



## XIV FROM THE CROWD

### A MEDITATION ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*“The Way of the Cross is not only a great testimony to an inner depth and maturity, but it is in fact a school for interiority and consolation. It is also a school for the examination of conscience, for conversion, for inner transformation and compassion—not as sentimentality, as a mere feeling, but as a disturbing experience that knocks on the door of my heart, that obliges me to know myself and to become a better person.”*

Pope Benedict XVI  
(Quoted from *Magnificat Holy Week 2007*, Vol 9, No. 1)

## **Station I**

### **Jesus Is Condemned to Death**

#### **PSALMIST**

Malicious witnesses come forward, accuse me of things I do not know. They repay me evil for good and I am all alone. (Psalm 35:11-12)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate how your courage and faithfulness were tested as justice gave way to lies, threats and hatred.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station I: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I forgotten the teachings of God and the church and allowed other people or the culture around me to mislead my judgment?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION I PRAYER**

Lord, give us the courage and faithfulness to stand by the truth amid the deceits and traps of the world. May we not be swayed by threats or lies; may the fear of mockery or rejection not keep us silent. You are our Lord and our God. In you is all truth, and in you no falsehood abides. Help us to learn, to love and to live your teachings.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION I PSALM**

Though the snares of the wicked surround me,  
your teaching I do not forget.  
(Psalm 119:61)

## **Station II**

### **Jesus Takes Up His Cross**

#### **PSALMIST**

My heart shudders, my strength forsakes me.  
(Psalm 38:11)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and our minds to your love as we contemplate the dread and anguish that must have gripped you as your hands gripped the wood of the cross.

#### **SPEAKERS**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station II: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Is there a cross I have been avoiding that I need to pick up?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION II PRAYER**

Lord, you accepted the will of the Father and took the cross. Help us to take up our crosses and follow you. May we not complain or seek to avoid our burdens, but rather carry them for your sake. You are our Lord and God; may we always find our fulfillment in doing your will.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION II PSALM**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.  
(Psalm 143:10)

## **Station III**

### **Jesus Falls the First Time**

#### **PSALMIST**

My wounds are foul and festering....I am bowed and brought to my knees.  
(Psalm 38:6-7)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate the rough wood of the cross tearing open the wounds of your scourging and wearing away your strength.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station III: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I disregard the lowly and follow the lead of the world by giving attention to and wishing I were like the powerful, rich and famous?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION III PRAYER**

Lord, when we are at our worst, we want to be stronger, or greater, or better than others. You humbled yourself, becoming weak like us so that we might be saved. You are our Lord and God. Let us not seek the world's powers. May we recognize that it is when we are weak that we are strong, for it is then that we realize your grace is enough—and only your grace is enough—to help us, sustain us and give us life in abundance.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION III PSALM**

God is present as my helper;  
The Lord sustains my life. (Psalm 54:6)

## **Station IV**

### **Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother**

#### **PSALMIST**

Yet you drew me from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breast.  
(Psalm 22:10)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate how it must have rent your heart to see your mother's tears.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station IV: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I allow fears, ambitions or other things to pull me away from those who need me most?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION IV PRAYER**

Lord, as Mary was faithful, help us to always be faithful. You are our Lord and God; may we love your mother as you did and follow her example, never forgetting or turning our back to you or those you have entrusted to our care.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION IV PSALM**

We have not forgotten you...  
our hearts have not turned back.  
(Psalm 44:18-19)

## **Station V**

### **The Cyrenian Helps Jesus Carry the Cross**

#### **PSALMIST**

For I am on the point of falling, and my pain is always before me.  
(Psalm 38:18)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and our minds to your love as we contemplate how you, who helped so many, must have yearned for someone to help you.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

#### ***Station V: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I ignored or passed by someone in need and missed an opportunity to help carry a cross?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION V PRAYER**

Let us pray. Lord, amid the busyness of our living, the rushing about, the inconveniences and constant demands for our attention, may we yet hear your still, small voice calling to our hearts. You are our Lord and God. In all who are in need, may we recognize you and hear you calling us out of ourselves and into your service and salvation.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION V PSALM**

Say to my heart,  
"I am your salvation." (Psalm 35:3)

## **Station VI**

### **Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

#### **PSALMIST**

...I am in distress; with grief my eyes are wasted, my soul and body spent. To all my foes, I am a thing of scorn; to my neighbors, a dreaded sight, a horror to my friends. When they see me in the street, they quickly shy away.  
(Psalm 31:10, 12)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, fill our hearts and minds with your love as we contemplate how the faces surrounding you with looks of bitterness, hatred or indifference must have stung your eyes even more than the sweat and dust.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station VI: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let each of us ask ourselves: Have I ever written off a person or situation as “hopeless” or not worth my effort?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION VI PRAYER**

Lord, amid the dust and sweat and wounds of endless struggles, place in our hearts the love that hopes, and the hope that ever works to do your will. You are our Lord and God; you made each of us in your image. Especially in those who are desperate, grant us the eyes to see your face.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION VI PSALM**

“Come,” says my heart. “Seek God’s face.”  
(Psalm 27:8)

## **Station VII**

### **Jesus Falls for the Second Time**

#### **PSALMIST**

I fear they will gloat, exalt over me if I stumble.  
(Psalm 38:17)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate your willingness to be rejected, to be brought low, to bear a burden that was not yours.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Stations VII: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Instead of feeling compassion, have I ever enjoyed seeing someone else endure failure, shame or difficulty?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION VII PRAYER**

Lord, Jesus, come. Come into our broken world. Come into our broken hearts that delight in the failures and tragedies of others. Save us from our self-righteousness and pride. You are our Lord and God; may we kneel before you aware of our own brokenness, and may we love one another with the compassion of a humbled heart.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AN CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION VII PSALM**

My sacrifice, God, is a broken spirit...a broken, humbled heart.  
(Psalm 51:19)



**Station VIII**  
**Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem,**  
**Who Weep For Him**

**PSALMIST**

For my soul is filled with troubles; my life draws near to Sheol.  
(Psalm 88:4)

**SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to the depths of your love as we contemplate your troubled mind, the burden of knowing, and bearing witness to, the truth.

**SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

**CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Station VIII: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

**MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: What is a truth about myself, or my life, or the world around me that is hard to face?

**SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

**SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

**STATION VIII PRAYER**

Lord, let us not be blind to the human condition created by sin. Do not let our hearts falter when we contemplate the challenges in our own lives and in the world that must be overcome or endured. You are our Lord and God. Save us from despair or delusion. Give us the boldness to see the truth and act with love.

**MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

**STATION VIII PSALM**

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.  
(Psalm 31:25)

## **Station IX**

### **Jesus Falls the Third Time**

#### **PSALMIST**

Parched as burnt clay is my throat, my tongue cleaves to my jaws....I can count every one of my bones. (Psalm 22:16-18)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and our minds to your love as we contemplate how you struggled on, aware that only the torment of Golgatha lay ahead.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station IX: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: When life's disappointments come, to whom or to what do I turn?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION IX PRAYER**

Lord, help us to endure. There are times when our sorrows, our hurts, our losses, our feelings of emptiness and abandonment seem too much for us. We seek relief or escape through ways that ultimately destroy us rather than build us up. You are our Lord and God. During these times when it seems to us all is lost, find us Lord.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION IX PSALM**

In you LORD, I take refuge...make haste to rescue me.  
(Psalm 31:2)

## **Station X**

### **Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments**

#### **PSALMIST**

But I am a worm, hardly human, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer. (Psalm 22:7)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and our minds to your love as we contemplate how like salt in your wounds must have been the mocking of the crowd that rejected your love and scorned your innocence.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station X: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Despite the shame we may feel, in Christ's gaze there is only love and forgiveness. Let us each ask ourselves: Have I humbly sought Christ's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or has shame, pride, lack of time, or mere inconvenience held me back?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION X PRAYER**

Lord, who among us can stand before you without shame? Who among us would dare to cast the first stone? Only your great love overcomes our sinfulness. You are our Lord and God. So that our shame and our sin may be washed away, you established the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May we enter your presence and know the joy of your mercy.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION X PSALM**

Happy the sinner whose fault is removed, whose sin is forgiven. (Psalm 32:1)

**STATION XI**  
**Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**

**PSALMIST**

They have pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16)

**SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate your agony as nails were driven through your flesh.

**SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you

**CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Station XI: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

**MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I strive to see, and truly enter into, the sacrifice of Christ made present in the celebration of the Eucharist?

**SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

**SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

**STATIONS XI PRAYER**

Lord, lift up our eyes to the altar and crucifix so that we may never forget what you have done for us. You are our lord and our God. May we see, and may we invite and help others to see, your True Presence in the Eucharist.

**MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

**STATION XI PSALM**

Come and see the works of God,  
awesome in the deeds done for us.  
(Psalm 66:5)

## **Station XII**

### **Jesus Dies on the Cross**

#### **PSALMIST**

I am numb and utterly crushed; I wail with anguish of heart. (Psalm 38:9)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate how on the cross your lungs ached and strained to take each numbered breath.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station XII: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: How has God blessed me, and how am I using those blessings?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION XII PRAYER**

Lord, on the cross, you gave everything for our sakes. May we in gratitude praise your name and commit ourselves to your work. You are our Lord and God. Help us to give as you gave, no matter what the cost.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION XII PSALM**

To you we owe our hymn of praise...  
To you our vows must be fulfilled....  
(Psalm 65:2 )

## **Station XIII**

### **The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross**

#### **PSALMIST**

Like water my life drains away....My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me. (Psalm 22:15)

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds to your love as we contemplate that even in death you were not left unwounded. Your lifeless body was pierced in the side. As water and blood poured out, you were left utterly empty.

#### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

#### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

#### ***Station XIII: XIV from the Crowd (Sitting)***

#### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I remembered to honor Mary, and to ask for her intercession?

#### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

#### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION XIII PRAYER**

Lord, as we experience the limits of our humanity we experience desperation and defeat, loneliness and loss, helplessness and hurt. But you are our Lord and God. On the cross you gave us Mary to be our comfort and help. We thank you Lord, and ask her to look upon us: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

#### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION XIII PSALM**

Look upon me, have pity on me, for I am alone and afflicted. (Psalm 25:16)

## **Station XIV Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

### **PSALMIST**

You lay me in the dust of death.  
(Psalm 22:16)

### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION**

Lord, open our hearts and mind to your love as we contemplate the stillness...the coldness...the darkness...the breathless silence of the tomb.

### **SPEAKER**

We adore you O Christ and we praise you

### **CONGREGATION (Kneeling)**

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### ***Station XIV: XIV from the Crowd***

### **MEDITATION QUESTION (Sitting)**

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I leave Christ “dead and buried” or do I share with others how Christ is alive in my life and tell what he has done for me?

### **SPEAKER**

Please stand. Let us pray.

### **SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

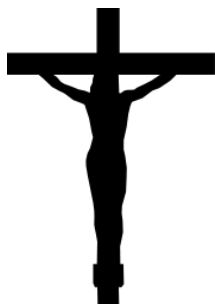
#### **STATION XIV PRAYER**

Lord, each time we look upon a crucifix, may we truly understand your suffering and its purpose. You are our Lord and God. On the altar of the cross you conquered sin and death. Help us to steadfastly proclaim the Good News to the world that so often ignores or rejects it. In public, in private, and together in the liturgy, may we ever praise the works of your love.

### **MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)**

#### **STATION XIV PSALM**

My heart is steadfast, God, my heart is steadfast.  
I will sing and chant (your) praise. (Psalm 57:8)



## CONCLUSION

### SPEAKER

Please stand. Let us pray.

### SPEAKER AND CONGREGATION (Standing)

#### FINAL PRAYER

Lord, may our contemplation of the Stations of the Cross draw us closer to knowing and understanding you, ourselves, and others. Through your cross you have reconciled us to God. Through you is a hope greater than any despair. Through you is a healing greater than any hurt. Through you is a salvation greater than any sin. Through you is a life greater than any death, a life that makes death's sting but a passing moment. You are our Lord and God. In faith and gratitude we open the doors of our hearts. All who we are, all who we love, and all that we hope for, we entrust to you. Show us how to walk in your Way.

### MUSIC LEADERS AND CONGREGATION (Standing)

#### CLOSING PSALM

Show me the path I should walk, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 143:8)

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***Thank you for participating in tonight's Stations of the Cross.  
You are welcome to remain here in silent prayer or to exit quietly.  
Good night.***