THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS - GOOD FRIDAY

Narrator 1

WE ASK THAT EVERYONE LOWER THEIR KNEELER AT THIS TIME (pause)

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARE AN OLD TRADITION OF OUR CHURCH. THIS DEVOTION BEGAN IN THE MIDDLE AGES WHEN CHRISTIANS LONGED TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, BUT FOUND THIS IMPOSSIBLE. INSTEAD, WE TRACE THE JOURNEY OF JESUS ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS TO CALVARY IN OUR OWN CHURCH THIS AFTERNOON BY OUR PRAYERS AND ACTIONS (pause)

PLEASE STAND

(pause)

HAIL TO OUR KING, OBEDIENT TO HIS FATHER

All HE WENT TO HIS CRUCIFIXION LIKE A GENTLE LAMB.

Narrator 2

LORD JESUS, BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION, YOU HAVE SET US FREE. HELP US THAT WE MAY BECOME AWARE OF YOUR SPIRIT, AND STRIVE TO ORDER OUR LIVES IN ACCORD WITH IT

All AMEN.

(a moment of silence)

(Song) -- BE NOT AFRAID

PLEASE BE SEATED.

LET US FOLLOW JESUS ON HIS PATH OF LOVE TO HIS DEATH

(action) (Jesus walks in from the chapel . . . with his disciples)

Narrator 1

JESUS CAME WITH HIS APOSTLES TO A COUNTRY PLACE CALLED GETHSEMANI. WE WILL NOW JOIN JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES IN THE GARDEN

<u>Jesus</u>

SIT DOWN HERE, WHILE I GO A BIT FURTHER AND PRAY (action) (the apostles sit)

Narrator 1

JESUS BEGAN TO BE SADDENED AND EXCEEDINGLY TROUBLED. HE SAID TO THEM

Jesus

MY SOUL IS SAD, EVEN UNTO DEATH WAIT HERE AND WATCH, AND PRAY WITH ME

(action) (Jesus walks up further and kneels)

Narrator 1

HE WENT FORWARD A LITTLE, AND PRAYED, SAYING

Jesus

FATHER, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, TAKE THIS CUP OF SUFFERING AWAY FROM ME

(action) (slowly the disciples begin to lay down and sleep)

(action) (Jesus remains in a praying position while the song is sung)

(Song) - IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Narrator 1

JESUS RETURNS TO THE APOSTLES, FINDS THEM ASLEEP AND SAYS

(action) (Jesus shakes each disciples arm and says)

<u>Jesus</u>

COULDN'T YOU STAY AWAKE WHILE I PRAYED?

(action) (Judas and the soldiers start up the center isle)

<u>Jesus</u>

LET US BE READY, MY BETRAYER IS NEAR

Narrator 2

WHILE JESUS SPOKE, JUDAS ARRIVED AND WITH HIM WERE TWO SOLDIERS (pause)

THE BETRAYER HAD ARRANGED A SIGNAL

Judas

GREETINGS RABBI

<u>Jesus</u>

FRIEND . . . DO WHAT YOU CAME FOR

(action) (Judas kisses Jesus on the cheek)

Narrator 2

WITH THAT, THE SOLDIERS TOOK JESUS, AND THE APOSTLES WHO WERE WITH HIM, RAN AWAY

(action) (the apostles run into the chapel)

(action) (The soldiers grab Jesus' arms and walk to the baptistery)

Narrator 2

NOW WE WALK WITH JESUS ON HIS WAY TO CALVARY (a moment of silence)

(Song) LORD LET ME WALK

Narrator 1

THE FIRST STATION . . . JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

(action) (Pilate walks in from the baptistery to the center of the altar.

Pilate must give the impression of being ROYAL / REGAL)

(action) (soldiers bring in Jesus, his hands now tied behind him)

<u>Soldier</u>

THIS IS JESUS

Pilate

ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS?

<u>Jesus</u>

SO YOU SAY

Pilate

DON'T YOU HEAR WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT YOU?

(action) (Jesus just looks down)

Narrator 1

JESUS GAVE NO ANSWER TO HIS QUESTIONS

(action) (Pilate motions for soldiers to bring in Barabas)

(action) (he soldiers bring Barabas in and shoves him toward Pilate)

(action) (Barabas falls to the floor . . . in much pain . . . he groans)

<u>Pilate</u>

WHO DO YOU WANT? JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS OR BARABAS THE KILLER?

(action) (the crowd stands)

Crowd

WE WANT BARABAS. CRUCIFY JESUS, CRUCIFY JESUS, CRUCIFY HIM, CRUCIFY HIM.

(action) (Pilate motions to the soldiers)

(action) (the soldiers untie Barabas)

(action) (Barabas runs back to the chapel)

(action) (the crowd sits)

(action) Pilate Walks back to the baptistery)

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 1

Narrator 2

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 2

JESUS KNEW THAT HE WAS NOT GUILTY OF ANY CRIME, BUT HE ACCEPTED THE HEAVY CROSS AND CARRIED IT TO SHOW US HOW MUCH HE LOVED US (action) (soldiers untie Jesus - and - turn him around)

(action) (soldiers place the crown of thorns on Jesus)

(action) (soldiers place the cross on Jesus' shoulder)

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 2

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus falls, the soldiers and crowd stop)

Narrator 1

THE THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

(action) (a soldier grabs at Jesus' clothes shouting)

<u>Soldier</u>

GET UP!

Narrator 1

THE CROSS HE CARRIED WAS MADE UP OF OUR SINS AND SORROWS. WE HAVE ALL TAKEN OUR OWN WAYS AND BY HIS DEATH HE WILL BRING US TOGETHER (pause)

(action) (Jesus stands back up with the cross)

Narrator 1

JESUS, YOU FOUND THE STRENGTH TO GET UP AND KEEP GOING, YOU CONTINUED WHAT YOU STARTED, HELP US TO CONTINUE WHAT WE START

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 3

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus, soldiers and crowd stop walking)

Narrator 2

THE FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER, MARY WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 2

MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS, TRIES TO MAKE HER WAY THROUGH THE CROWD

(action) (the crowd stands in the way - they don't let Mary pass them)

(action) (Mary pleads with them)

Mary

Please let me through . . . please

(action) (finally they separate and Mary steps forward)

(action) (Mary and Jesus stop and look at each other)

Narrator 2

WHEN JESUS SEES HIS MOTHER, HE FINDS THE STRENGTH TO GO ON

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 4

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus, soldiers and crowd stop walking)

Narrator 1

THE FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS TO CARRY JESUS' CROSS

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

AII

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

(action) (a soldier grabs Simon and shouts)

Soldier

HEY ... YOU! HELP THIS SO CALLED MESSIAH CARRY HIS CROSS!

(action) (Simon unwillingly steps forward and helps)

SIMON DID NOT REALLY WANT TO HELP, BUT HE DID ANYWAY. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE REFUSED TO HELP OTHERS? LET US REMEMBER JESUS AS OUR EXAMPLE THE NEXT TIME

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 5

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus, soldiers and crowd stop walking)

Narrator 2

THE SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 2

A WOMAN NAMED VERONICA SEEING THE SWEAT AND BLOOD ON JESUS' FACE . . . GENTLY WIPED IT . . . WITH THE VEIL SHE WAS WEARING

(action) (Veronica steps forward and wipes Jesus' face with her veil)

Narrator 2

A MIRACLE HAPPENED - THE IMAGE OF JESUS' FACE APPEARED ON THE VEIL

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 6

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus falls, the soldiers and crowd stop)

Narrator 1

THE SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 1

JESUS FOUND IT VERY HARD TO GET UP AFTER HE FELL A SECOND TIME

(action) (the crowd pushes and pulls at him)

Narrator 1

THE CROWDS OF PEOPLE PUSHED AND PULLED AT HIM TO MAKE HIM GET UP AND KEEP GOING

(action) (Jesus gets up)

Narrator 1

JESUS STOOD UP AND BEGAN TO WALK AGAIN

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 7

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) The group of women stand)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus, soldiers and crowd stop walking)

Narrator 2

THE EIGHTH STATION: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 2

ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD THAT JESUS IS TRAVELING, THERE IS A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO ARE WATCHING. WHEN HE SAW THEM, HE NOTICED THAT THEY WERE CRYING. HE STOPS FOR A MOMENT TO TALK TO THEM AND TO COMFORT THEM

<u>Jesus</u>

WEEP NOT FOR ME, WEEP FOR YOURSELVES AND YOUR CHILDREN

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 8

(action) (as the song <u>starts</u> Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus falls, the soldiers and crowd stop)

THE NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 1

AS JESUS NEARED THE HILL OF CALVARY, HE ONCE AGAIN FELL UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

(action) (Jesus looks ahead for a second and gets up)

Narrator 1

THE SIGHT OF THE HILL GAVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE ON

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 9

(action) (as the song starts Jesus, soldiers and crowd start walking)

(action) (as the song stops Jesus, soldiers and crowd stop walking)

Narrator 2

THE TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 2

JESUS CAME TO THE TOP OF THE HILL

(action) (the crowd sits on the floor)

(action) (the soldiers take the cross from Jesus)

Narrator 2

THE GUARDS TOOK THE CROSS FROM HIM AND TORE HIS CLOTHES OFF HIS BODY

(action) (the soldiers rip off Jesus' cloths tugging at them)

Narrator 2

HE STOOD NAKED IN FRONT OF THE CROWD OF PEOPLE, LAUGHING AT HIM, READY TO DIE ON THE CROSS

(action) (the crowd points and laughs at Jesus)

(Song) WERE YOU THERE - VERSE 10

(action) (Jesus simply stands - head down - soldiers on each side)

Narrator 1

THE ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

Narrator 1

JESUS WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS

(action) (soldiers lay Jesus on the cross – using mallets they make the motion of pounding in nails in Jesus' hands and feet)

Narrator 1

ABOVE HIS HEAD THEY PLACED A SIGN WHICH SAID: THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS

(action) (soldier using a mallet make the motion of pounding a nail into a sign)

(action) (the (four) soldiers stand Jesus / the cross upright)

(action) (two soldiers post themselves on either side of the cross)

(action) (Mary and other women kneel around the area)

Narrator 1

AS JESUS HUNG ON THE CROSS, THE CROWD BEGAN TO TAUNT HIM. SAYING

Crowd 1

SO YOU ARE THE ONE THAT WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE TEMPLE, AND REBUILD IT IN THREE DAYS!

Crowd 2

SAVE YOURSELF, WHY DON'T YOU!

Crowd 3

HE SAVED OTHERS, BUT HE CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF

Crowd 4

LET US SEE YOU COME DOWN FROM THAT CROSS AND THEN WE WILL BELIEVE IN YOU

(Song) MY GOD, MY GOD (2 VERSES)

Narrator 2

THE TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

<u>Jesus</u>

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? (pause)

(action) (Jesus drops his head)

FATHER . . . FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO

(action) (Jesus drops his head in death)

PLEASE KNEEL FOR SILENT REFLECTION

(action) (narrators also kneel)

(Solo) WERE YOU THERE

Narrator 2

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THE "OUR FATHER"

All

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

Narrator 2

PLEASE BE SEATED

(action) (wair for all to be seated)

Narrator 1

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS REMOVED FROM THE CROSS

WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

All

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

(action) (Jesus' friend, Joseph, steps up to the cross)

AFTER JESUS DIED, HIS FRIEND JOSEPH TOOK THE BODY OFF THE CROSS

(action) (Joseph and two soldiers take Jesus from the cross and put him in Mary's lap)

(action) (Mary rocks back and forth as if Jesus was still an infant - she cries softly)

(Solo) WHAT CHILD IS THIS

Narrator 1

JOSEPH WAS VERY SAD AS HE WIPED AWAY THE BLOOD AND CLEANED THE CUTS THAT COVERED THE BODY OF JESUS. HE THEN PREPARED THE BODY FOR BURIAL

(action) (Joseph wipes away the blood and cleans the cuts)

(action) (Mary continues to cry softly)

Narrator 2

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB
WE ADORE YOU, OH CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU

<u>All</u>

BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

(action) (Joseph and the soldiers carry and place Jesus in the tomb)

JOSEPH TOOK THE BODY OF JESUS AND LAID IT IN A TOMB, WHICH HAD BEEN CARVED INTO A ROCK

(action) (Joseph rolls a stone in front of the opening)

Narrator 2

THEN, JOSEPH ROLLED A LARGE STONE IN FRONT OF THE TOMBS OPENING AND SADLY WENT HOME

(action) (Joseph starts walking to the north entrance)

(action) (two solders stand - one on each side of the tomb)

Narrator 2

JESUS WAS BURIED (pause)

Narrator 2

SOLDIERS WERE PLACED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB

(action) Jesus stays in the tomb until he is told to come out)

(action) (all other characters slowly - slowly go to assigned entrance)

(action) (after the church is empty - - - everyone gives a hand removing props and costumes and putting them away)

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please use this sheet to join in the prayers and songs.

Call to Worship: (Stand)

Narrator: Hail to our King, obedient to His Father.

All: He went to His crucifixion like a gentle lamb.

Opening Prayer

All: Amen.

Opening Song: Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in foreign lands, and all will understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain: Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Before the First Station:

Lord Let Me Walk

Lord, let me walk that lonely road with you, under the weight of the wood. Lord, let me walk that last mile in your shoes, under the weight of the wood. Freedom can be found, laden down, under the weight of the wood.

After First Station:

Were you there when the judge condemned my Lord? Were you there when the judge condemned my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when the judge condemned my Lord?

After the Second Station:

Were you there when He carried forth the beam? Were you there when He carried forth the beam? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when He carried forth the beam?

After the Third Station:

Were you there when He fell beneath its weight? Were you there when He fell beneath its weight? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when He fell beneath its weight?

After the Fourth Station:

Were you there when He saw His mother weep? Were you there when He saw His mother weep? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when He saw His mother weep?

After the Fifth Station:

Were you there when they called for Simon's help? Were you there when they called for Simon's help? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble! Were you there when they called for Simon's help?

After the Sixth Station:

Were you there when Veronica wiped His face? Were you there when Veronica wiped His face? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble! Were you there when Veronica wiped His face?

After the Seventh Station:

Were you there when He fell again in pain? Were you there when He fell again in pain? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble! Were you there when He fell again in pain?

After the Eight Station:

Were you there when the women mourned for Him? Were you there when the women mourned for Him? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when the women mourned for Him?

After the Ninth Station:

Were you there when He fell yet once again? Were you there when He fell yet once again? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble! Were you there when He fell once again?

After the Tenth Station:

Were you there when they stripped Him of His clothes? Were you there when they stripped Him of His clothes? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble! Were you there when they stripped Him of His clothes?

After the Eleventh Station: (2 times)

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

After the Twelfth Station:

Solo: One Lonely Night

Our Father

After the Thirteenth Station:

Were you there when they took His body down? Were you there when they took His body down? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble! Were you there when they took His body down?

After the Fourteenth Station:

Lord Let Me Walk

Lord, must the journey always end this way, under the weight of the wood? How many times have we nailed you up today, under the weight of the wood? Freedom can be found, laden down, under the weight of the wood.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PLEASE USE THIS SHEET TO JOIN IN THE PRAYERS AND SONGS.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Stand)	AFTER FIRST STATION:
NARR.: HAIL TO OUR KING, OBEDIENT TO HIS FATHER ALL: HE WENT TO HIS CRUCIFIXION	WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE JUDGE CONDEMNED MY LORD? WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE JUDGE CONDEMNED MY LORD? OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE, TREMBLE! WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE JUDGE CONDEMNED
LIKE A GENTLE LAMB.	MY LORD?
OPENING PRAYER	AFTER THE SECOND STATION:
ALL: AMEN.	WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE CARRIED FORTH THE BEAM? WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE CARRIED FORTH THE BEAM? OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO
OPENING SONG: BE NOT AFRAID	TREMBLE, TREMBLE! WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE CARRIED FORTH THE BEAM?
YOU SHALL CROSS THE BARREN DESERT, BUT YOU SHALL NOT DIE OF THIRST. YOU SHALL WANDER FAR IN SAFETY, THOUGH YOU DO NOT KNOW THE WAY. YOU SHALL SPEAK YOUR WORDS IN FOREIGN LANDS, AND ALL WILL UNDERSTAND. YOU SHALL SEE THE FACE OF GOD AND LIVE.	AFTER THE THIRD STATION: WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE FELL BENEATH ITS WEIGHT? WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE FELL BENEATH ITS WEIGHT? OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE! WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE FELL BENEATH ITS WEIGHT?
REFRAIN: BE NOT AFRAID. I GO BEFORE YOU ALWAYS. COME FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.	AFTER FOURTH STATION: WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAW HIS MOTHER WEEP? WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAW HIS MOTHER WEEP? OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE, TREMBLE! WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAW HIS MOTHER WEEP?
BEFORE THE FIRST STATION:	AFTER FIFTH STATION:
LORD LET ME WALK LORD, LET ME WALK THAT LONELY ROAD WITH YOU, UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WOOD. LORD, LET ME WALK THAT LAST MILE IN YOUR SHOES, UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WOOD. FREEDOM CAN BE FOUND, LADEN DOWN. UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WOOD.	WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CALLED FOR SIMON'S HELP? WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CALLED FOR SIMON'S HELP? OH SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE, TREMBLE! WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CALLED FOR SIMON'S HELP?