



Stations of the Cross
Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Presented by Carondelet High School's
Spiritual Life Council

Worship Aid

Please join us in singing our opening song: “Lord, I Need You” by Matt Maher

Verse 1:

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Chorus

Bridge:

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Chorus (x2)

Ending:

My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

The 1st station of the cross: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, you stand all alone before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for you. Nobody helps defend you. You devoted your entire life to helping others, listening to the smallest ones, caring for those who were ignored by others. They don't seem to remember that as they prepare to put you to death.

Reflection:

Who are the people - individuals or groups - you look down on and condemn, either in the silence of your mind or in the words you speak?

Jesus, give us the grace to see, respect and love you in all people, both innocent and guilty. Change our hearts that we may see, with new eyes, those we might otherwise condemn.



The 2nd Station of the Cross: Jesus Takes up His Cross

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, you have endured sleepless nights, betrayal of your friends. Beating by soldiers. Stripped of your own clothing. Forced to wear a thorn crown and hold a reed in your right hand. As you are carrying the cross you are holding the weight of our sins.

Reflection:

I have forgotten that you carried the load for me. How often can I try to carry things on my own, not allowing you to help me? What ways can help get rid of the sins that haunt us?

Jesus, we pray that you help us not to forget the load that you carried for us. Give us the strength and the courage to let go of all of the situations that have separated me from you.

The 3rd Station of the Cross: Jesus Falls for the First Time

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, the cross you have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and almost ready to faint, and you fall down. Nobody seems to want to help you. The soldiers are interested in getting home, so they yell at you and try to get you up and moving again.

Can I begin to understand how difficult it is for people to get second chances? Is there someone in my life that deserves a second chance?

Jesus, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary, that we will put our trust in you. Teach us to help each other up after we fall and work together to begin again.



The 4th station of the Cross: Jesus Meets His Mother

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, you feel so alone with all those people yelling and screaming at you. You don't like the words they are saying about you, and you look for a friendly face in the crowd. You see your mother. She can't make the hurting stop, but it helps to see that she is on your side, that she is suffering with you. She does understand and care.

Reflection:

When do I sometimes fall short of seeing and loving the best in others? Who is there for me and loves me, no matter what? What do I appreciate about them?

Jesus, we remember the gaze that rested between you and your mother. In that moment of pain there was also a moment of deep and enduring love. Give us the courage to bring that kind of love to those who need it most in our world.

The 5th station of the Cross: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

While you carry your cross, the soldiers are becoming impatient. Throughout this journey, you are becoming weaker and weaker. The soldiers do not think you will make it to the place where you will be crucified. So, they grab a stranger from the crowd. His name is Simon. Simon of Cyrene. A man who once watched you suffer is now the man helping relieve your pain.

Reflection:

When I am dealing with my hardships, who has been there for me? How willingly do I help others when asked to do so? How can I help others with their crosses?

Jesus, please bless the people who help us bear our crosses. And please give me the grace and the strength to help others with their crosses.



The 6th station of the Cross: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

As you continue your journey, the crown of thorns have cut deeply into your forehead. Your face is covered in blood, sweat, and dirt. It is difficult even to see your next step. Everyone who approaches you comes only to spit in your face. As Veronica approaches, she seems different than the others. As she reaches out and wipes your face with your cloth, suddenly her face of compassion becomes clear. In return, your image is left on her cloth

Reflection:

How many times have I forgotten that each person is made in your image and likeness and therefore deserves my respect? Veronica courageously stepped forward and dared to treat you differently than everyone else. Could I do the same?

Jesus, help me to see your presence in others. Give me the courage to follow Veronica's example of treating others with love even when no one else does.

The 7th station of the Cross: Jesus Falls the Second Time

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

The soldiers are furious with you for falling again. They keep hitting you again and again. The crowd keeps shouting and taunting you, getting louder and harsher. You know you have the power to stop this, but you know you must be faithful to the Father's promises to all His people. Remembering your love and faithfulness you get up once more, your wounds embedded with dirt. It hurts more and more with each step, but you keep going.

Reflection:

How many times have I failed to follow through on my promises? Have I ever lied to people I care about? Do I remember your faithfulness even when I fall?=
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Jesus, help me to believe in your faithfulness and love for me. Give me the grace to follow through on my word to others. Help me to be a person of integrity.



The 8th station of the Cross: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, as you carry your cross you encounter a group of women standing near the road. You can see their sad faces as you pass by, and stop to offer them kind words. You help them although you are in pain and all of your friends have left you. You say to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.”

Reflection:

What suffering do you see that causes you to grieve? What prejudices do you hold - though you know it's wrong? Who can you help today?

Jesus, show me how I can put you first. Help me to think more about others and respond to their needs despite my own burdens. Guide me through my difficulties and help me listen to your words of life.

The 9th station of the Cross: Jesus Falls For the 3rd Time

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross. You know your journey is coming to an end. Were you afraid as you approached this cruel death? You struggle and struggle, yet you get up and keep going.

Reflection:

Do you need to apologize to anyone because of something hurtful or cruel you've done? Do you need to forgive yourself? Where do you need strength now?

Jesus, sometimes I fail time and time again. I become discouraged when I'm confronted by the same problems over and over again. Sometimes I get weary and become discouraged. Help me think of the cross You carried. Help me remember that You didn't give up and had the strength to continue, so I can as well.



The 10th station of the Cross: Jesus' Clothes Are Taken Away

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

The soldiers notice you have something of value. They remove your cloak and throw dice for it. Your wounds are torn open once again. Some of the people in the crowd make fun of you. They tease you and challenge you to perform a miracle for them to see. They're not aware that you'll perform the greatest miracle of all!

Reflection:

In what ways have I humiliated others? How have I participated in ignoring the dignity of another through mean posts, name-calling, or gossip?

Forgive us, Jesus, for the times when we have gone with the crowd in embarrassing and humiliating another. Forgive us for being consumers of gossip under the disguise of 'social media'. Help us not seek to expose one another's weakness, but build up each other's dignity and beauty.

The 11th station of the Cross: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

You are stretched out on the cross you have carried so far. The soldiers take big nails and drive them into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved so much. People seem to have gone mad. You have done nothing but good, yet they drive nails through your hands and feet.

Reflection:

Are you hurting someone through your words or actions? What beginning steps can you take to become more kind and loving?

Forgive us, Jesus, for the times we have hurt others, especially those we deeply care for.



The 12th Station of the Cross: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. The cross reveals the depth of your love and commitment. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

Reflection:

How can I reach out to love those in need, taking courage from Jesus' willingness to die on the cross?

Jesus, open our hearts that we may consider your profound love for us. Strengthen our ability to make sacrifices in our own lives to show our love for you and for those who need it most, in spite of their mistakes and our own.

The 13th Station of the Cross: Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

The first arms that held you in this world are also the last. Your mother was told a sword would pierce her heart the day she presented you as an infant to the Father. Now, she holds your body that is mangled beyond recognition and sees, not only the man she now holds, but also the child she held. Now her heart is pierced. Your comfort to her will come but in this moment she only has the Father to be with her in her sorrow and pain. All hope seems gone.

Reflection:

Close your eyes. Allow Jesus to hold you just as Mary held him at the foot of the cross. Open yourself to the abundant love God has for you, especially when you are struggling with grief, hopelessness, and despair

Jesus, help me to trust in you. Help me to place all of my hope in you and give me peace in knowing that you are Lord in my life over all things.



The 14th station of the Cross: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Saving and forgiving Lord, we love you, we need you, and we trust you.

All: Give us the strength to follow your way of living and loving.

Jesus, your body is prepared for burial. Joseph gave you his own tomb. He laid your body there and rolled a large stone in front of it, then went home. What a sad day it has been for so many people. Up to this point, death is final. While those you have lived with, laughed with and cried with are in their heightened sorrow believing all is over, you are conquering sin and death.

Reflection:

How many times has death felt like the end? When I've lost a loved one it can be so hard to remember your victory. How often do I miss the opportunities to say, "I love you" to those special people in my life?

Jesus, help me always remember that death is not the end. Give me the strength to say the words, 'I love you' to those people in my life that I do love. Help me to love every person not just in words but also with my actions.



Sending and Closing Prayer

Please join us in singing our closing song - “Beautiful Things” by Gungor

Verse 1

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change
At all

Verse 2

All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground
At all

Chorus

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Verse 3

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found
In You

Chorus x2

Bridge

You make me new You are making me new (x2)

Chorus x2

Ending

You make me new You are making me new (x2)



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