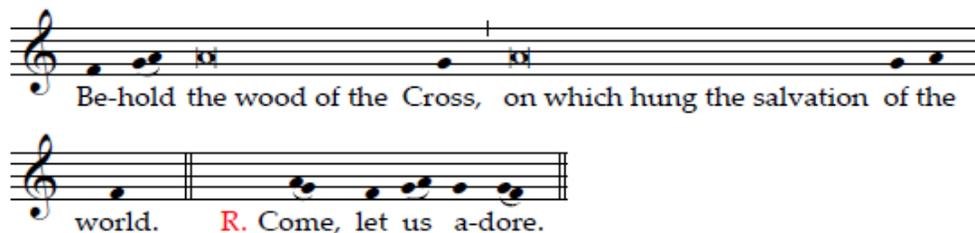
All: **Lord Jesus Christ,
prophet of tears to come,
you came face to face with the sorrow of many women.
On the worst of days, when your people despair of every tomorrow,
they wonder if the world would be better
with barren women and widespread ruin.
Fill us all with hope in you
and help us comfort those who cry.**

Leader (Cantor):



Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Tenth Station. Jesus Is Crucified.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."]** (Luke 23:33-34)

Abuse Victim's Voice:

I am so ashamed.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus suffered the indignity of the cross,
a sign of sin and shame.
We confess we have prolonged the shame of others
by not believing what they said and seeking their forgiveness.**

All: **Lord Jesus Christ, stripped, pinned down,
yet noble and forgiving,
oppressed in company with culprits.
When people with power restrict our freedom,
we see little hope on our right or on our left.
Teach us how to forgive without condoning sin and crime.**



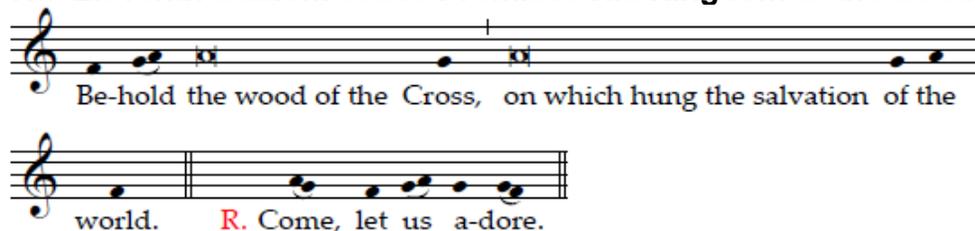
Leader (Cantor):



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Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Eleventh Station. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader:

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

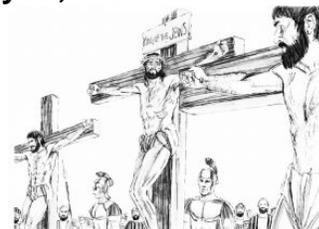
Abuse Victim's Voice:

I was only mad at him, but now I am mad at God and at you, too.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
you had power to save your Son from the cross,
and victims from abusers.
We confess the times we have not faithfully proclaimed
your power over sin, the mystery of your mercy.**



All:
**Lord Jesus Christ,
reviled and misunderstood,
a stranger sought your help, but for his own advantage.
We hear around us the scornful shouts
of those who revile your church.
When we tremble at the sounds of anger on the rise,
act with justice for us all.
Turn our ears toward your cross to hear of promised Paradise.**

Leader (Cantor):



V. Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son. R. Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son.

Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Twelfth Station. Jesus Speaks to his Mother and the Disciple.**

Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the
world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.



Reader: **Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19:25-27)**

Abuse Victim's Voice:

I really wanted to tell my parents, but he told me God would punish me.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus did not conceal his wounds from his own mother,
and seeking no comfort for himself, he comforted her suffering.
We confess the times we did not strengthen trust in families.**

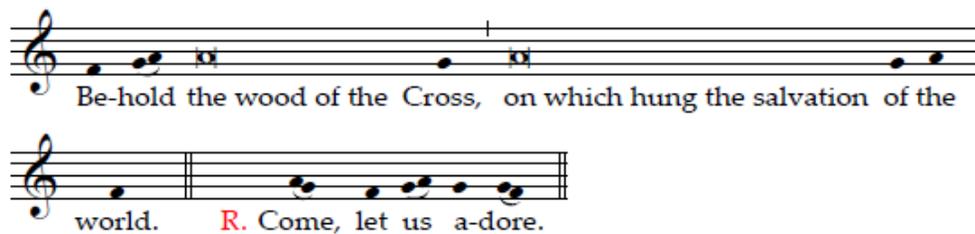
All: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, brother to us,
in the midst of your suffering, at the hour of your death,
you remembered the demands of family love.
Help us to share what matters most with those we hold the closest,
and patiently receive in love the hurts and healings of family life.**

Leader (Cantor):

V. Ky-ri - e, e-le-i-son. **R.** Ky-ri - e, e-le-i-son.

Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Thirteenth Station. Jesus Dies on the Cross.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit;” and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)**

Abuse Victim’s Voice:

I had faith in my God, but you betrayed my faith.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus trusted you until his final breath.
Never did he harbor suspicion in you.
We confess that our neglect has fostered doubt
in those who suffer from abuse.**



All: **Lord Jesus Christ, mortal and obedient,
you sustained the light of faith as the whole land darkened around you.
Tear the veil that separates us from you.
Revive our hope.
Restore our faith that your love conquers death and sin.**

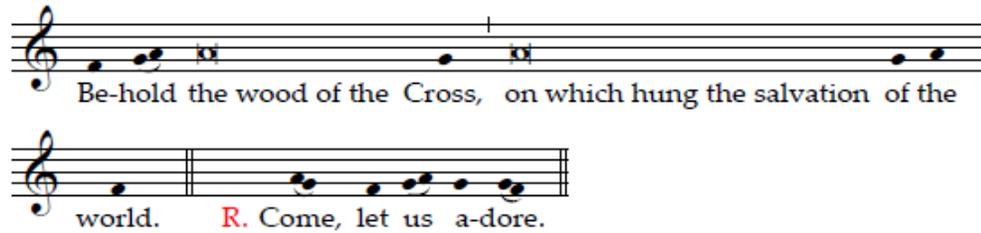
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Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **The Fourteenth Station. Jesus Is Placed in the Tomb.**



Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. **R.** Come, let us a-dore.

Reader: **When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matt 27:57-60)**

Abuse Victim's Voice:

I was afraid to get in the car with him, but too scared to tell him no.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy:

Let us pray. (Pause)

**O God,
your Son Jesus entered the tomb
alone and unaware.
We confess the times when we lost sight of those
who found themselves driven far away from you.**



All: **Lord Jesus Christ, life within death,
make us mindful of those who dwell in shadows,
wrap them in the clean linen of our love,
and as we sit beside the huge stone of their suffering,
send your Spirit to raise both them and us
from the darkness of despair to the light of resurrection.**

Leader (Cantor):



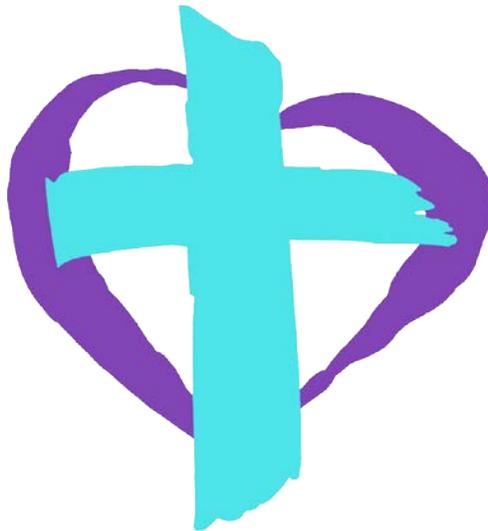
V. Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son. **R.** Ký-ri - e, e-lé-i-son.

Stations of the Cross

Leader (Cantor): **Though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,**

All: **he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:6 -11)**

Amen.



Acknowledgments

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April 2019