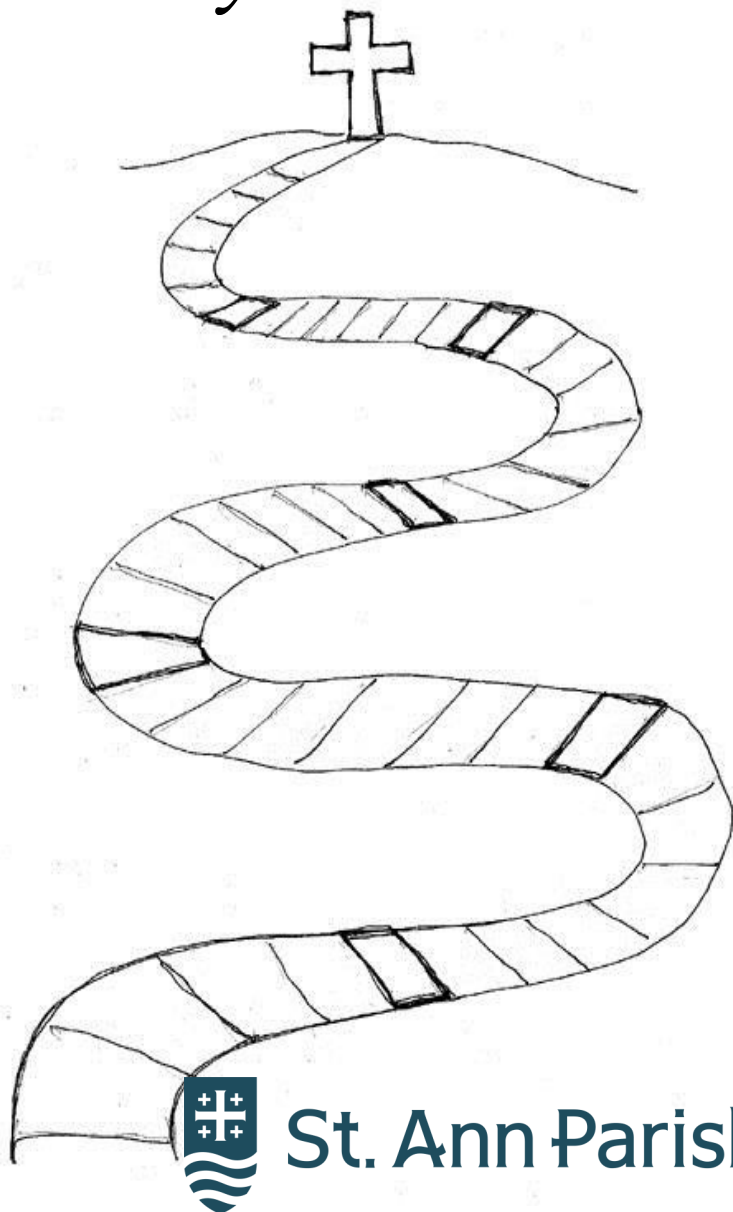


Children's Journey to the Cross



St. Ann Parish

Opening Prayer

O God,

We are about to walk with
your Son along the road of
His suffering and death.

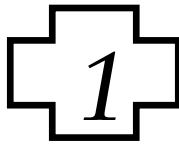
We know that Jesus saved
us and brought us new life
through His sacrifice on the
cross and His rising from the
dead three days later.

Help us to love a little more
and to live more unselfish
lives.

Teach us to follow in Jesus'
footsteps.

We ask this through Christ,
Our Lord,

Amen



Jesus Is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, you stand all alone
before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for
you. Nobody helps defend you. You
devoted your entire life to helping
others, but no one remembers that now.

As a child, sometimes I feel alone and
defenseless. Sometimes I feel that I am
treated unfairly, especially if I am
scolded or corrected. Help me forgive
others when they hurt me and to trust in
you.

All:

*"It isn't fair!" we want to cry
When Jesus is condemned to die.
Jesus , make us strong like you
When blamed for things we didn't do.*

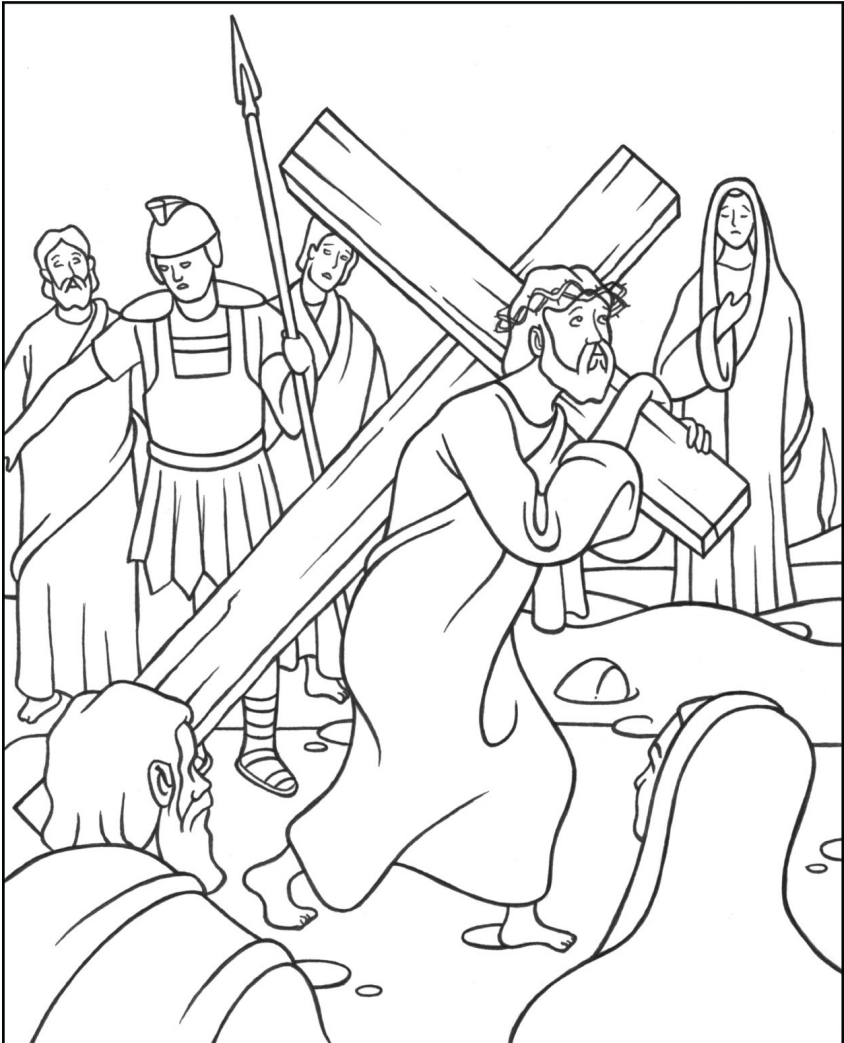
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
and walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

2

Jesus Takes Up His Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, as you accepted your cross, you knew you would carry it to your death on Calvary. You knew it wouldn't be easy, but you accepted it and carried it just the same.

As a child, sometimes I don't like the problems that come my way God, you know how hard they are for me to carry. Help me remember and pray for those who are sick and those whose problems are far worse than mine.

All:

*Worries, illness, problems, cares
are crosses we are asked to bear.
By your cross you lead the way
And give us strength to face each day.*

*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
and walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

3

Jesus Falls for the First Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, the cross you have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and you fall down. Nobody seems to want to help you. The soldiers yell at you and try to get you up and moving again.

There are many times when I start to do something, but then get tired of it and give up before I should. When things get hard for me, help me Lord to do my work as well as I can and to finish what I have started.

All:

*It makes us sad to have to see
The Son of God down on his knees.
Dear Jesus, help us start anew
Each time we fail to follow you.*

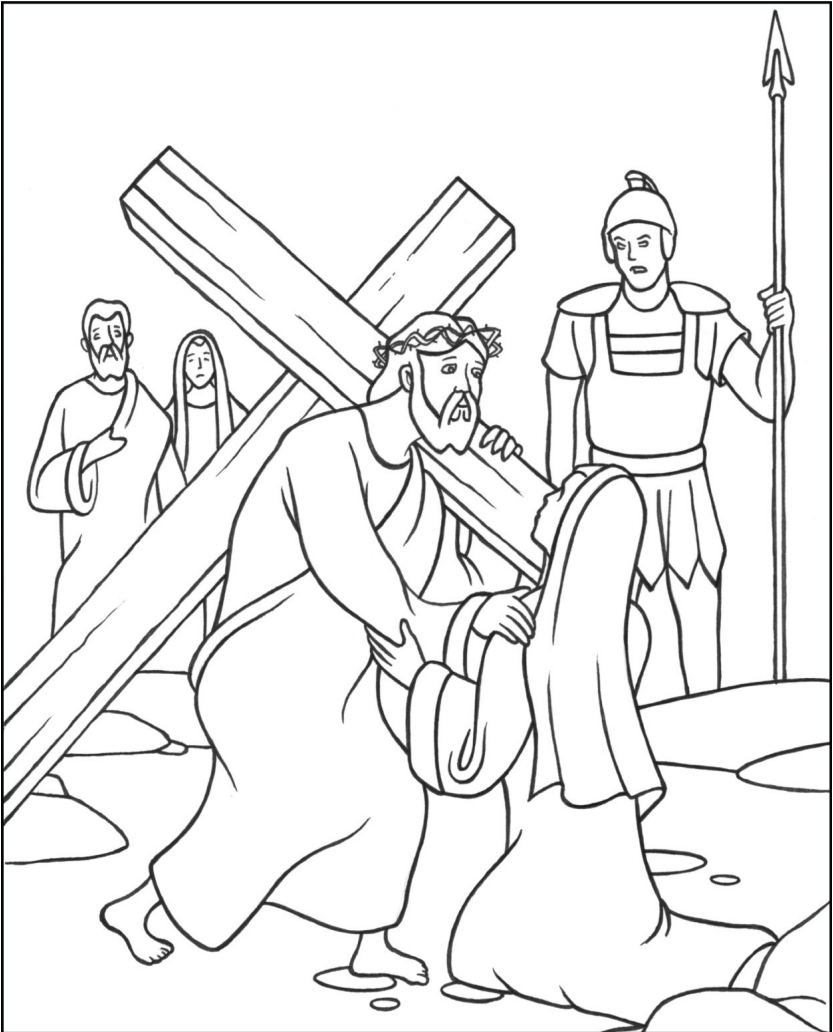
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Jesus Meets His Mother Mary

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, you feel so alone with all those people yelling at you, and so you look for a friendly face in the crowd. You see your Mom. She can't make the hurting stop, but it helps to see that she is close and that she understands and cares.

God, thank you for my parents who are always there for me, especially when I am sad or hurt. Please comfort those who do not have parents and help them trust in you.

All:

*Dear Mary, it must make you cry
To know your only child will die.
Help us let our parents know
That we love and need them so.*

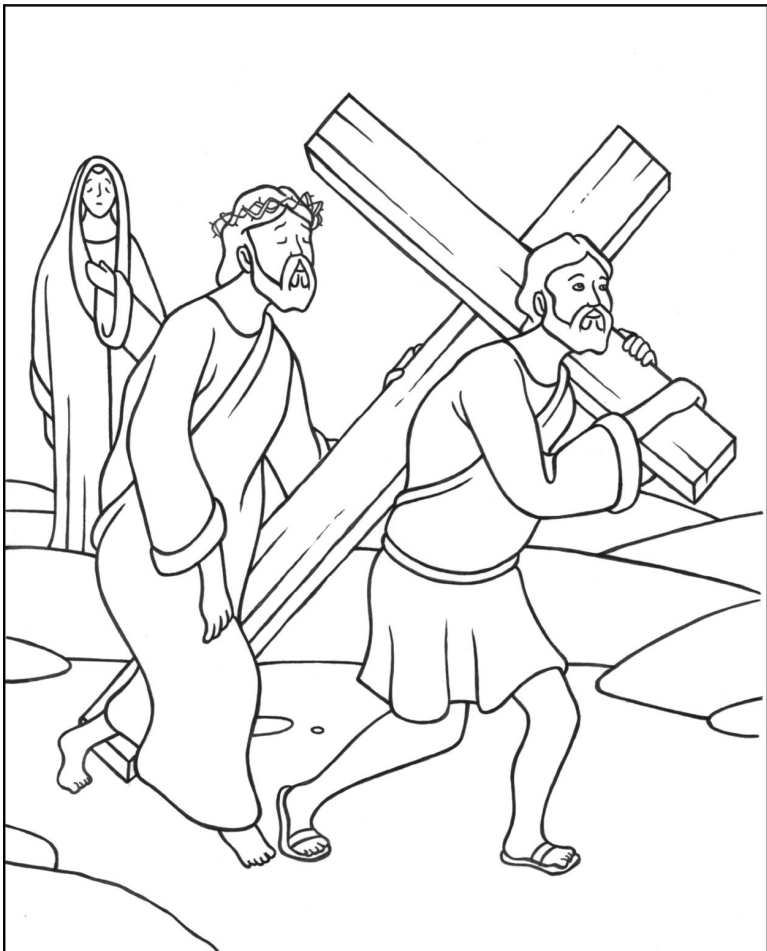
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me*



Simon Helps Carry Jesus' Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, the soldiers are afraid you won't make it to the hill where you will be crucified. As you grow weaker, they grab Simon out of the crowd and make him help carry your cross even though he doesn't want to.

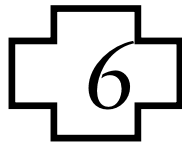
Sometimes I pretend not to hear when my parents call me. I disappear when I know others could use my help. Help me Jesus to be like Simon and to do the right thing even when I do not want to.

All:

*If we were standing on that road
We would have helped you with your
load.*

*We'll help you now by helping others:
Parents, friends, sisters, brothers.*

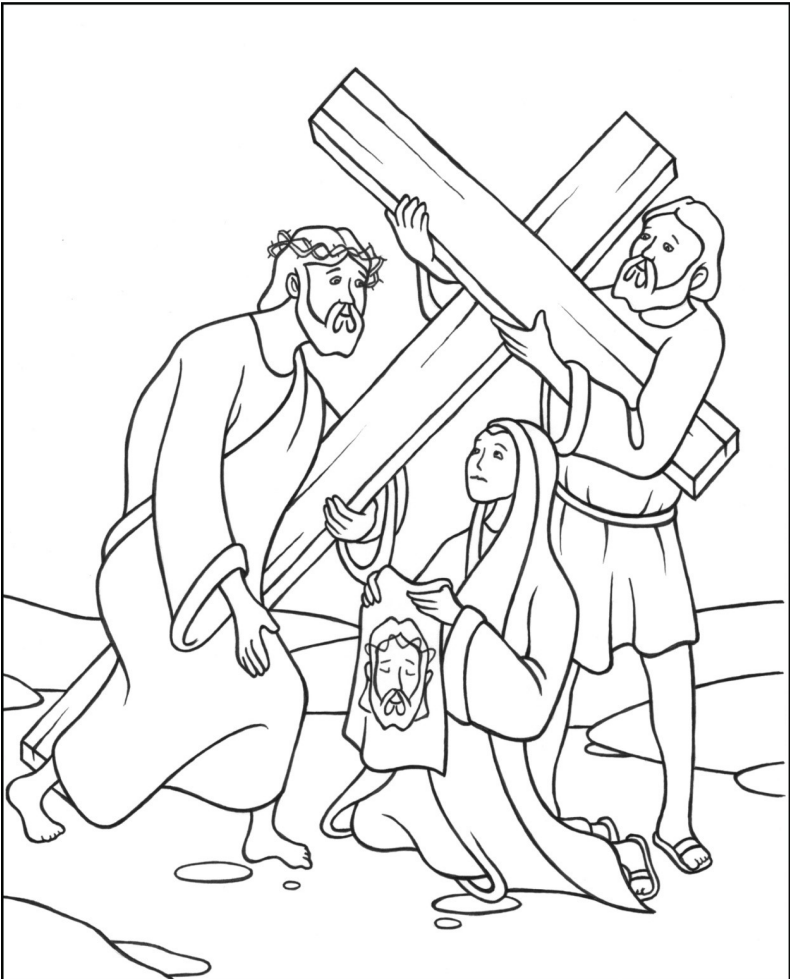
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

***All: Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.***



Leader: Jesus, Veronica comes out of the crowd. You can see how she cares for you as she takes a cloth and begins to wipe the blood and sweat from your face. It is a small thing to do, but it is done with love.

Sometimes I know someone who could use a little help. They may be being teased, or just sad or lonely. God, help me see the needs of others and remind me to go out of my way to be helpful, even if I'm not asked.

All:

*No one can ever wipe away
The sadness of that awful day.
But we make the world a better place
Each time we wear a happy face!*

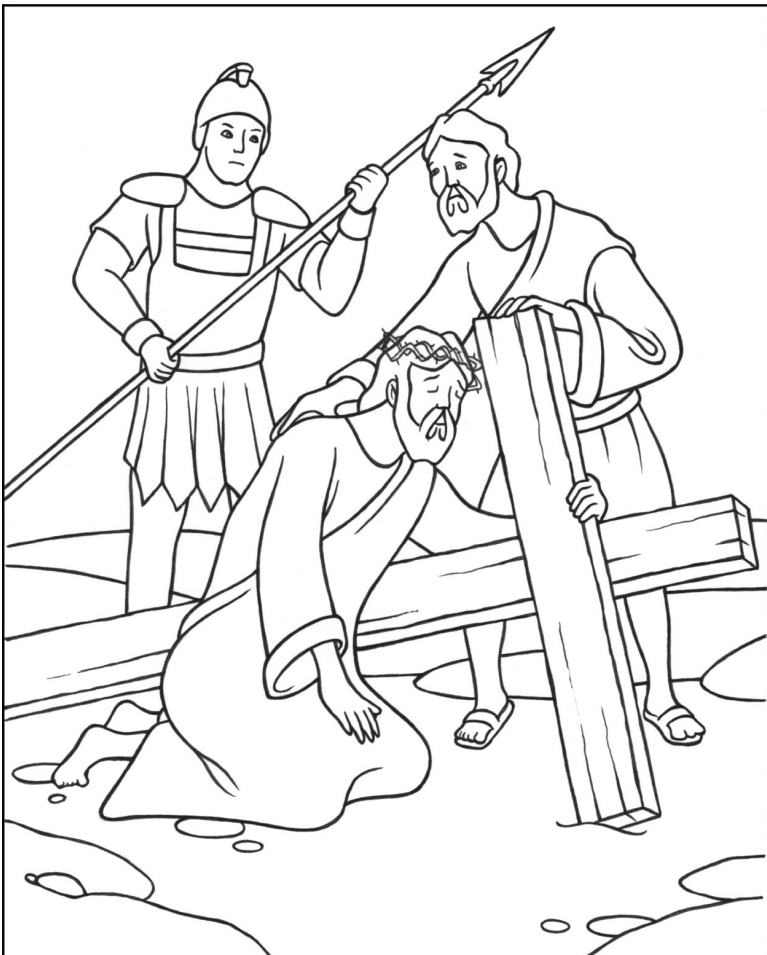
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Jesus Falls for the Second Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



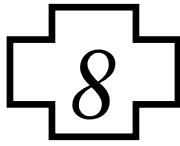
Leader: This is the second time you have fallen on the road. As you lose your strength the cross grows heavier and heavier and it becomes more difficult to get up. But you don't give up.

Sometimes things get me down. Each time I fail, I find it harder to keep trying. Even when it's hard Jesus, help me get up and keep trying as you did.

All:

*How hard your cross,
how long your way,
When you fell again that day.
When we have too much to do
We'll keep on trying, just like you.*

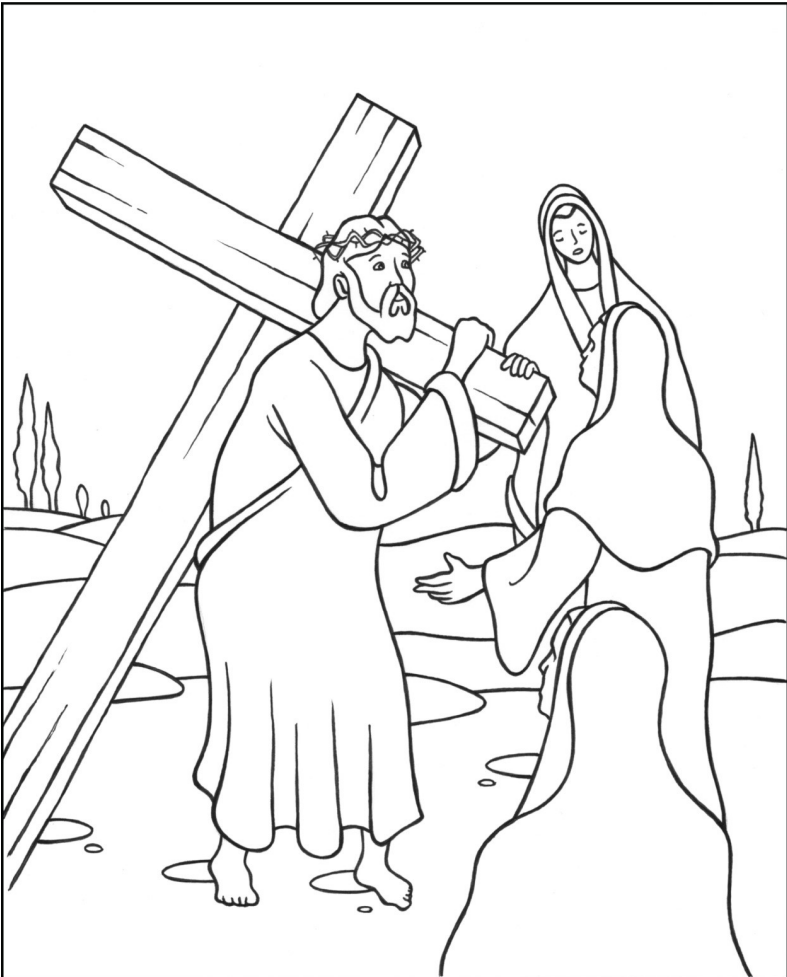
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Jesus Speaks to the Women And Children

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, as you carry your cross
you see a group of women and
children along the road crying. You
pause to offer them some encourage-
ment even though it is you who should
be comforted.

I think a lot about myself. Jesus, help me
be like you and remember that others
have problems, too. Help me to be a
comfort to those who are sad.

All:

*Jesus, you heard the women cry.
And spoke to them as you passed by.
Help us wipe away the tears
Of those who suffer pain and fear.*

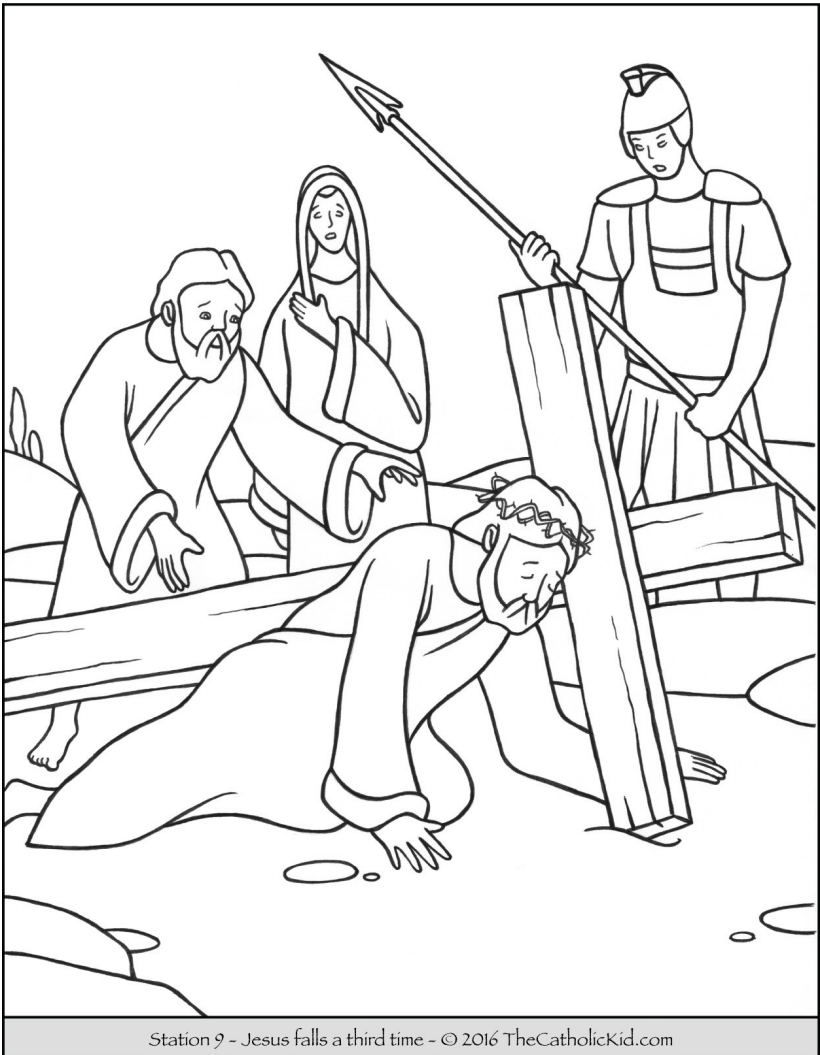
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

9

Jesus Falls a Third Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



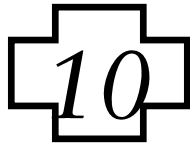
Leader: Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross. You know your journey is coming to an end. You struggle and struggle. You get up and keep going.

Sometimes I fail time and time again. I find it hard to get along with my sisters and brothers; sometimes I'm tempted to stop trying. Help me Jesus to think of the cross you carried and to have the strength to get up again as well.

All:

*Your journey's almost over when,
Son of God, you fall again.
Dear Jesus, help us when we pray
For perseverance every day.*

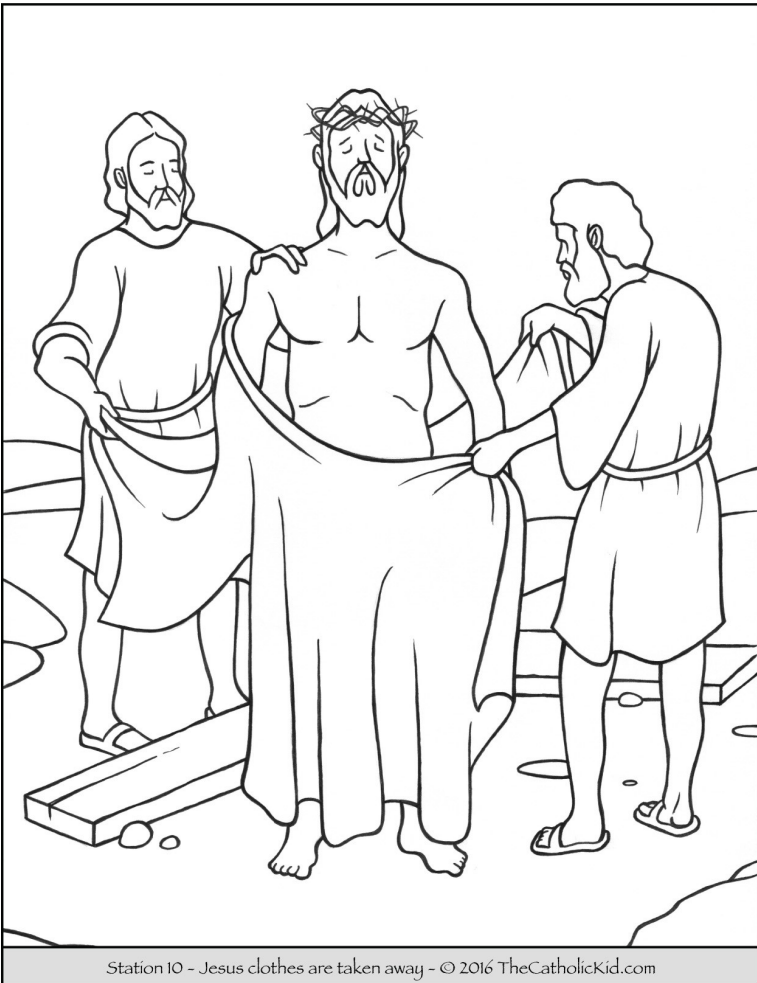
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



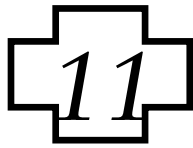
Leader: The soldiers notice how nice your cloak is so they take it and then throw dice to see who gets to keep it. They are disrespectful and are unconcerned that your wounds are torn open once again.

Jesus please help me not to be disrespectful of others. Your clothes were gone, help me to remember the poor and to share with them my abundance of clothes and toys.

All:

*Dearest Jesus, we will find
A way to keep your words in mind:
“Why do you worry what to wear?
For God will keep you in His care.”*

*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*



Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: 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 then stand the cross up so you hang there.

Jesus, dying on the cross is much harder than I can ever imagine. Help me to realize when I cause someone hurt and pain and give me the strength to make amends for the things I have done wrong.

All:

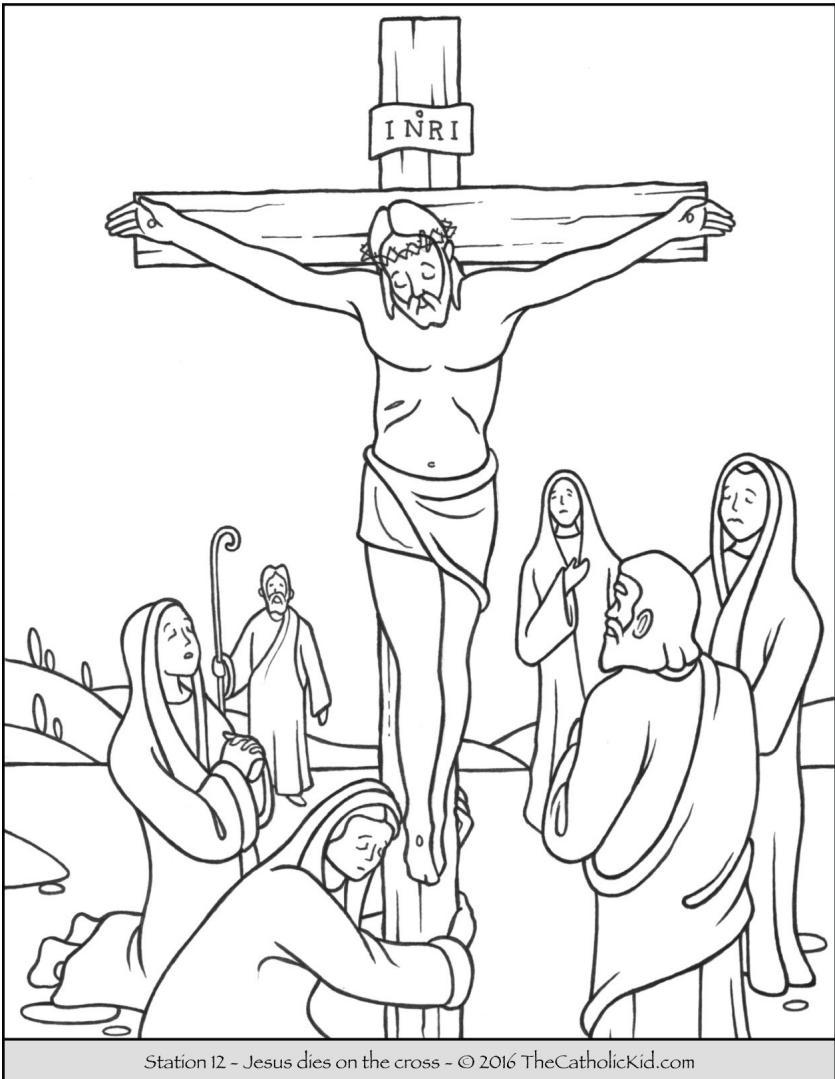
*Your hands are help by iron nails,
Your weary heart begins to fail,
And so on earth we must start
To be your hands, to be your heart.*

*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world*



Leader: As Jesus hung on the cross, He forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for His mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so He gave all He had for us; His very life. Jesus, let me stop now and think about your love for me. Thank you for your willingness to die for me. Help me express my love for you!

All:

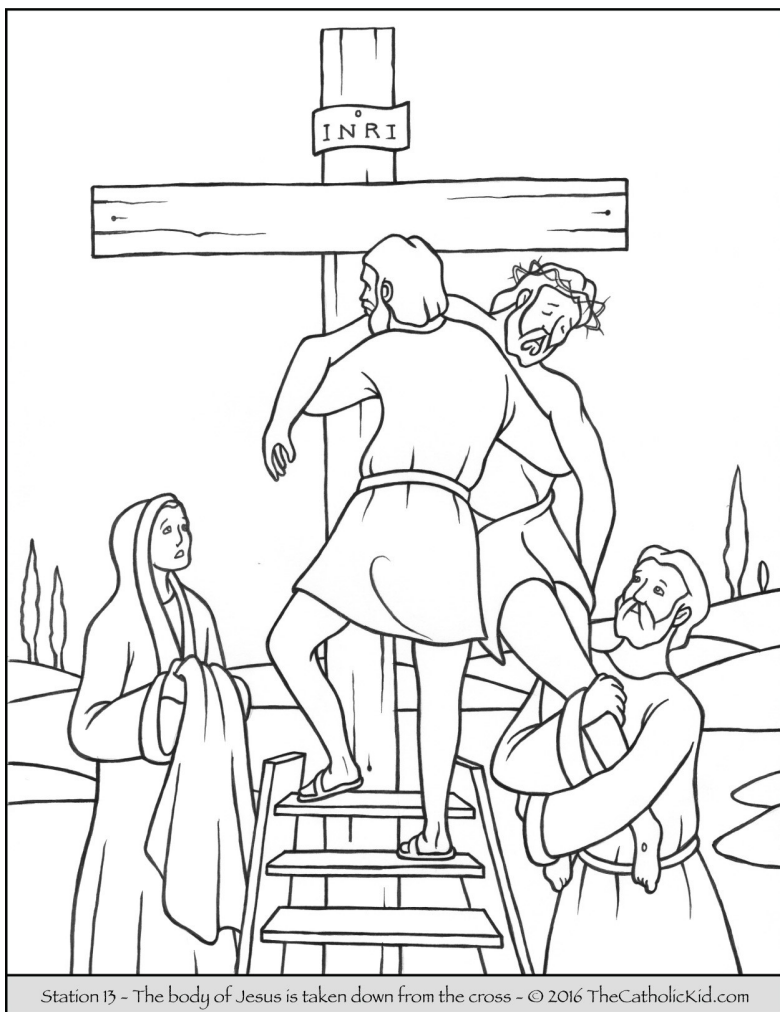
*Lord, you gave your life for us;
In you alone we place our trust.
We give you all we have to give,
For you alone will we now live.*

*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: Jesus, how gently you are taken from the cross. Your suffering and pain are ended, and you are put in the lap of your mother. The dirt and blood are wiped away. You are treated with love.

Sometimes I treat others better when they're sad or in pain. Jesus, please help me make this day better for those around me, especially those I love the most. Help me say kind things to the ones I care for.

All:

*In sorrow, Mary holds her son,
His life is gone, his work is done.
Dear Mother, make us brave like you,
When our lives are filled with sadness too.*

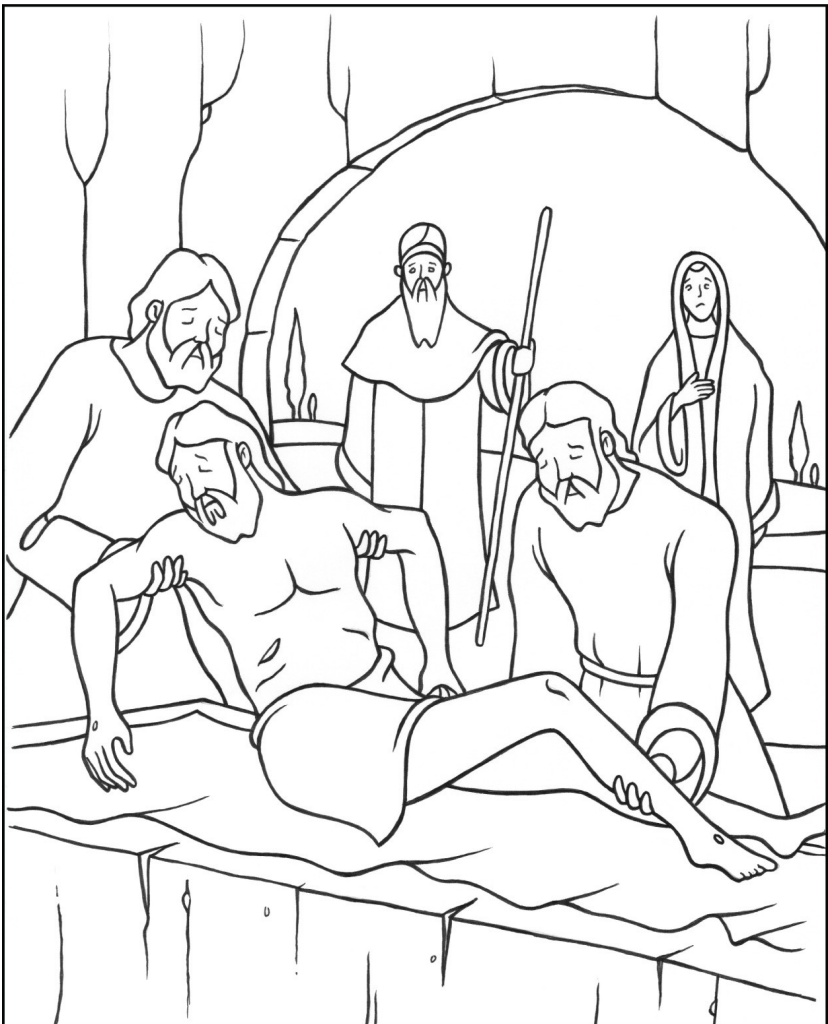
*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

14

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: *Because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*



Leader: 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 for the door. What a sad day it is for so many people.

Thank you for your generosity Jesus. We come with flowers to honor in a small way your death. May we always remember that you made this journey to the cross because of your boundless love for us.

All:

*What looks like the end
Is just the beginning, by dying for us,
new life you were winning.*

*My Jesus, I come to hold your hand
And walk beside you to Calvary.
This gift I offer seems oh so small
To thank you Lord for saving me.*

As we close,
let us pray together:

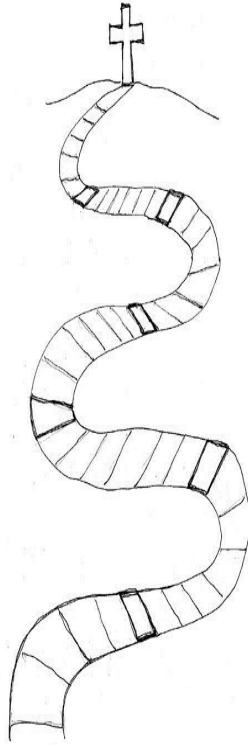
*Thank you, Jesus, for all you've done.
May our lives reflect the same
unselfish love that Jesus showed
for us.*

*God, we thank you for the lesson of
this journey and for giving us your
son.*

Our Father who art in Heaven ...

Hail Mary Full of Grace ...

Glory Be to the Father ... Amen!



Thank you for Journeying with Jesus to the Cross. Please do not leave Him there. Carry Him in your hearts wherever you go. Feel free to take this book home and color the pictures as you reflect on Jesus' Journey to the Cross.