

The song would be a good traveling song to sing silently to yourself as you walk.



Station 1: Jesus is Condemned

Jesus stands before Pilate. The innocent one is condemned by the powers of this world, to be stripped, beaten and executed on the cross.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let us enter into your silence. You have said everything you had to say. Now you have no further words, as you hear the judge's verdict, and the cries of the crowd calling for your death. Your silence is our strength: as you left everything in your Father's hands, so now do we, knowing that an infinite love will find us wherever we are.

We pray for all who are unjustly condemned, for all who feel disgrace, for all who suffer from the merciless judgments of our world. As we stand with you, stand also with us, a light against the surrounding darkness.

Station 2: Jesus Carries His Cross

On that back torn by scourging, the rough wood of the cross is now loaded. He takes the first stumbling steps of his way to Golgotha. He is bearing the sins of the world, the load of our guilt, of our selfishness, of the hard, cold heaviness of loveless lives.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let us go with you on your journey. In your strength, we accept all the sufferings, large and small, involved in following the path of justice, honesty and care for others.

We pray for all who are weakened in their struggle, who are near to breaking point, that their hope not fail and their hearts not grow hard. As we go with you, be with us on our different ways, that we might meet in you, and find support in your love.

Station 3: Jesus Falls the First Time

The climb is long, the path is narrow, the load is heavy, the taunting crowd presses close, the guards hurry him on. He trips; and falls beneath the weight across his shoulders.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you fall into our darkness to meet us there in the weakness of doubt and discouragement. We pray for all who fall, for all who have found the burdens of life too heavy, the road too long and help far away. Be their courage now, and by your fall lift us all up in new strength.

Station 4: Jesus Meets his Mother

The sword pierces Mary's heart as she sees her Son bloodied and disfigured on his way to execution. He hears that beloved voice; and looks up through a haze of pain. Eye meets eye; heart meets heart: and out of that tide of shared suffering rises the question: is this where love leads? Where can it take us now?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, by the love you felt for this woman, by the love she felt for you, open our hearts to the suffering of the humble and the good of this world, all who feel so defenseless against violence and hatred.

May love keep on being love, no matter what the pain, and light our way...Mary, by the sword that pierced your heart, waken our hearts to that love that has been shown us in the passion of your Son.

Station 5: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

This dark-skinned man from distant Africa is pressed into service. He is a farmer, coming from his fields to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. By helping the weakening Jesus, he found the beginning of faith: for his sons Alexander and Rufus were to become known to the early Church.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, in opening our eyes to our suffering neighbour, you come to us yourself.

Help us to see the face of the other who will be without help unless we have time, unless we reach out, and make room for those we so easily overlook

Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

The dust and the blood running down his swollen face cloud his vision. A courageous woman defies the crowd and wipes his face with her veil. He sees her clearly now; and in the light of his gaze, the splendor of an infinite love shines upon her.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, by the love that drew Veronica to you, make each of us a healing presence in your world, to use our hands to wipe away the grime and the tears of life, to see ourselves and others as your mercy sees us all...

Inspire us to find the beauty that lies hidden in our world, to go beyond our prejudices, harsh judgments and disappointments to detect your grace at work in every life, and to treasure every element of your creation.

Station 7: Jesus Falls the 2nd Time

He is forced on, pulled beyond those loving meetings with his Mother and the good Veronica. Even though Simon is there to help, he is drained of strength and falls once more to the ground.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, by the weakness you suffered for our sake, make us patient with ourselves and others. Teach us to have time, the way God has time, for the whole unfinished business of our lives and our world.

(over)

Guide every step we take, and help us not to become bitter or intolerant in disappointment; so may we graciously accept, along with the joy, the pain that is the inevitable condition of growth and life and being together.

Station 8: Jesus Meets the Women

Once more He hears the voice of love and tenderness. Once more it is the voice of women, mothers with children in their arms. Those who were closest to life, who knew how vulnerable and fragile our lives can be, these saw the full horror of what was taking place. He turns toward them: “Weep not for me but for yourselves and your children”.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to answer the evils of our world with a great defiant hope, in a strong protest against all that is loveless, degrading and violent. May your compassion give us the energy to conquer hatred though the power of your love and in all the patient works of mercy and justice.

Help us never to be so absorbed in ourselves as to forget the sufferings of the weak and the defenseless.

Teach us your own compassion...

Station 9: Jesus Falls the 3rd Time

In staggering those final uphill steps, all strength leaves him, and he falls once more. Each step felt like the end of the journey. He can go no further. And yet, one final effort... He staggers forward, and is dragged to the place of execution.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may the Spirit of your love urge us onward. Do not allow us to give up, whatever our weakness, however often we fall.

Help us to see our world through the eyes of the crushed and the broken, that we might all grow more closely together and support one another along the way in the love you have shown us.

Station 10: Jesus is Stripped

His clothes are pulled from him, and the soldiers cast lots for his last blood-stained possessions. He is left naked to the world ... Love has stripped him of everything: “For our sake, he became poor...”

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when we are stripped of everything, and left with nothing but what only God can give, clothe us with your very self.

When in the midst of life we feel lonely and at a loss, defenceless before the evils of the world, clothe us with your sense of God's unfailing presence.

When, finally, death comes near, clothe us with the perfect peace of trust in you.

Station 11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

He has been betrayed, abandoned by his followers, condemned, mocked and tortured. Now the cross, the most hideous form of execution known to the ancient world, the ultimate deterrent reserved for rebellious slaves! The nails

pierce flesh and nerve, and he is lifted up in the sight of all: Behold the Man.

Prayer: Could this be how God appears in our world? Open our hearts, Lord Jesus, to true wisdom, the wisdom of that love revealed in you, that alone gives life: “the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”— the “love that never ends”.

In place of the misery of selfishness free us to choose the way of an ever greater love. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Station 12: Jesus Dies on the Cross

In his hours of agony, of desperate struggle for breath, a great darkness seemed to be gathering over the land. He barely spoke again... some groaning words of prayer and forgiveness. Then a final loud cry: “Father into your hands I commend my spirit”. His head falls forward, he is dead.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom... In doing your Father's will, you poured out your life as one great act of love. Join us to yourself in life and in death. Be our life, our food, our resurrection.

We commend to your mercy all who are dying at this moment, that you will be for them, and for us who will follow, the fountain of endless life and undying love.

Station 13: Jesus is Taken Down

It is a poor tortured body that his faithful ones now unfasten from the cross and place in the arms of Mary. The blows, the thorns, the lash, the nails, the spear have all left their mark. As his friends embraced him for the last time, they must have thought of the ancient prophecy: “Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases ... he was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities...”

Prayer: Crucified Lord, draw us more deeply into unity as members of your Body throughout the world. Unite us in the sympathy of love and in a communion of faith, so that your Church will be purified in holiness and be a sign to the nations.

Though we are earthen vessels, make us witnesses to the peace, the healing and the hope you offer to all creation.

Station 14: Jesus Placed in Tomb

The once wonderful radiance of this life is no more. He made God so real, and brought such joy and hope into the hearts of the hopeless. But it all led to the cross. He is dead now ... and buried. He joins the uncountable millions of those who died before him and those who would die after. He has entered into the world of death. What now?

Pause: Lord Jesus, by your descent into the world of the dead, fill all life, all death, all time with your presence. Be the deepest center of our lives, so that nothing in all creation will separate us from you: may your love grow within us to cast out all fear, and become a hope that knows no bounds.

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