

## THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: A MIME

(The narrator reads from the candlelit pulpit.)

Narrator: In the name of the Father... Lord, we remember your love for us; in spirit we recount your sorrowful journey that you undertook out of obedience of your Father's will and love for us. We remember the journey so that we may stir up in our hearts a strong faith, a visionary hope, and a burning love, as well as sorrow for our sin and a determination for conversion. Lord, be with your people.

(All mimes enter to center stage.)

(Pilate stands boldly in center, pointing in the face of Jesus. Two soldiers roughly hold Jesus before Pilate. Jesus' head is hung low. Other soldiers and crowd members kneel on one knee with fists in the air. All freeze.)

Narrator: The first station of the cross: Jesus is condemned to die.

Lector 1: Pilate, the judge of the whole land, tells Jesus that he is guilty even though he knows he is innocent. Jesus doesn't answer him as people yell, "Crucify him; hang him on the cross." (Pause)

Lector 2: We've stopped with Jesus at this first station. Now let us remember and pray. How do you feel when someone says, "You did it!" and you know you didn't? Are you ever quiet when someone else is being blamed for something they didn't do? I wonder what Jesus was thinking when they all blamed him?

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Teach me Lord not simply to follow everyone else but to make my own path in life.

(Mimes move to right stage. One picks up the towel with make-up and paints thorns on the forehead of Jesus as two others raise the cross and begin to hand it to Jesus. Other mimes go to one knee with fists raised. All freeze.)

Narrator: The second station: Jesus is given his cross to carry.

Lector 1: Two soldiers threw a heavy wooden cross on his shoulders. They told him to carry it through the streets to the hill called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull. ((Pause)

Lector 2: Crosses are not happy things but they are part of our human life. To really get anything out of life you have to work at it everyday.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Sometimes the pressure may seem too great for me to handle. Show me that I can turn to you for hope, security and love. You, O Lord, are my strength.

(Jesus carries the cross to right/front stage around the perimeter of the staging area. All other mimes follow close behind. Jesus falls on the cross. All freeze.)

Narrator: The third station of the cross: Jesus falls for the first time.

Lector 1: He fell with his cross into the street. The cross was very heavy. Maybe he tripped on a stone. The soldiers didn't care; they laughed at him when he was down. (Pause)

Lector 2: Nobody seems ready to help Him either. Yet even though he fell, he struggled, he stood up and walked on—for us.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Dear Jesus, Often in my life I too fall. I disappoint myself, my friends and family. Help me to have courage even when others tell me I'm a failure. I know that I will never be a failure as long as I do my best.

(Jesus rises and moves to near front stage. Mary goes to her veil and puts it on. She moves close to Jesus and reaches her hand out to him. Jesus looks her in the face as other mimes go down on one knee. All freeze.)

Narrator: The fourth station of the cross: Jesus meets his mother.

Lector 1: He looked up and saw a soft, small hand near his face. He knew it was his mother. She wasn't scared to come out in front of the crowd and the soldiers. She didn't say a word, but yet she comforted her son. And Jesus didn't speak to her. No words were needed. (Pause)

Lector 2: This fourth station shows Mary's great love for Jesus. What do we think of Mary's love for us? Does Mary mother us too? Does she see beyond our sometime dirty hands and faces to our inner beauty? Can we speak to Jesus and Mary without words?

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Lord, let me realize the special gifts my parents are to me. Teach me to appreciate them for all they do and to give them the respect they deserve.

(Mary drops her veil as Jesus moves to front stage. Simon goes up and lifts the cross to his shoulders as Jesus places a hand on his shoulder. They look at one another and other mimes go down on one knee. All freeze.)

Narrator: The fifth station of the cross: Simon helps Jesus carry his cross.

Lector 1: Simon stood in the crowd watching. He was young, and from the country; he didn't know what was going on. Then the soldier ordered him to help.

He helped Jesus carry his cross. (Pause)

Lector 2: What did Simon think? He'd rather just stand there and watch what is going on. He didn't want to be involved just like I don't want to be involved. Would I have helped Jesus carry the cross?

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: O Lord, I guess I would have to say that I am a lot like this man Simon. Please help me to turn toward you and others for guidance. Help me to do more than just stand by and watch.

(Simon gives the cross back to Jesus as he moves to left/front stage. Veronica picks up the veil and wipes Jesus' face. She steps back and lets it hang in plain view, exposing the face imprint. All mimes descend to one knee. All freeze.)

Narrator: The sixth station of the cross: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Lector 1: Jesus could hardly see because of the sweat dripping in his eyes. A little girl stood in the crowd. She saw an opening and ran out. She wiped the face of Jesus with her best veil and quickly stepped back out of the way of the oncoming soldiers. Jesus smiled at her as she noticed an imprint of Jesus' face left on her veil. (Pause)

Lector 2: Veronica thought for a moment and then acted out her prayer. Let us think and pray. Is Jesus' face imprinted on our lives? Are we available to those in need?

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Dear Jesus, like Veronica, may I also wipe your face through kind actions toward my family and friends. When I generously give myself to them, I am also giving myself to you.

(Veronica drops her veil as Jesus moves on a few steps. All mimes stand behind Jesus as he falls. All freeze on one knee.)

Narrator: The seventh station of the cross: Jesus falls a second time.

Lector 1: He felt the heavy weight of the cross. He worried what the soldiers would do now. His shoulders ached and his knees just gave way, and he fell a second time. (Pause)

Lector 2: Have we ever tried to do something and failed? Then stood up and tried it again? Dear Jesus, you kept trying and soon you are on your feet again. You continue your march that will lead to your death and our salvation.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Help me to have the same perseverance. Help me to remain strong and know that you have made me special. Teach me to forgive and always stay

open to your love.

(Jesus rises and moves on to near left stage. Three women stand before him, weeping. Jesus extends one arm toward them. All mimes kneel on one knee. All freeze.)

Narrator: The eighth station: Jesus meets the women.

Lector 1: The women loved Jesus; they were his friends. They were crying. As tired as Jesus was, he found strength to speak to them. He told them not to be so sad for him. (Pause)

Lector 2: Jesus thought about us and not himself. How like you, O Jesus. In the midst of your pain you stopped and tried to make them feel better.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Teach me to turn my attention to those who need it most instead of wanting all of the attention myself. By being selfless, may I exemplify your love present in the world.

(Jesus moves to left stage and falls. All mimes descend to one knee. All freeze.)

Narrator: The ninth station: Jesus falls a third time.

Lector 1: He felt like he just couldn't go on any longer—he fell a third time. He didn't trip; he just couldn't hold that heavy cross any longer. (Pause)

Lector 2: We think how heavy it must have been. Have we ever felt that we just couldn't go on any more? Do we ask for help from our parents, our friends, our God, from Jesus? Jesus asked for God's help when he fell a third time, and he got up and went on—for us—again.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Lord, may I always love you. Help me to appreciate all you have done for me. You are the source of all goodness and you intend only what is good for me. Help me to devote myself more fully to you.

(All mimes take Jesus to center stage. The cross is laid down as they strip off the alb. All freeze.)

Narrator: The tenth station: Jesus is stripped of His garments.

Lector 1: Thinking and praying with Jesus as he stands there, we can feel good that he was willing to give up so much for us. (Pause)

Lector 2: Do we give as much as we can to others who need it? Do we try hard in school to do good for our parents and teachers? Jesus knows how hard it is and he is standing there saying, "I will help you."

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Lord, help me to not depend on material things. Show me that I do not need certain clothes or items simply because others possess them. Instead teach me to value people's unique personalities and special talents.

(Jesus lays on the cross. All but two mimes go down on one knee at random on stage. One of the two gets the hammer and softly hammers Jesus' hands to the cross. The other mime nails his feet. All, except the hammerers, freeze.)

Narrator: The eleventh station of the cross: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Lector 1: You are nailed like a wild savage to a piece of wood. You gave them nothing but love and kindness and all they have to offer are steel spikes driven through your body.

Lector 2: It hurt, and yet, Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven to forgive all the people for doing this to him. (Pause)

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Dear Jesus, I know that every time I hurt others I am hurting you also. Teach me to also forgive others as you forgave those who nailed you onto the cross to die.

(Simon raises the cross and holds it up from behind. Jesus stands in front of it with his hands on the crosspiece. In silence he dies by dropping his head.)

Narrator: The twelfth station: Jesus dies on the cross.

Lector 1: Jesus, while you hung on the cross your life may have seemed like a failure. Abandoned by all, your previous work could have seemed wasted. Even your Father appeared to have forgotten you.

Lector 2: After all of the wrongs done against you, how could you stay on the cross and die for me? Am I really worth that much? You said yes and died.  
KNEEL

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Lord, above all things, help me to do your will. When I don't know what you expect from me guide me along the right paths, and when I wander away call me back. Lord Jesus crucified, have mercy on me.

(The mimes take him down from the cross and lay him on his back with his head toward front stage. Simon lowers the cross, unless a stand is available to leave it standing.)

Narrator: The thirteenth station. Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Lector 1: Gazing at the empty cross and your mother holding you in her arms, there

is nothing I can say. (Pause) I am sorry for the many times I forget about you.

Lector 2: I am preoccupied with school, chores, homework, projects, problems and decisions. I am often too busy to pray.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: Help me Lord to make time for you in my life. You are the most important thing to me.

(The mimes, half on his left and half on his right, lift Jesus to their shoulders. They slowly carry him to front stage and out.)

Narrator: The fourteenth station: Jesus is buried.

Lector 1: You are laid in a tomb, wrapped in a clean shroud. They rolled a huge stone in front of the new tomb and went away.

Lector 2: We cannot see in detail the workings of grace in our lives or the lives of others. While it seems God has left the world, we know through faith that God is working always and everywhere. Jesus—in—the—tomb is like that seed of which he spoke—the seed, having died, now has begun under cover of the earth's darkness its work of maturation.

Narrator: Let us pray.

All: May we learn to know, love and serve our Redeemer, despite his being hidden from us in this world.

#### Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, I want to follow you. But life is filled with trials that seem to pull me farther away from you. Help me to conquer my difficulties so that I may more fully experience you in my daily life and that I may have a little taste of the boundless joys of your resurrection. Thank you for suffering for me. Although my actions pale in comparison to the salvation you have gained for me, teach me to offer the achievements and mistakes of each day to you. I love you and praise you, Lord. Amen.