THE WAY OF - THE CROSS

I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED
TO DEATH



Through her soul, of joy bereavèd, bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd, now at length the sword hath passed.

II. JESUS TAKES
UP HIS CROSS



O that blessèd one, grief-laden, blessèd mother, blessèd Maiden, mother of th' all-holy One.

III. JESUS FALLS
THE FIRST TIME



O that silent, ceaseless mourning,
O those dim eyes,
never turning
from that wondrous,
suffering Son.

IV. JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED MOTHER



Who, on Christ's
dear mother gazing,
in her trouble so
amazing,
born of woman,
would not weep?

V. THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE



For his people's sins, in anguish, there she saw the victim languish, bleed in torments, bleed and die.

VI. A WOMAN WIPES
THE FACE OF JESUS



Saw the Lord's anointed taken, saw her child in death forsaken, heard his last expiring cry.

VII. JESUS FALLS A
SECOND TIME



Jesus, may her deep devotion stir in me the same emotion, Fount of love, Redeemer kind.

VIII. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



That my heart fresh ardor gaining, and a purer love attaining, may with thee acceptance find.

IX. JESUS FALLS A
THIRD TIME



In the passion of my Maker, be my sinful soul partaker, may I bear with her my part.

X. JESUS IS STRIPPED
OF HIS GARMENTS



Of his passion
bear the token,
in a spirit bowed
and broken
bear his death
within my heart.

XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS



May his wounds both wound and heal me, he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me, be his cross my hope and stay.



XII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



May he, when the mountains quiver, from that flame which burns for ever shield me on the judgment day.

XIII. THE BODY OF JESUS IS PLACED IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER



Jesus, may thy cross defend me, and thy saving death befriend me, cherished by thy deathless grace.

XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



When to dust my dust returneth, grant a soul that to thee yearneth in thy paradise a place.

Stations of the Cross, the Way of Sorrows, or the *Via Crucis* (in Latin), developed from the practice of pilgrims in Jerusalem re-creating and contemplating Christ's journey to Calvary. The 14 "stations" reflect scenes of Christ's passion drawn from the gospels and tradition. In many churches, the stations are arranged in the nave or sanctuary, with Christians stopping at each to pray and reflect.

This spiritual pilgrimage often occurs on Good Friday. Below each station is a portion of the 13th-century hymn *Stabat Mater*. These are the portions of the hymn appointed as people make their procession from station to station. This version of the stations is taken from the *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book*.