

## Introductory Prayer

**Reader:** In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the One God.

**All:** Amen.

**Reader:** In the Way of the Cross, we seek to discover love and goodness, in light of Jesus' experience. These stages are stations, which call us to repentance and conscience commitment. Indeed, perfection is a constant pursuit of good.

Let us pray: O Christ, help us understand the depth of your love for us, so that we take a bold step towards conversion; And you, Mary, our mother, help us to live in truth whatever the price was.

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven....

**All:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.....

**Reader:** Glory Be ..... As it was in the beginning.....

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

At the Cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.

O holy Mother, make your only child's wounds,  
imprinted in my heart.

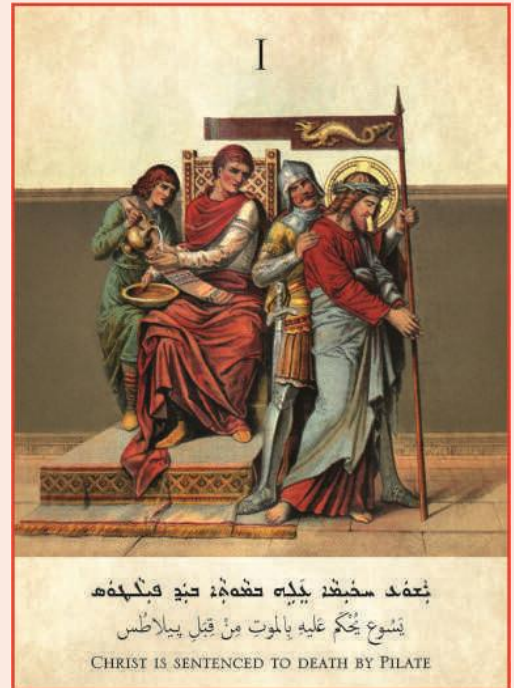
## The First Station

**Reader:** Jesus is sentenced to death.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

Reader: We read in the Gospel of Luke that Pilate issued his judgment on Jesus under the pressure of the priests: "Pilate, a third time, said to them: What evil did this man do? I have found in Him no offence worthy of death, so after I punish Him, I will release Him. But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices for Jesus to be crucified. And their clamor prevailed. So, Pilate sentenced that their demand be met... And Jesus surrendered." (Luke 23: 22-25)



Human authority judged Jesus because He said the truth and because He did not comply with the people in their easy and shallow judgments. Aren't we sometimes like Pilate when we judge people easily? Aren't we like him when we escape our responsibilities towards truth and justice? Are we aware of the gravity of sending the man we disagree with into the suffering of pain? Every time a man suffers or dies because of us, we have deviated from Jesus, who said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). Let us review ourselves and regret all that we had to do and did not do or did not do enough to make life more beautiful and people happier.

**Let us pray:** Lord, give us the courage to follow you in the path of truth and justice. Lord, guide us always to your truth. Amen.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**While she waited in her anguish,  
seeing Christ in torment languish,  
Bitter sorrow pierced her heart.**

## The Second Station

**Reader:** Jesus accepts the cross and carries it.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** The Gospel of Matthew tells us how the judgement was executed on Jesus: "Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium... They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand. Then they knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. "Hail, king of the Jews! After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him." (Matthew 27: 27-31)



We have been accustomed to placing the cross in our homes and carrying it as a jewellery on our lapel without contemplating deeply in making it a way of union with our Savior, Christ. In front of the difficulties of life that confront us, we sometimes either rebel or become depressed instead of turning them into opportunities of encounter, openness, solidarity, conversion, growth and progress. Let us examine our lives!

**Let us pray:** O Lord Jesus, help us accept all that is required of our commitment to you and to our brothers with steadfastness, hope and joy.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**With what pain and desolation,  
with what noble resignation,  
Mary watched her dying Son.**

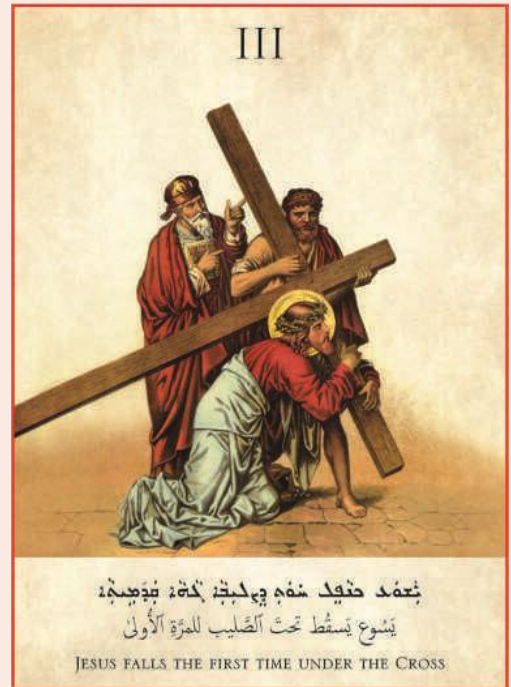
## The Third Station

**Reader:** Jesus falls for the first time.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the lamentations of Jeremiah: "I am the man who has seen affliction because of the rod of His wrath. He has driven me and made me walk in darkness and not in light. He has caused my flesh and my skin to waste away, He has broken my bones. The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease.



For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. " (Lamentations of Jeremiah 3: 1-4; 22-23) Jesus, the perfect man, falls three times on earth, because a man falls. Jesus falling on the earth under the weight of the cross is a mirror that reflects our weakness and strength. Life in its dimensions is a long and broad path, whose renewal is discovered every day with true love and real presence, despite our failure sometimes.

**Let us pray:** O Lord, give us the courage to acknowledge our weakness for Your salvation to come to us.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Ever-patient in her yearning  
though her tear-filled eyes were burning,  
Mary gazed upon her Son.**

## The Fourth Station

**Reader:** Jesus meets his holy mother.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** The Gospel of Luke states: "Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon. He blessed them and then said to his mother Mary: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2: 34-35)



Mary represents all humanity in its journey towards salvation. She is present in our lives as she was present in the life of her son and her eye is watchful for us. She shares our pain as she shared His pain. Her presence enhances our strength, and motivates us to strive for the most perfect and most holy. The face of Mary, the mother and virgin, should be before every Christian mother and girl to be etched on her face.

**Let us pray:** Mary our mother, help us to listen better and to be more open, loving and giving.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Who, that sorrow contemplating,  
on that passion meditating,  
Would not share the Virgin's grief.**

## The Fifth Station

**Reader:** Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jeremiah lamentations mention: "I called on Your name, O Lord, Out of the lowest pit. You have heard my voice, "Do not hide Your ear from my prayer for relief, From my cry for help." You drew near when I called on You; You said, "Do not fear!" O Lord, You have pleaded my soul's cause; You have redeemed my life."

(Lamentations of Jeremiah 3: 55-58)



Here is Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross of Jesus, of whom he had no prior knowledge. A needy person is a brother and we do not need prior knowledge to help him. We all need mutual help. How difficult it is when we feel alone in the midst of our problems. Simon calls upon us to be united and sharing; to extend a hand when we can serve, relieve and please someone. Let us recall to mind the words of Jesus in the scene of Last Judgment: "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". (Mathew 25: 35-40).

Therefore, all that we do to our brethren, we have done to Christ our Savior.

**Let us pray:** O Lord, open our hearts to be like Simon of Cyrene, to help of our brothers and alleviate their problems and pain.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Christ she saw, for our salvation,  
courged with cruel acclamation,  
Bruised and beaten by the rod.**

## The Sixth Station

**Reader:** Veronica Wipes Jesus' face.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Book of Isaiah: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces... Surely, He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him

punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted.

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed". (Isaiah 53: 2-5)

In the beginning it was the woman, and life, tenderness and kindness. Christianity did not believe in women's inferiority and did not rank her in second place. Women are equal to men for both are the image of God. Church tradition tells us about the initiative of this courageous woman whose love pushed her to transcend customs and traditions to meet Christ. Her name is Veronica or Warina, which means a "true icon".

Veronica, like her companion Simon, began to alleviate Jesus' suffering. By wiping His face, the details of His face were imprinted not only on the handkerchief, but also in her enlightened heart. Her symbolic act means that Jesus actually prints His face on every act of love and mercy we do. Women are a blessing, being a high and noble human and spiritual value. The example of woman's faith, calls upon us to respect and appreciate her and to open the door to her talents for the building of the Church and society.

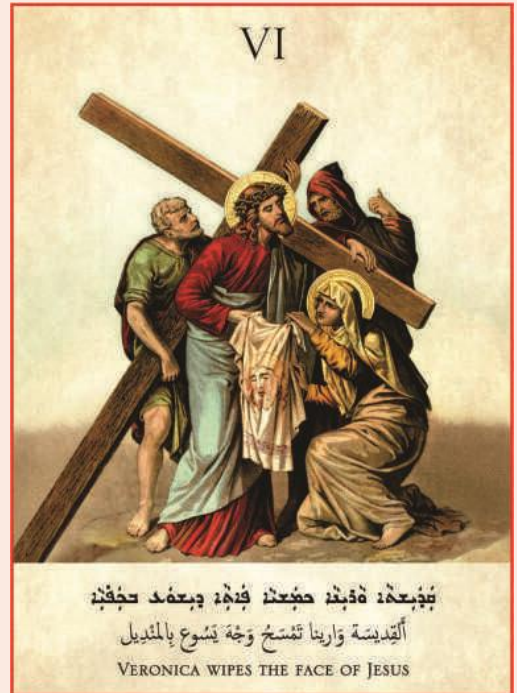
**Let us pray:** O Lord, imprint in our hearts Your beautiful face, so as not to forget Your great love for us.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

Christ she saw with life-blood failing,  
all her anguish unavailing,  
saw Him breathe His very last.



## The Seventh Station

**Reader:** Jesus falls for the second time.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** It is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet: "Shout it aloud... Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins... your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you... But God will come as Savior."  
(Isaiah 58:1; 59:2-3)



Jesus' repeated fall under the cross leads us to think of our repeated fall in sin and our indifference to God's loving and compassionate design. Jesus did not give us His gospel to build beautiful theories upon it, but to build our life according to it.

We often lose the meaning of sin because of our vacillation and confusion in our halal and forbidden thinking.

**Let us pray:** O Lord Jesus, free us from our stumbling blocks and pay our steps in spreading the culture of good, love and peace among all human beings.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Mary, fount of love's devotion,  
let me share with true emotion  
all the sorrow you endured.**

## The Eighth Station

**Reader:** Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Gospel of Luke: "A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"  
(Luke 23: 27-28; 31)

The weeping of women on Jesus may be true passion, but passion alone is not enough; it must go further, to the roots of pain and injustice. So He says to them, "Cry for yourselves and your children." He calls for hard work in order to reduce injustice and pain, change people's conditions and build a civilization of love.

Following Jesus requires us to take firm steps in the path of true guidance, and to seek something of value in our lives!

**Let us pray :** O Lord Jesus, help us to sincerely repent to root out selfishness, violence and hostility.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Virgin, ever interceding,  
Hear me in my fervent pleading:  
Fire me with your love of Christ.**



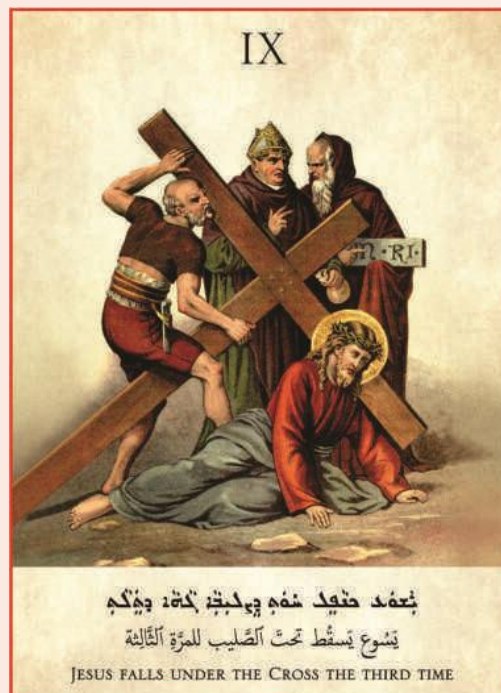
## The Ninth Station

**Reader:** Jesus falls for the third time.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Lamentations of Jeremiah: "The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground, they are silent. They have thrown dust on their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth.



The virgins of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground. How shall I admonish you? To what shall I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? For your ruin is as vast as the sea...".

(Lamentations of Jeremiah 2: 10-13)

Despite all the official pronouncements to respect the rights of others and peoples, humanity today is on the brink, crushed by the weight of evil and injustice: violence and wars, misery, displacement, migration, disease, poverty and exploitation. Jesus' repeated falls and distorted face reflect this reality, and calls us to do something for our people's rescue and salvation "to have life and abundance."

**Let us pray:** O Lord Jesus, revive our hope to courageously rise from our pitfalls and begin a new life.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Mother, may this prayer be granted:  
That Christ's love may be implanted,  
In the depths of my poor soul.**

## The Tenth Station

**Reader:** Jesus is robbed of his clothes.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** The Gospel of John states: "When the soldiers crucified

Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." (Psalm 21: 19) So this is what the soldiers did." (John 19: 23-24)

In addition to the depth of Jesus' suffering, his adversaries humiliated Him when they stripped Him of His clothes. They undressed Him so that His face does not remain His human face!

Our body and our clothing reflect our personality and our beauty, which is the beauty of our Lord. Modest and decent clothing, is a proof of maturity and depth. It is regrettable that today the clothes and the body are exploited for publicity and excitement.

Do we realize that we are witnesses to something different from what John's Gospel calls the "world"! Let us review our life!

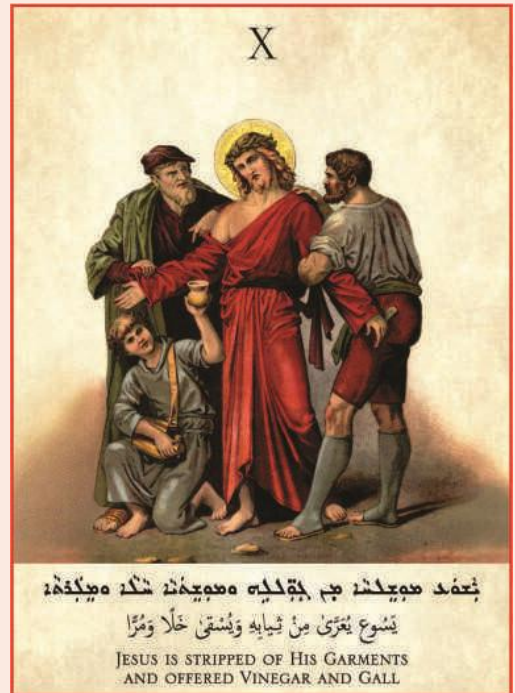
**Let us pray:** O Lord Jesus, help us to take away our worn habits to preserve the purity of our baptism, no matter how sacrifices.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**At the cross, your sorrow sharing,  
All your grief and torment bearing  
Let me stand and mourn with you.**



## The Eleventh Station

**Reader:** Jesus is nailed to the cross.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

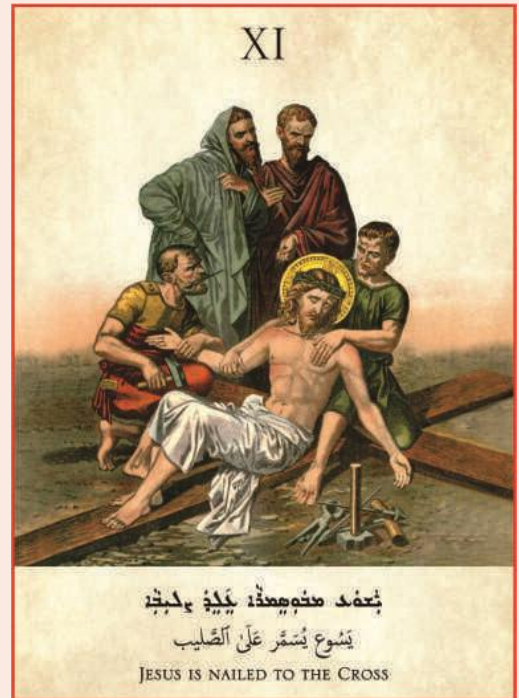
**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Psalms: "they pierce my hands and my feet.

All my bones are on display." (Psalm 22: 17-18)

Jesus was nailed to the cross so that He could not move. This nailed body, is treated as a thing, not as a human being of great value!

And we ask with pain: since when were the nails made to knock on the human body created in the image of God and His likeness?



Despite these excruciating pains and insults, Jesus remained committed to those who He loved to the end. This absolute faithfulness till death is what made the Father value Him and raise Him.

Unfortunately, faithfulness today is not a popular commodity. People turn their backs on principles and constants to their own advantage. Let us consider where our commitment to the values of our faith and the tenets of our Christian ethic has become.

**Let us pray:** Lord, make us steadfast to our principles and faithful to our Christian ethics.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

**Virgin, in your love befriend me,  
at the Judgment Day defend me  
help me by your constant prayer.**

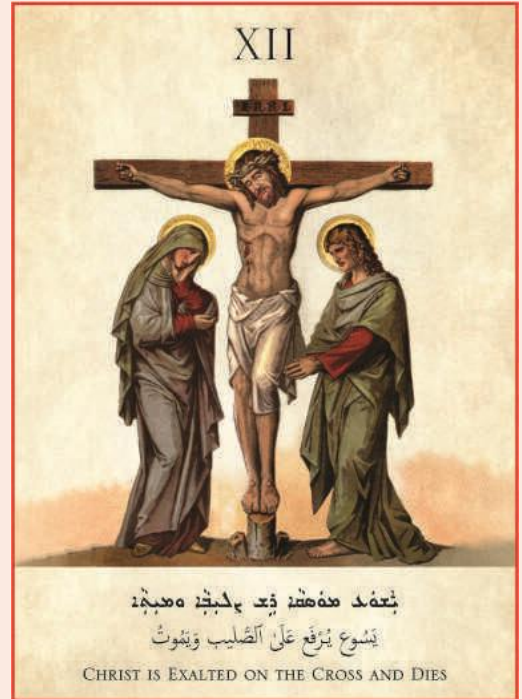
## The Twelfth Station

**Reader:** Jesus dies on the Cross.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** It is written in the book of Zechariah: "They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only... On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them. If from sin and impurity someone asks, 'What are these wounds on your hands?' And He will answer them: 'The wounds I was given at the house of my friends'". (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1-6)



The limitless love of Jesus, and what made him accept the cross and die, is His love and trust. What we must ask for in the stages of the path of the Cross is that God gives us the courage and ability to face our pain and turn it into a sign of the continuous paschal mystery in us. Life does not just mean the continuation of existence, but the presence of God in us. The Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, says: "We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. " (2 Cor. 4: 18).

Let us pray: Father, I will give you my self. Do whatever you want to me. Whatever you do to me, I am thankful to you. I am ready for everything. I accept everything. I have no other desire, my God, but only to fulfill your will in me and in all your creatures. My Father, I put my soul into your hands and give it to you, My God, with all the love in my heart because I love you and because love requires me to give myself, to put it in your hands without measures and with unlimited confidence... Because you're my father.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

Let me to my latest breath,  
in my body bear the death  
Of your dying Son divine.

## The Thirteenth Station

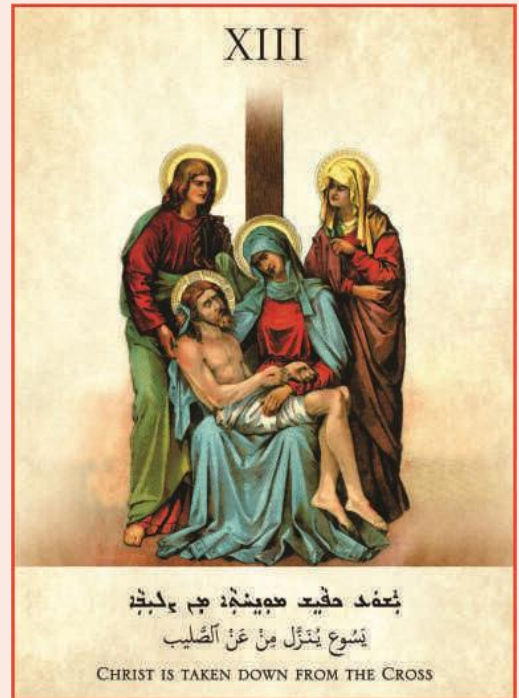
**Reader:** Jesus descends from the cross.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Lamentations of Jeremiah: "How lonely sits the city That was full of people! She weeps bitterly in the night and her tears are on her cheeks. The roads of Zion are in mourning

because no one comes to the appointed feasts. All her gates are desolate... Lord, look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me". (Lamentations of Jeremiah 1: 1-2, 4: 11-12)



Mary, this grieving mother, finds her son again in her arms as when He was in Bethlehem. Jesus in her arms calls for every Christian who wishes to live the secret of a new birth. Mary the mark of the Church and her mother, would like to lead us to the true company with her son, away from the superficial emotions. When

Mary said: "May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1: 38), she only wanted to express the depth of her faith and her desire to bear this evangel-birth's obligations and sacrifice. Today she tells us, as she said to the servants at the wedding of Qana: "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5).

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus, we have taken our steps in the way of the new birth to enter into your kingdom with our mother Mary.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

Savior, when my life shall leave me,  
Through your mother's prayers receive me,  
With the fruits of victory.

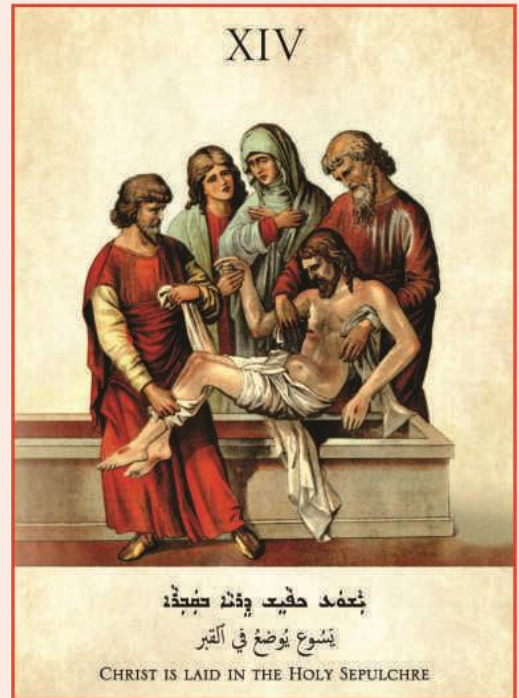
## The Fourteenth Station

**Reader:** Jesus is placed in the grave.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Gospel of Luke: " there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action... Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid."(Luke 23: 50-53) It's all over.



Jesus was placed in the grave hastily before Passover, which begins at sunset (John 19:31-32). His murderers imagined that they could now return to their homes in peace, because they had killed that annoying prophet. But Jesus, like the grain of wheat, did not remain prisoner of the grave, but He raised and the resurrection flowed from the depths of His grave.

We sometimes act like those mentioned in the Bible, we put Jesus in a new grave, perform rituals and practices, and return to our ordinary everyday concerns without leaving a trace in us! Where is our daily faith commitment to follow Jesus in the path of service and self-sacrifice? Let us review our positions.

Let us pray: O Lord, stay with us, the night is dark and our world is troubled. O Lord, stay with us to guide us on the path of resurrection, life and renewal. O Lord, stay with us.

**All:** Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be... As it was in the beginning ...

**Reader:** Have Mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** Lord, have Mercy.

While my body here decays  
May my soul your goodness praise,  
Safe in heaven eternally.

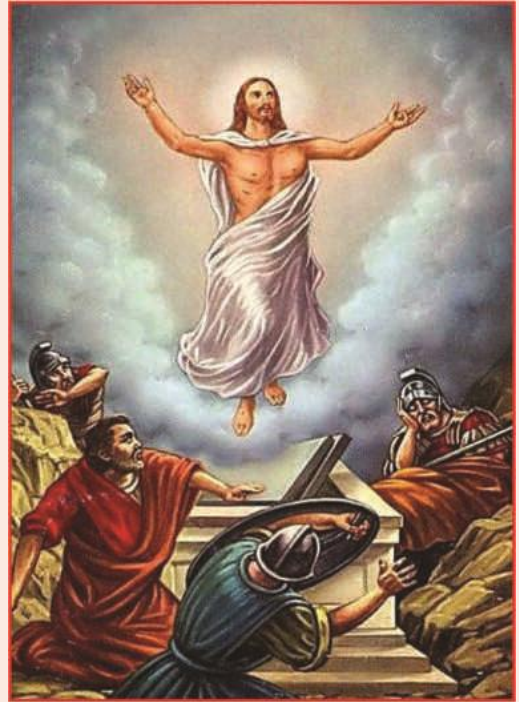
## The Fifteenth Station

**Reader:** Easter morning - Resurrection.

**Reader:** We worship you, O Christ, and praise you.

**All:** For you, with your Holy Cross, redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We read in the Gospel of Luke "But on the first of the week (ie on Sunday) at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared... They did not find the body of the Lord Jesus... They saw two men wearing bright clothes, saying to them, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, He has risen.



Then they remembered His words." (Luke 24: 1-8) There is no way to lead life except through Christ. He alone leads those who go to the Feast of Life. The grain of wheat thrown into the earth gives life abundantly. Jesus is alive. God is love and life: Just as He did not leave His son subject to the authority of death, He will not leave us in the valley of the shadow of death if we walk on the path of Jesus.

We do not look for the living among the dead, as the angel said to the women, and we do not search for those we lost among the dead, and we do not weep for them and grieve. We must be comforted that God draws all his sons and daughters into full life.

**Let us pray:** O, Christ who died on the cross, we bless you.

O Christ risen from the dead. We praise you.

O Christ, sitting forever on the right hand of the Father.

We glorify you.

## Final Prayer

**Let us pray**, with the confidence and hope of the prayer which the Lord Jesus taught us, and we strive to live up to its requirements:

Our Father ...

**Let us pray**, to Mary our mother who accompanied us at the beginning of the march and wait for us at the end, saying:

Hail Mary...

**Reader:** Glory be to the Father ... **All:** As it was in the beginning ...  
Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus, You have overcome death and sin  
and you rose as promised,  
and today, you live among us.

Help our faith become our living experience,  
so that your presence to be a meeting and a celebration,

A message and a certificate. Amen.



[Our Lady Guardian of Plants Chaldean catholic Church](#)