

Et inclinato capite tradidit spiritum. Joann. 19, 30.

J.N.°R.J.



Ipse vulneratus est
propter iniquitates nostras, attritus est propter scelera nostra. Is. 53, 5.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

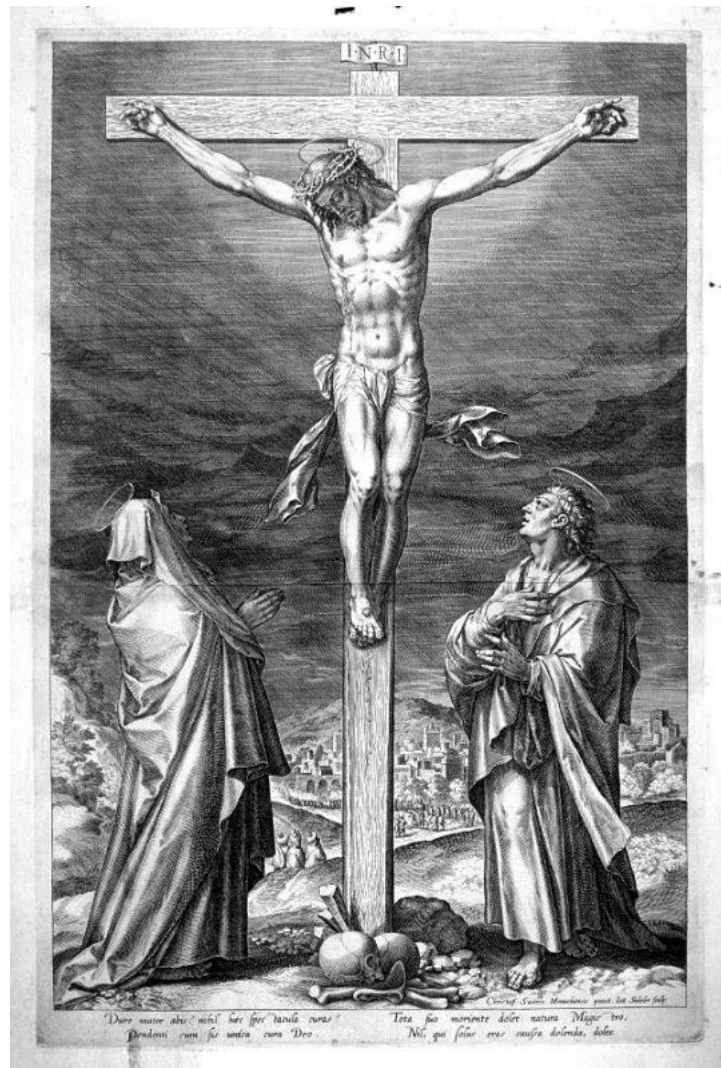
All: *Holy God, be with us now as we meditate on your Son's journey to Calvary. Remind us that still, in this present day, many of your children continue that walk to Calvary, carrying heavy, difficult crosses. May we be Simon to those whose burdens are too heavy to be borne alone. May we be Veronica to those who need the touch of love and comfort. And may we, struggling with our own crosses, always remember your promises of justice, mercy and peace. Amen.*

Pause for silent meditation.

All sing:

Stabat Mater

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



THE FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and have Jesus killed. The governor said to them:

“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

And they said, *“Barabbas!”*

Pilate said to them, *“Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”*

All of them said, *“Let him be crucified!”*

Then he asked, *“Why? What evil has he done?”*

But they shouted all the more, *“Let him be crucified!”*

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, *“I am innocent of this man’s blood. See to it yourselves.”*

Then the people as a whole answered, *“His blood be on us and on our children !”*

So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27:20-26)



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, you were condemned by those you had come to serve, by those you had come to love. In moments when I may be tempted to condemn those around me, fill my heart with compassion and understanding.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

THE SECOND STATION

JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

(Matthew 27:27-31)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, our crosses are heavy and our bodies weak, but we want to follow you. Give us strength to continue. And although our burdens may be heavy, let us remember to stop and help those we encounter along the way.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

O, how sad and sore distress'd
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten one!



THE THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

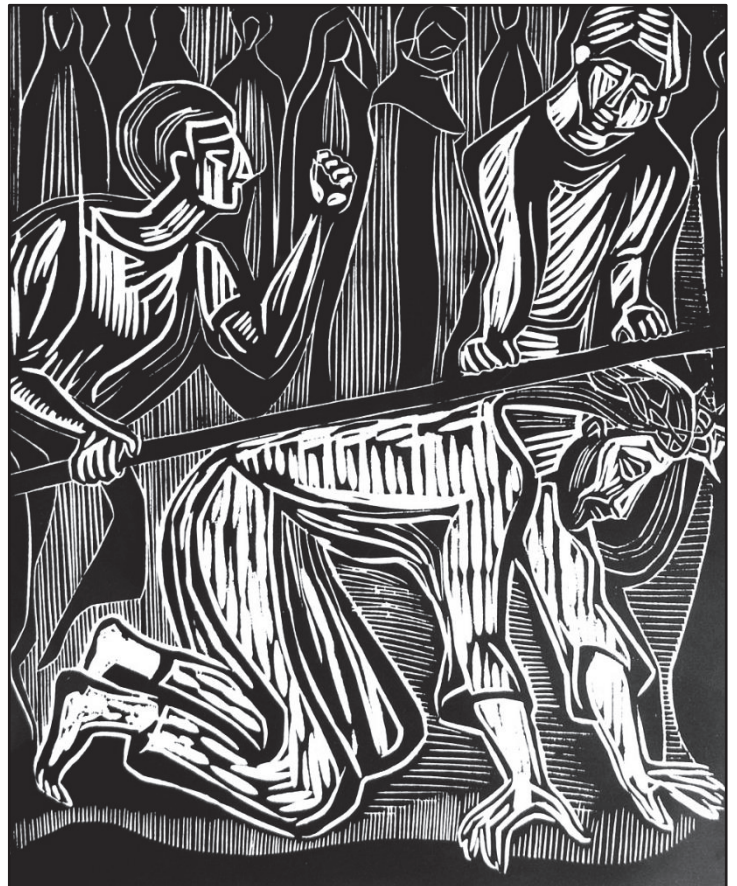
(Isaiah 53: 5-6)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, you know that each
of us falls, each of us fails, each of
us gives in to temptation. Help us
to remember that, with your
grace, we are able to rise up
stronger and wiser than before.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.



THE FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: 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 a sword will pierce your own soul, too.*”

His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

(Luke 2:34-35, 51b)



Hail, Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, in the person of our Blessed Mother, we have an example of courage, perseverance and faith. No stranger to suffering herself, Mary desired to be with those in need. Strengthen us as we try to follow her example.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

THE FIFTH STATION

SIMON THE CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

(Luke 23:26-27)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, you are God. How awesome it is to think that the God of the universe accepted the help of a simple human like me, and continues to desire my help in bringing about the Kingdom of God. Teach me humility that I may serve you worthily.



(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?

THE SIXTH STATION

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader:

Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
With compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

- St. Teresa of Avila, O. Carm (1515-1582)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Christ Jesus, help us to remember that nothing we do for the sake of love is done in vain. May we, like Veronica, have the strength to reach out to those we so often ignore -- to those whom society has forgotten -- and show them our love.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.



THE SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Lead, Kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!
Meantime, along the narrow, rugged path,
Thyself hast trod,
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith,
Home to my God,
To rest forever after earthly strife
In the calm light of everlasting life.

– St. John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we remember your second fall, we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are sick or injured.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His Spirit forth He sent.



THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said:

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’...

For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

(Luke 23: 27-29, 31)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, continue to console the mothers of the Holy Land and their families. May peacekeeping efforts help to bring about reconciliation to Israel and Palestine.



(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] O thou Mother ! Fount of love !
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.

THE NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Come unto me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you, and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
~ Thomas Merton, *OSCO*



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, with great effort you were able to get back on your feet to continue your mission. Help those affected by natural disasters to receive the strength they need to continue their journeys.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ our Lord.

THE TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

(Matthew 27, 33-36)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, you suffered great humiliation. Help us to find ways to minister to those who suffer because of their impoverished circumstances.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.



[Sing]

Holy Mother ! Pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.

THE ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, *“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”*

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, *“You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”* In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, *“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.”*

(Matthew 27, 35-42)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, you persevered through your pain. Give your strength to those who are destitute, especially when they face situations that magnify their vulnerability.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain;
Who for me in torment died.



THE TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "*This man is calling for Elijah.*" At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.

But the others said, "*Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.*"

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

(Matthew 27, 45-50)



Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we remember your death and the death of many who die because of injustice, help us remember that we are all part of one human family. May we exemplify your life in our own lives.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing] Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

THE BODY OF JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him... When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

(Matthew 27:55, 57-58)

Pause for silent meditation.



All: Lord Jesus, as we contemplate your lifeless body being taken off the cross, strengthen us in our willingness to give away our life for others, and give us the courage to work selflessly towards that end.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

Virgin of all Virgins best,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

THE BODY OF JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. (All genuflect.)

All: For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. (All sit.)

Leader: So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

Mary Magdalen and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

(Matthew 27:59 -61)

Pause for silent meditation.

All: Lord Jesus, as we conclude our reflection on your passion and death, may we live lives that reflect you and your love of all humanity. Teach us the true meaning of solidarity. Amen.

(All rise.) Help us to walk in your steps.

[Sing]

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy Mother my defense,
Be Thy Cross my Victory.



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is offense, pardon.
Where there is discord, union.
Where there is error, truth.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

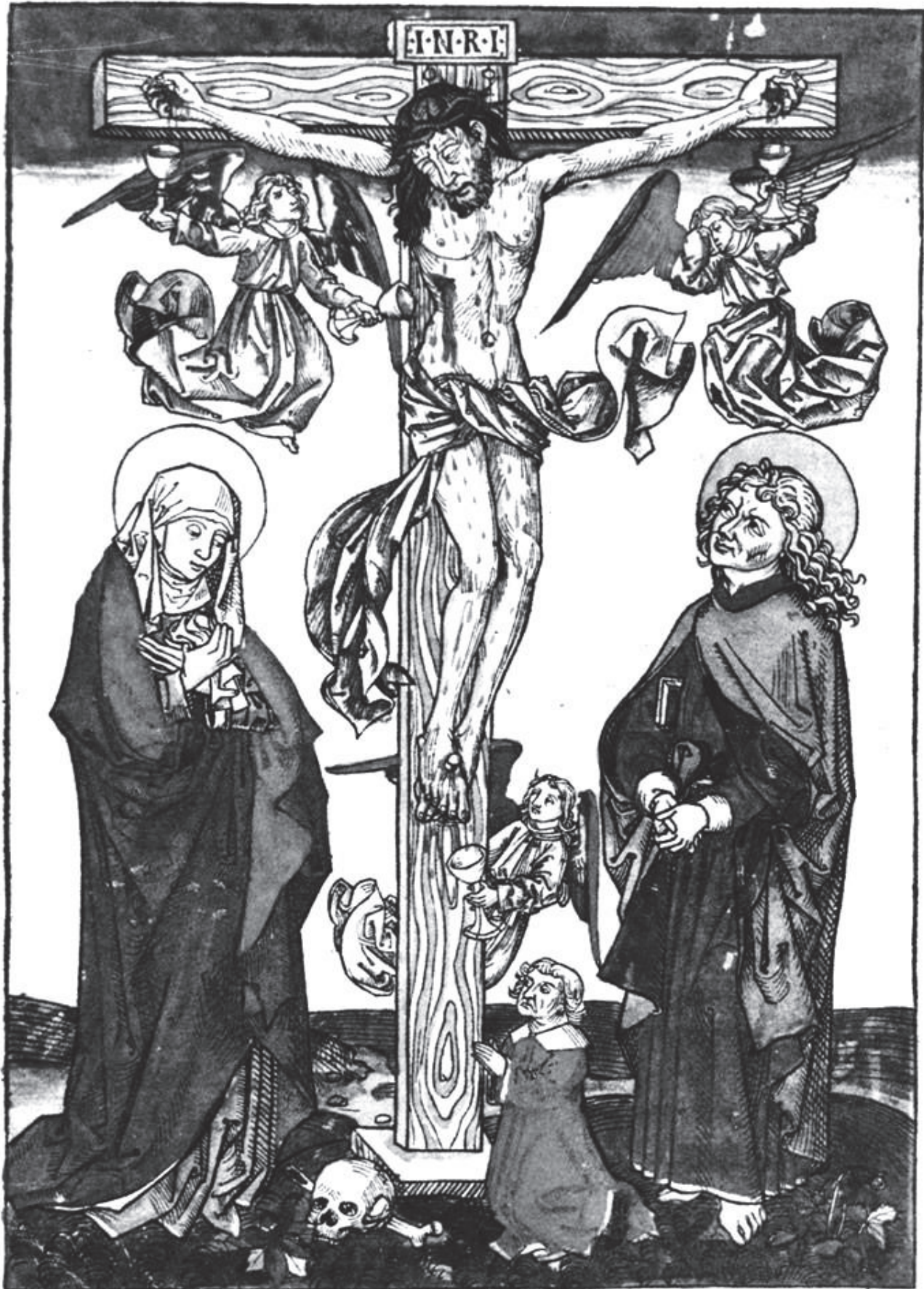
Amen.



Acknowledgements: *The texts of these stations are a compilation of stations used at different times by St. Mary Magdalen Parish. The quotations from the Old and New Testaments are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, Catholic edition. The images of all but one of the stations are from "Stations of the Cross," created by Education for Justice (educationforjustice.org), artwork by Sr. Mary Grace Thul, O.P. James Reid is the artist of the 12th Station. The engraving on this page is by David Jones. Frontispiece and cover art are engravings in the public domain.*



*Albrecht Dürer, The Crucifixion, 1509/1511, Woodcut printed in black on laid.
Detroit Institute of Arts*



Deus opus miserantis nomen habere. Dixeris: et merito nomen id esse tibi.
Dicitur ut es iudex sic sis filius et miserator. Te rogo supplicibus et miserere mei