

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR HEALING

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INTRODUCTION

The word “cross” might have a negative tone for us: something painful, a burden we have to bear. But the truth is, anything we accept as the cross is healing for us. The cross turns pain into love. And love is the fullness of life.

The way of the cross was the most important moment of Jesus’ life—for him, and for us. By his way of the cross we have been healed. The First Letter of Peter tells us:

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed... For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

To absorb the mystery of the healing Jesus brought to us, we divide his way of the cross into fourteen “stations,” or stopping places, where we pause to reflect on what is happening. Each one of these moments had great meaning and value for Jesus. And each heals us in a special way. We want to understand what that is so that we can open our hearts to healing, and open them more fully to Jesus himself.

For that to happen, we have to look, reflect, and absorb. And the Holy Spirit has to inspire us. That will be our prayer as we pray the way of the cross.

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The First Station

HEALING FROM THE PAIN OF REJECTION

LEADER The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Our true identity is identification with Christ. See Jesus judged and condemned. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Have you ever been rejected? Misunderstood? Did it make you question your value, feel worthless? Unlovable? Jesus was condemned unjustly to heal us of that.

The judgment pronounced on Jesus shows us how little human judgments matter. Jesus was God himself, the best, most loving person who ever lived. Those who judged him didn't know him. And those who judge us don't know us. The mystery of Christianity is that, in baptism, Jesus made us his own body, living by his own divine life. Those who judge us are judging him.

Now the Father sees and loves in us what he sees and loves in Christ. On the cross, Jesus made our sins his own. And annihilated them. Anything bad in us, he purifies. "Behold, I am making all things new!" We have the beauty of Jesus Christ!

Our true identity is identification with Christ. We are healed of all rejection—given and received—when we identify ourselves and others with Jesus rejected, crucified, and triumphant.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

Christ redeemed us... by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."

All you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, if we ever judge ourselves or others for anything, let us hear you saying, "If you judge the least—or worst—of your brothers or sisters, you are judging me." Amen.

✠ **READING QUOTES:** See *Sunday Preface VII*; *Revelation 21:5*; *Galatians 2:19*; *3:13*; *Colossians 1:27*; *Acts 4:11*

The Second Station

HEALING FROM THE WEIGHT OF OUR SINS

LEADER The Second Station: Jesus takes up the cross.

The weight of the cross is sin. Jesus carries ours. See Jesus accepting the cross. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER The greatest cross we carry is our own sin, whose weight is guilt, shame, fear, and discouragement. Jesus heals us of all that by making our cross, our sins, his own. At baptism he took us, with all of our sins, into his body on the cross. When he died, we died with him and in him, and our sins were annihilated. Now all who are forgiven are without sin. We have been made innocent. That is the mystery of redemption.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

All we like sheep have gone astray; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Now Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, if we find our sins unbearable, we can shift their weight to your shoulders. You are already carrying them.
Amen.

✠ SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 11:28

The Third Station

HEALING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF FAILURE

LEADER The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.

A strong Christian is a weak person who relies on God. See Jesus fall under the weight of the cross. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings, come to you? Dwell on them now and later.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Failures can cause discouragement, even self-loathing. We worry about the damage we have done by our failures to be good enough at what we do—as men, women, spouses, parents, teachers, managers, workers, Christians.

Jesus, though he was God, became a human being with human weaknesses, to show us that to be weak is not to be evil. It is to be human. Jesus fell under the cross because he was too weak to carry it. He heals us of our sense of failure by showing us that even he, in his human body, could and did fail.

No fall makes us a failure if we let Jesus help us up.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me... for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God... emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness... Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, you fell so that we might rise. Keep us rising until we are risen with you forever. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** 2 *Corinthians* 12:9–10; *Philippians* 2:6–9

The Fourth Station

HEALING FROM THE SENSE OF ISOLATION

LEADER The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his blessed mother.

Where love is shown, none suffers alone. See the faces of Jesus and Mary when they meet. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER In his mother's pain, Jesus saw her love. And his Father's love. And ours. He saw the Spirit of love uniting the human race in sympathy—"suffering with"—one another until the end of time. Simeon had said to Mary, "Your own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed."

As long as people are free to sin they will cause others pain and contribute to a sense of isolation on earth. But when we share each other's suffering, it transforms pain into love, and isolation into relationship. Then out of many hearts, love will be revealed.

Suffering and isolation will pass, but love expressed and shared will last forever. To remember this heals.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the

inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and your own soul a sword will pierce."

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Lord, give us the love to co-suffer with others, and to express our love for them in healing words and actions. Amen.

✠ SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:34-35*

The Fifth Station

HEALING FROM RESENTFULNESS

LEADER The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross.

There is only one cross. We carry it with Jesus. See Simon forced to carry Jesus's cross. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Simon just thought he was being burdened—until he picked up the cross. Then he knew he was involved in something beyond his understanding.

We have the same experience. We resent what we have to suffer—until we accept it as the cross. Then it becomes something that involves us in the redemption of the world.

All suffering is in some way the result of human sins and errors, even if we cannot identify them. The *fact* of suffering is always against God's will. But the *act* of suffering is union with Jesus, who took upon himself the sin of the world and experienced the pain that sin causes. We are invited to accept whatever we suffer as our part of his cross, as some particular result of the sin of the world that happens to fall on our shoulders.

There is only one cross. When we carry our part of it, and help others carry theirs, we are helping Jesus heal the world by bearing the effects of human failures with love.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

Then Jesus said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Plate had an inscription written and put on the cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." [This inscription is on every cross, including ours.]

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Lord, by bearing our suffering you transformed pain into love. Let us see our sufferings as a sharing in your act of healing the world. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** See *Luke 9:23; John 19:19*

The Sixth Station

HEALING FROM RELUCTANCE TO EXPRESS OUR LOVE

LEADER The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Feelings bared are sufferings shared. See Veronica coming forward and wiping the face of Jesus. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings, come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER By wiping the sweat and blood off his face, Veronica did not heal Jesus' wounds. But the expression of her love helped heal the wound of rejection in his heart. Showing sympathy gives a more lasting healing to a more lasting pain.

Sympathy is healing, but only if we express it. Love does not bear its fruit until we make it known. What Veronica did shows us it is extremely important to express our love, both to God and to other people. Not to express love is to express indifference.

When Jesus gave us the image of his Sacred Heart, he said, "Look at the heart that has loved so much and received so little in return." He asked for acts of reparation—love expressed in words and deeds—love for him and love for one another.

When we give flesh to our love in physical words and actions, it is an echo of the way God showed his love for us in the Incarnation. Love made flesh is the love that heals.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God....

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.... He loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen [his love and] his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, you expressed your love for us by dying on the cross. Help us to die to the fear that keeps us from expressing our love for others. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 4:7; 9–10; John 1:1, 14

The Seventh Station

HEALING FROM ADDICTIONS AND DISCOURAGEMENT

LEADER The Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.

The remedy for human weakness is to keep trying. See Jesus fall and get up a second time. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER When Jesus fell under the cross, he didn't just show us his weakness; he showed us how to deal with ours. He kept getting up.

This makes Jesus himself the patron saint of addicts: There is no such thing as an irresistible temptation; there are only temptations we stop resisting. As long as we keep resisting, keep trying, keep getting up, we have not failed.

We are never so dead in sin that we cannot rise.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

It was fitting that God... should make the pioneer of our salvation perfect through sufferings... He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect... Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested....

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... so that [we] may not grow weary or lose heart... In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood... Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees... so that what is lame may... be healed.

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Lord, you became as weak as was possible for God. Let us be as strong as it is possible for humans who have been made divine. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** *Hebrews 2:10, 17-18; 12:1-4, 12*

The Eighth Station

HEALING FROM BLINDNESS TO DANGER

LEADER The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

We cannot prevent effects unless we recognize their causes as causes. Hear what Jesus says to the women of Jerusalem. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER In the midst of his pain, Jesus was concerned about us. He was trying to heal us of myopia. Onlookers just see what happens. Leaders ask “Why?” and “What can I do about it?” It is blindness not to recognize that some actions have consequences.

Today we see Jesus suffering in the poor and the oppressed. Unless we do something about it, what causes their pain will soon be causing ours.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

As Jesus carried his cross, there were women beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but for yourselves and your children. For indeed the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’”

and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Jesus, you warned us that, unless we do something about injustice, the same sins that sent you to the cross will plunge the world into violence and war. When we see the sins of our culture, let us choose to suffer by eradicating their causes instead of by enduring their consequences. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** See *Luke 23:27-31*

The Ninth Station

HEALING FROM THE TEMPTATION TO GIVE UP

LEADER The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.

The only true success is to try until we die. See Jesus at the end of his strength, falling again. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER After getting up again and again, Jesus is still so weak he falls.

While we live, we are never healed of weakness. We just have to accept it and keep getting up. Human wisdom says, “*Whatever goes up must come down.*” Divine wisdom says, “*Whatever falls down can rise up.*” The only true success is to try until we die.

The last physical effort Jesus had to make in his life was to get up one more time when it was obvious he was at the end of his strength. From then on, everything was surrender: he didn’t have to make his body do more, just surrender to what was done to him. He was stripped, nailed to the cross, and left to die.

Death is the final deliverance from human weakness. When we fall in death, God himself will raise us up, never to fall again. Our last sickness is our ultimate healing. It catapults us into the fullness of life.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!... In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet... we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality... Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL God, our Father, keep us rising until you raise us up forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who died and rose again for us. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 15:54-56

The Tenth Station

HEALING FROM THE FEAR OF SELF-REVELATION

LEADER The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Nakedness heals estrangement. See Jesus stripped naked by the soldiers. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Jesus let himself be stripped to reveal he was a weak, vulnerable human being like the rest of us—someone like us in everything except in choosing to sin.

Healing comes through nakedness. Doctors can't examine anyone fully clothed. Priests can't heal us of our sins unless we reveal them in confession. We cannot even repent unless we face the naked truth about ourselves—our attitudes and values. To be stripped bare, whether by free choice or by circumstances, is a blessing. It makes healing possible.

Personal relationships also require self-revelation. If we hide behind an armor of reserve, no one can know us. Then they can only love us for the goodness they believe in through faith. Nakedness can heal estrangement, if love makes us willing to be vulnerable.

Jesus wants us to know he hides nothing of himself from us. When he hung naked on the cross, he even let his heart be opened by a lance as an invitation to intimacy for all who would look at the image of his Sacred Heart and think about his love.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

Jesus says: "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Lord, we won't know you as you really are until you are stripped of your human nature and we see your unlimited beauty as God. But let us know you now through all you express in your body. And give us the courage to reveal ourselves to others so that we might all be one as you are one with the Father, the Spirit, and us. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** *John 15:15*

The Eleventh Station

HEALING FROM FEAR OF COMMITMENT

LEADER The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Irrevocable commitments give imperishable freedom. See Jesus being nailed to the cross by his hands and feet. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER The disciples told Thomas after the resurrection, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

We believe Jesus loved us because, when the ultimate test came, he gave up the freedom to fail us. The marks of the nails prove it. Once nailed, he could not have made any human choice that would have freed him from the cross.

Some healing demands helplessness. To be treated effectively, some patients have to be immobilized. And sometimes it is easier to surrender when we cannot escape what is happening to us. Strange as it sounds, helplessness can heal resistance, even to God. God will never force us to accept his will, but circumstances—for example, being faced with martyrdom—can leave us no other choice except a total yes or a total no: death or apostasy. Either/Or choices heal us of compromise. They make the good nonnegotiable.

The glorious moment of freedom that we experience when we make an irreversible choice is an exercise of freedom that endures forever. But only irrevocable promises are irreversible choices. They give us the awareness of imperishable freedom.

Ruling out every other choice heals infidelity. Jesus modeled this for us by being nailed to the cross. We first nailed ourselves to the cross with him by our baptismal promises. Every unconditional commitment we make is an echo of that sacrifice.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world... From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, we have sworn by your holy cross that we will never stop believing you, trusting you, loving you. By the gift of your Spirit, let this commitment make us free. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** *Galatians 6:14, 17*

The Twelfth Station

HEALING FROM THE FEAR OF DYING

LEADER The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross.

The ultimate healing is death and resurrection. See Jesus giving up—and losing—his human life on the cross. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER On the human level, Jesus experienced death just as we do: as the loss of existence itself. But by faith he knew it was his entrance into unrestricted fullness of life. The fruit of every recognized weakness is awareness that divine strength is offered. The ultimate healing of human weakness is death and resurrection.

Every weakness accepted in faith is a preview of Christian death. The experience that “here we have no lasting city” reminds us “we are looking for the city that is to come.” Every death is a reminder and promise of life. The death of Jesus heals our fear of death.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

Jesus said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it,

and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Jesus said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So Paul said, “I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me ... For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, let us turn every dying into life through surrender to you. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** See *John 12:23–25*; *2 Corinthians 12:9–10*;

1 Corinthians 15:54

The Thirteenth Station

HEALING FROM THE PAIN OF BEREAVEMENT

LEADER The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Losses are temporary. Life is forever. See the lifeless body of Jesus being lowered from the cross. Be there. What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Jesus, you are gone. Your mother has lost you. We have lost you, just as we have lost our loved ones who have died. That is the simple truth.

But it is not the whole truth. The truth is, we can heal the sense of loss—and all suffering—by putting it on your cross. Whatever is on the cross will come down. All crosses, and all losses, are temporary. Crosses don't call for a cure; they are the cure, because all crosses end in life eternal. You yourself compared them to childbirth.

READER Hear the word of the Lord (*pause briefly between passages*):

At the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples, "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them

be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I...."

"Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn... but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

[*a brief moment of silent prayer*]

ALL Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." In spite of what is now, give us the grace to rejoice in what will be. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** *John 14:19–20, 27–29; 16:20*

The Fourteenth Station

HEALING FROM THE GRIEF OF BURIAL

LEADER The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

For Christians, “dead and buried” means “risen and alive.” See Jesus laid in the tomb. Be there. What did his mother feel? What thoughts, what feelings come to you? Dwell on them now and later.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

ALL Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

LEADER Christian burial is like release from the hospital; it means one’s healing is complete. Funerals are victory celebrations. For us, death is the “end” of life in both senses: as life’s termination, and as life’s goal.

As goal, death is the greatest moment of life, and its ultimate fulfillment. As termination, death only ends human life on this earth, and only for the few eye-blink eons before we all rise together in the general resurrection. Then the sea and the earth will give up their dead to repopulate the “new earth” John describes in the Book of Revelation.

READER Hear the word of the Lord:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.... And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is

among mortals. He will dwell with them; And they shall be his people, and God himself with them shall be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

[a brief moment of silent prayer]

ALL Lord, give us “a new heart, and a new spirit” according to your promise, so that we might recognize as death any life that separates us from you, and as life any death that joins us to you forever. Amen.

✠ **SCRIPTURE:** *Revelation 21:1-5*

Concluding Prayer

LEADER Lord, when you walked your way of the cross, it ended in your death. But for us it was the beginning of life. By your wounds we have been healed. We ask you now to let us draw close to your wounds; to see them, touch them, and understand the healing that they give.

READERS *(If possible, go around the group and have a different reader read each item below)*

Lord, let us find, in your unjust condemnation, healing for all the rejection we have suffered or caused others to suffer.

Lord, let us find, in your willingness to take up the cross, healing from the weight of our sins.

Lord, let us find, in your falling and rising, healing for our experience of failure.

Lord, let us find, in your meeting with your mother, healing for the sense of isolation sin causes on earth.

Lord, let us find, in Simon shouldering your cross, healing for our resentfulness of burdens imposed on us.

Lord, let us find, in Veronica's act of comforting you, healing for our reluctance to express our love.

Lord, let us find, in your repeated falls, healing for our discouragement.

Lord, let us find, in your warning to the women of Jerusalem, healing for our blindness to what our choices may be doing to the world.

Lord, let us find, in your last fall, healing for our temptation to give up before we finish what you are calling us to do.

Lord, let us find, in your nakedness on the cross, healing for our fear of self-revelation.

Lord, let us find, in your acceptance of the nails that fixed you to the cross, healing for our fear of commitment.

Lord, let us find, in your surrender to death on the cross, healing for our fear of dying.

Lord, let us find, in the lowering of your body from the cross, healing for the pain of bereavement.

Lord, let us find, in your short stay in the tomb, healing for the grief of burial.

LEADER Finally, Lord, give us the light to find in every pain the cross that gives healing, love, and life to the full. Let your Way of the Cross be for us the Way of Truth, of Love, and of Life.

All Amen.