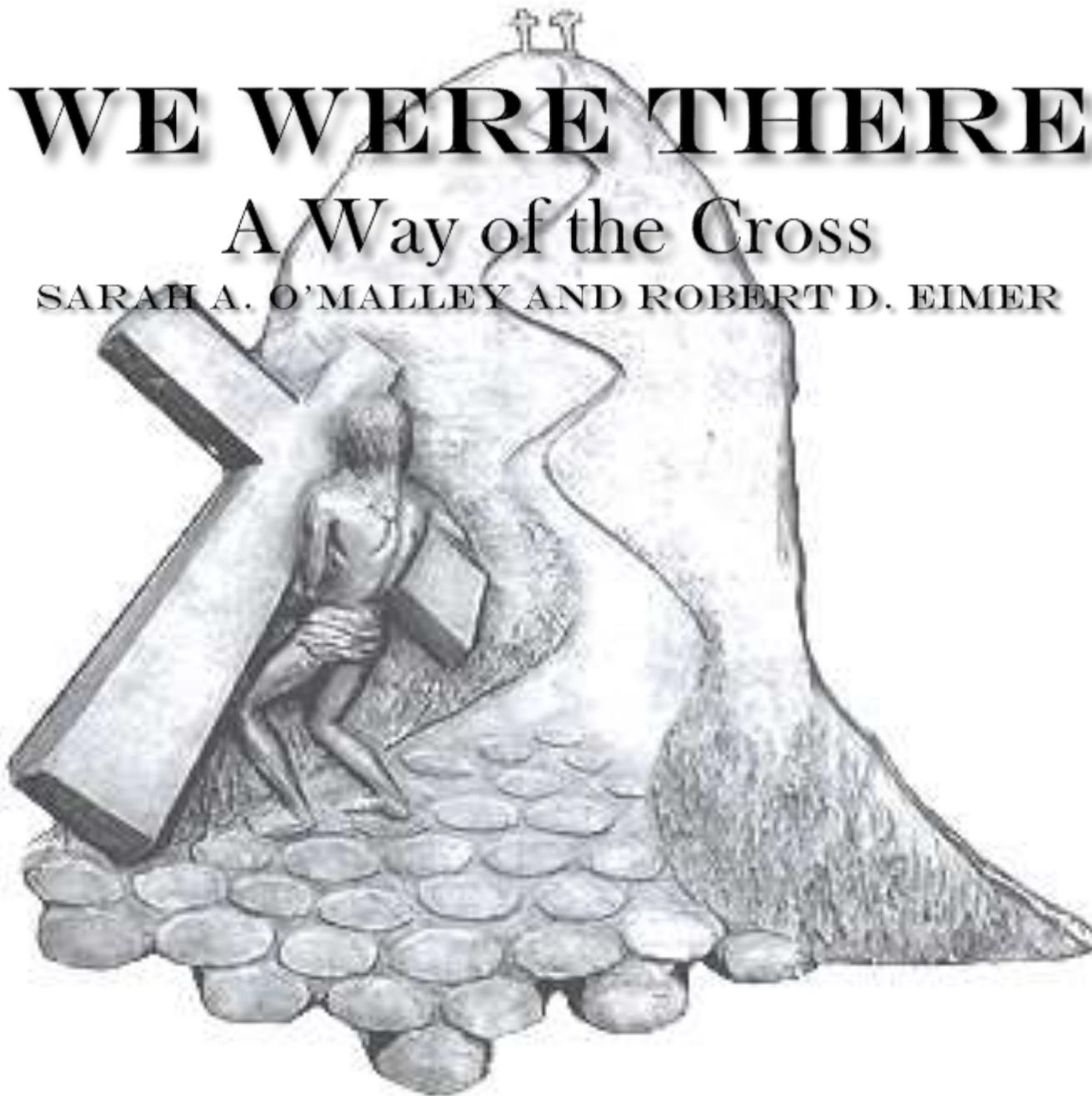


WE WERE THERE

A Way of the Cross

SARAH A. O'MALLEY AND ROBERT D. EIMER



OPENING PRAYER

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Loving Jesus, along the way of the cross, you met hardened soldiers , condemning priests, and compassionate men and women. As we walk that same way of the cross, let us search our innermost hearts, for they are capable of hardness or compassion, fickleness or faithfulness. Jesus, may we confront the dark side of our hearts and, through your grace, decide to remain your faithful and compassionate followers. Amen.

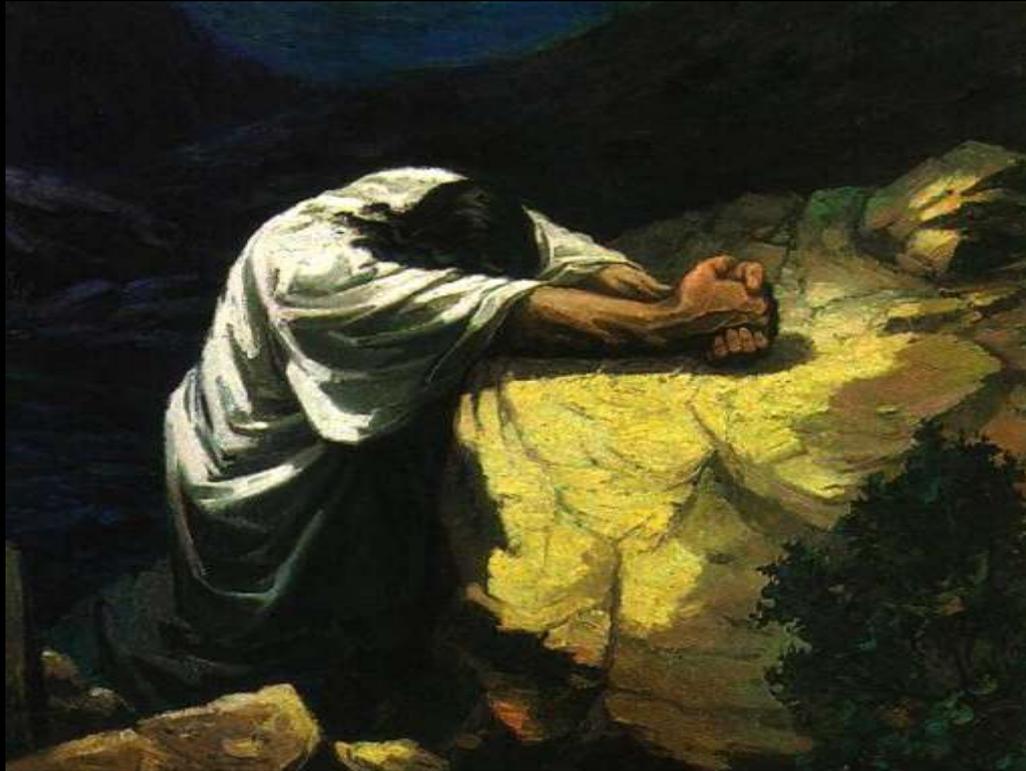
*WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE , TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?*

THE FIRST STATION

Jesus Prays in the Garden

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

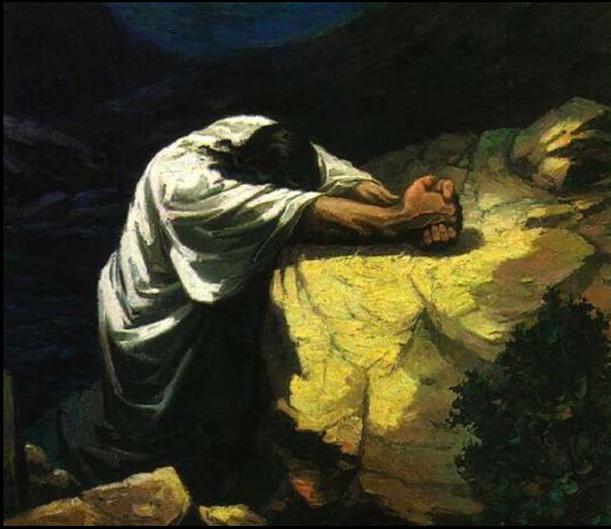
Reading: Mark 14:32-36



Peter : *It was a pitch black night in the garden. I'm afraid to say we weren't much company for the Master. I heard his sighs and groans as he prayed alone. He asked us to stay awake, but the wine made us sleepy and even more, our hearts felt burdened with sorrow. At our last supper together, I boasted that although everyone else would desert him, I would never fail him. But I did fail him. I did.*

LET US PRAY.....

ALL: Jesus, just as your disciples were insensitive to your anguish, /we too, are sometimes uncaring about those who are suffering emotional and mental pain. Awaken within us compassion/ so that we may be more *present* to the sufferings of others, /and do what we can to lessen their burdens. Amen.



WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PRAYED, "THY WILL BE DONE"?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PRAYED, "THY WILL BE DONE"?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE, TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PRAYED, "THY WILL BE DONE"?

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Is Betrayed By Judas And Arrested

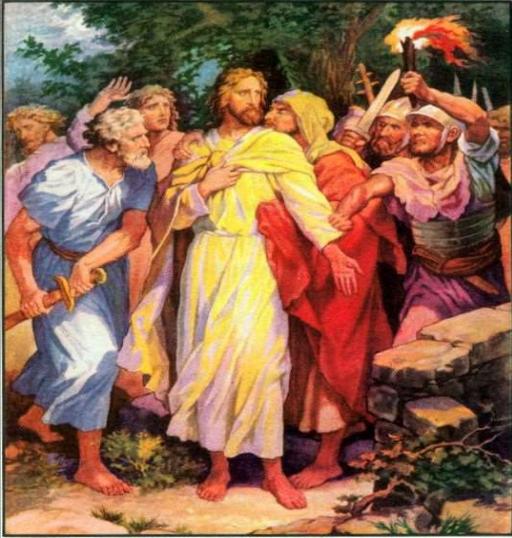
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 14:43, 45-46

Judas: I know you all want to ask the question, "How could you have betrayed the master with a kiss?" But you have to understand, the dream of a Messiah and a Kingdom was all but dead. Jesus had no intention of conquering the Romans. Jesus had become a hopeless idealist. Turn the other cheek, indeed! I simply became disillusioned. However, I made a tragic blunder in betraying Jesus and I paid for it! I regret that kiss, but it's too late.

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, even though we have been unfaithful to you,/you have remained faithful to us. Keep us mindful of our own human frailty / lest we betray your trust in us. Unlike Judas, who turned away from you,/ may we turn to you for mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS BETRAYED?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS BETRAYED?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE, TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS BETRAYED?***

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Is Condemned By The Sanhedrin

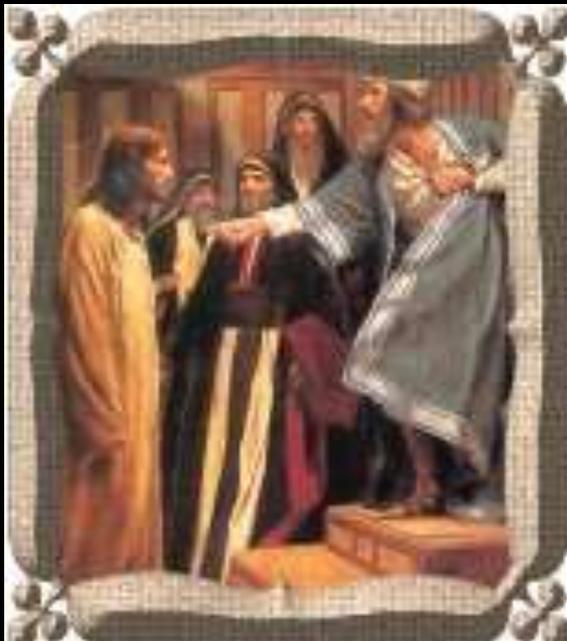
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 14:55, 60-61,62,64

Caiaphas: Annas, my father-in-law, sent Jesus to me with clear instructions: "You know what you must do. He is a dangerous man." It is better that one man die than the nation be destroyed. Rumor had it that he claimed to be the Messiah. At the trial, I asked him the question directly, "Are you the Messiah." Had he said NO, he could have walked away. But this Galilean stated openly that he was the 'Glorious Son of Man'. He Blasphemed! He signed his own death warrant. What else could I do? Would you have done differently?

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, you suffered injustice at the hands of the self-righteous. As your followers,/ strengthen us when we must accept unjust treatment from others. Give us the courage to engage in the struggle for justice in our world. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS CONDEMNED?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS CONDEMNED?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE , TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN JESUS WAS CONDEMNED?***

THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Is Denied By Peter

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 14:66, 67,68,70-71,72

Maid Servant: I was in the courtyard that night. After soldiers whisked a man through the back door, I saw a follower of Jesus –I was sure of it. I asked him straightaway if he was a follower of Jesus the Nazarene. Startled, he denied knowing the man. I wouldn't let it go and I asked him again as did another as we sat by the fire. This man stood up cursing and swearing and he disappeared into the darkness as the rooster crowed.

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, out of fear Peter denied you/ but in the end was moved by repentance. Do not abandon us when we deny you out of human respect,/ but bless us with tears of repentance for our sins. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN PETER DENIED THE LORD?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN PETER DENIED THE LORD?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN PETER DENIED THE LORD?***

THE FIFTH STATION

Jesus Is Judged By Pilate

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

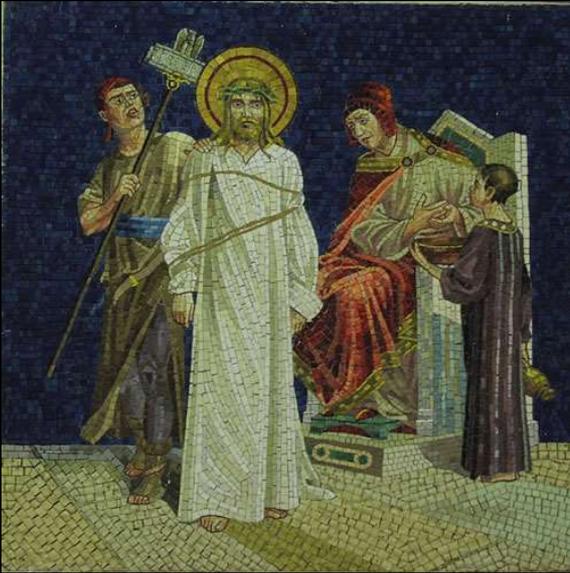


Reading: Matt. 27:15, 17,19,24

Pilate's Wife: Pilate doesn't like it when I dabble in his affairs. "Leave politics to me" he would say. But this time I was compelled to speak out about the startling dreams of Jesus I had. On that fateful day, as I stood by Pilate's side, I saw Jesus there awaiting my husband's judgement. I saw him trying to free Jesus, until he realized sparing Jesus might lead to revolt. I wept quietly as Pilate washed his hands of it all. I knew we would never be the same, haunted by the Nazarene's innocence. Have we resisted the voice of God?

LET US PRAY.....

ALL: Jesus, like Pilate, we too can resist the voice of God that comes to us from so many sources, including other people, events, and even dreams. May human respect, fear of failure, or the clamor of the mob/ never overpower the quiet voice of our conscience. Amen.



***WERE YOU THERE WHEN SHE WARNED HIM OF HER DREAMS?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN SHE WARNED HIM OF HER DREAMS?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN SHE WARNED HIM OF HER DREAMS?***

THE SIXTH STATION

Jesus Is Crowned With Thorns And Scourged

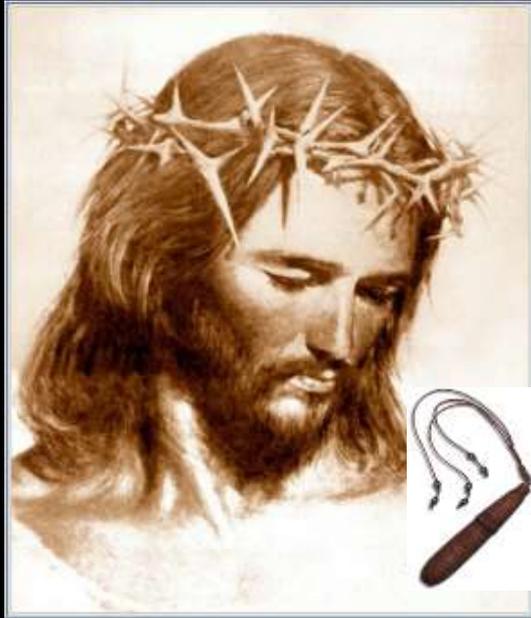
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:15-20

Soldier: I was there when the rabbi was handed over to us, to have fun with him. I'm just an ordinary soldier. I know how to handle a whip and I do my duty. When we heard that Jesus was pretending to be a king – well we had our sport with him. Throwing an old purple cloak and a thorny crown on him, we all got into the spirit of it whistling and shouting, "Hail, king of the Jews." It was nothing personal. It's what we get paid for – making people miserable. He wasn't a bad fellow- he took our best shots; in fact, he was braver than most, silent through it all. Well, we took him to the hill.

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, in silence you suffered the cruelty and mockery of the Roman soldiers. Out of deep love for us you endured so much. May we see your face in every human being we meet,/especially in the most persecuted and abandoned. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CROWNED HIS HEAD WITH THORNS?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CROWNED HIS HEAD WITH THORNS?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CROWNED HIS HEAD WITH THORNS?***

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laden With The Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:6-9,11-13, 15

Barabbas: They call me Jesus Barabbas and I was part of a failed rebellion against the Romans. My only success was to kill a few before they captured me. I was brought before a shouting crowd along with another one called Jesus of Nazareth. Strange, we both had the same first name. Pilate offered the now frenzied crowd a choice to free him or me. It was my lucky day. They shouted for my freedom and his death. This strange rabbi accepted his cross without a murmur, as if he was predestined to carry it. I became a free man. I was there when Jesus took my place. How about you? Were you in the crowd that Friday?

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, Barabbas was set free/ while you, the innocent one, were put to death for the sins of all. With grateful hearts we pour out our thanks/ for the many gifts you have given us through the cross, especially forgiveness of sin. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE BORE THE WOODEN CROSS?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE BORE THE WOODEN CROSS?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE BORE THE WOODEN CROSS?***

THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Is Helped By Simon The Cyrenian

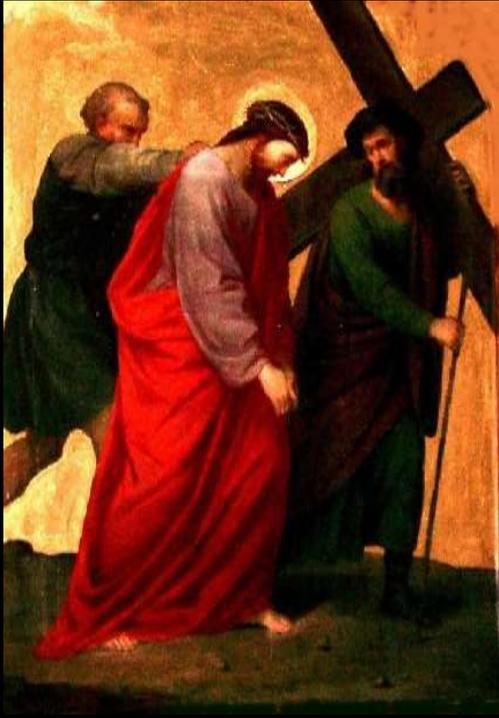
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:21

Simon of Cyrene: For years I dreamed of making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover. When I arrived with my wife and sons, my eyes feasted on the splendor of the temple. We walked the crowded streets and were shocked by a pitiful procession of a criminal carrying his cross. Before I realized what was happening, a centurion seized my arm and forced me to carry this criminal's cross. I cursed my rotten luck-wrong place wrong time. But then I saw the face of the man I was helping. He nodded as if to thank me. I'll never forget that look. My heart lightened. I helped a man bear his cross. My life changed that day. What about you? Were you there?

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, on your lonely journey,/ you welcomed the help of Simon, a passerby. At first he shouldered your cross with anger/ but later accepted it willingly. In truth we all feel resistance to bearing the cross. Give us courageous hearts to share the burdens of others. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN SIMON HELPED THE LORD?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN SIMON HELPED THE LORD?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE , TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN SIMON HELPED THE LORD?***

THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Meets The Women Of Jerusalem

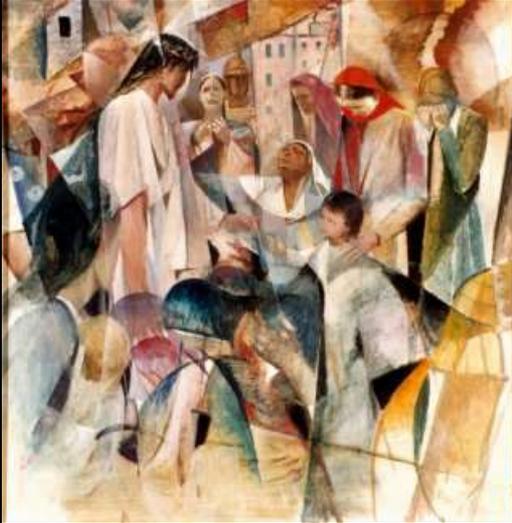
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Luke 23:27-31

Anonymous Woman: I'm just an ordinary Jewish housewife. With other women, we were allowed to alleviate the pain of condemned prisoners as they suffered on the cross. We rarely knew them until we met this Jesus. We heard that our leaders accused him of blasphemy. Others claimed he went about doing good. When he stumbled in front of us we saw how savagely he was treated. He said, "Don't weep for me but for yourselves and your children." A chill ran through my body. Could he have been the Messiah as they say? What do you believe about Jesus?

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, you asked the women to weep for themselves and their children. Give us the tears of true sorrow for our personal sins/ and have mercy on the sins of our generation. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE WOMEN WEPT FOR HIM?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE WOMEN WEPT FOR HIM?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE WOMEN WEPT FOR HIM?***

THE TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:22-24

Soldier Under the Cross: The excitement of gambling races through my blood. That day we were given the Nazarene's garment. I said, 'let's throw dice to see who gets the whole garment.' And you know, I won the prize. As I looked at Jesus, I heard him say, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." He wasn't concerned about the cloak, it was his God he was clinging to. I watched him as he was dying. Seeing his mother beneath the cross, I gave the robe to her. I've always been a lucky guy. I was lucky to win his garment, to meet him, and then to meet his mother. Are you that lucky?

LET US PRAY.....

ALL: Jesus, the three hours you spent on the cross were hours of letting go:/your robe to some soldier, your mother to John, and your life for the world. Teach us the difficult art of letting go,/of dying daily to self/ so that at our last hour we may surrender our lives into your loving hands. Amen.



***WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED THE LORD?***

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Promises His Kingdom To The Good Thief

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

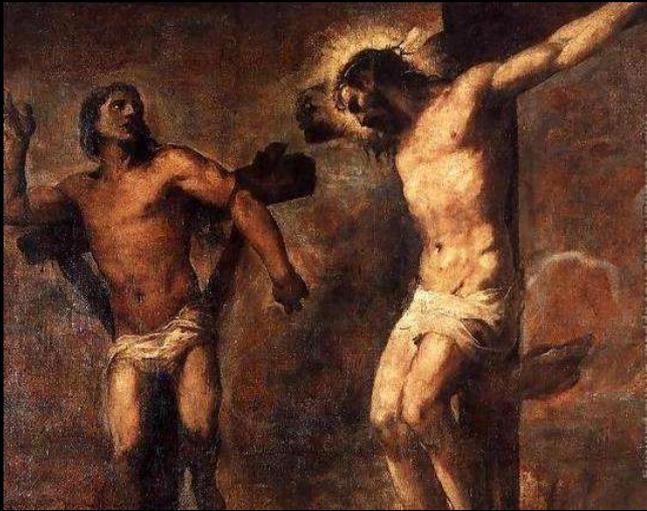


Reading: Luke 23:39-43

Dismas: *Since my cross was close to Jesus, I had a good chance to meet him. The rumor was he was no thief or murderer, rather that he was innocent. The other prisoners mocked him: "If you're the Messiah do something, free us." I told them to keep quiet. This Jesus forgave them. He prayed like he knew God and was close to him. I felt a deep peace with him and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He looked at me and said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." I became a believer. Have you become a believer, too?*

LET US PRAY.....

ALL: Jesus, by offering salvation to the thief that repented,/ you gave hope to all sinners. Make us aware that your cross is a sign of forgiveness,/even for hardened sinners. Lead us to accept your forgiveness so that, like Dismas,/ we too might be welcomed into paradise. Amen.



***WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PROMISED PARADISE?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PROMISED PARADISE?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE PROMISED PARADISE?***

THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Speaks To His Mother And The Disciple

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: John 19:25-27

Mary: They called my son a criminal. How can that be? The healings, feeding the poor, the message of love. Now he's nailed to a cross. If they only could understand a mother's heart. When I saw my son dying, all that kept me going was faith in a loving God. Before Jesus died, he made sure I was taken care of. He gave John the charge of taking me into his home. As I stood there with my sister, Mary Magdalene and John I felt hopeful even in my deep sorrow. I was there at the cross that dark Friday afternoon. Were you there also?

LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, the mystery of suffering must have pierced the heart of Mary/ as she stood beneath your cross. At that hour, in the midst of her suffering,/Mary became the mother of us all. May we find shelter beneath her mantle of care. Amen.

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAID, "BEHOLD YOUR SON"?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAID, "BEHOLD YOUR SON"?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE SAID, "BEHOLD YOUR SON"?***

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Dies On The Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:33-37, 39

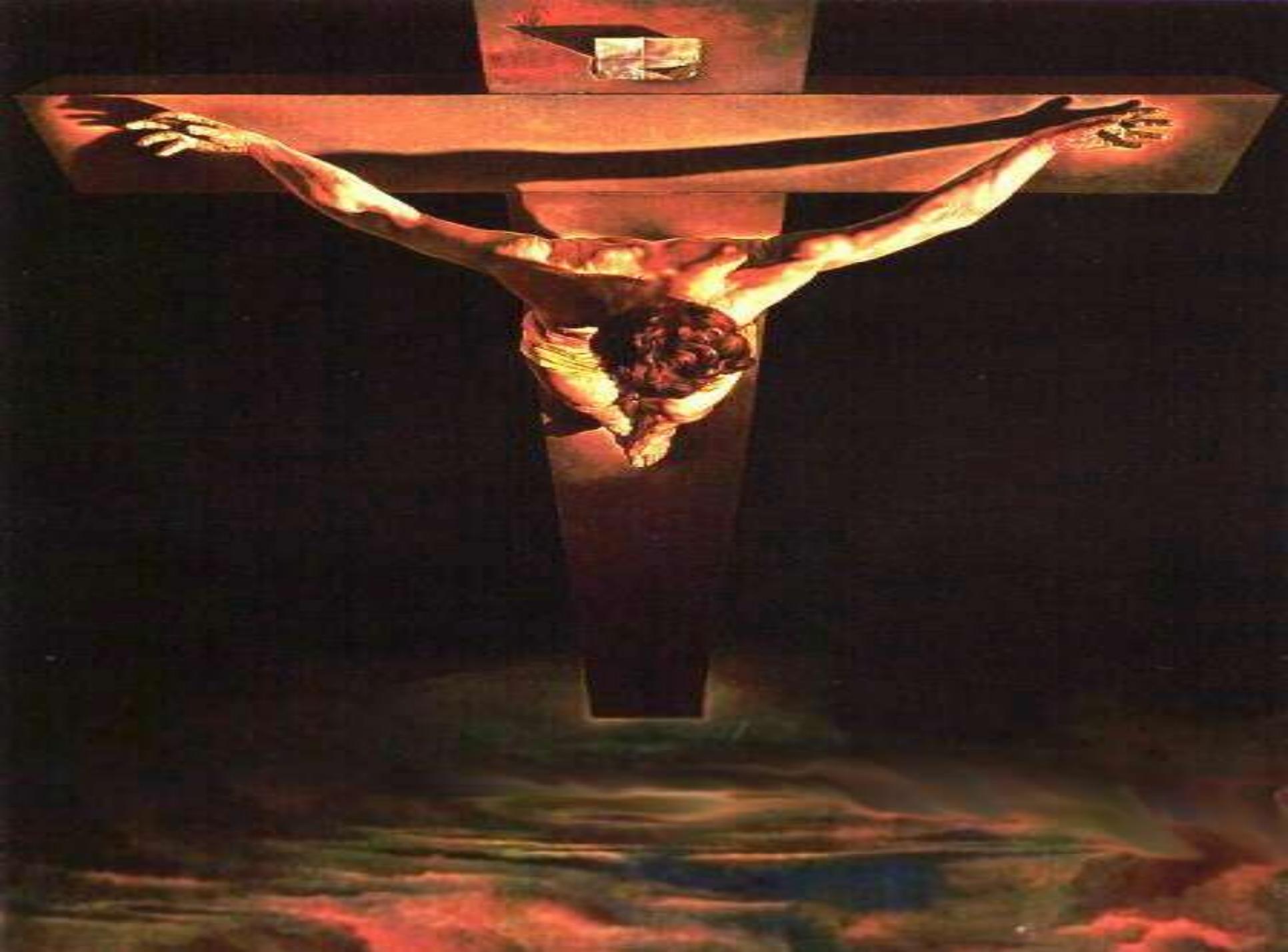
Roman Centurion: *I was there. I witnessed all the events leading up to his death. Even now my guilt haunts me when I remember the savagery we dealt him in the courtyard. It was my official role to make sure he died that Friday. He was just another prisoner but then I began to study this man: his noble manner, undaunted courage, the strange peace about him. Other men scream and curse. Jesus was different. He even forgave the people who taunted him, killed him. In the end, Jesus died like a god, with dignity. I was driven to see him for what he claimed to be: the Son of God. In my heart, I felt the first stirrings of faith. I asked him to forgive my cruelty and hardness. Were you there? Did you experience that, too?*

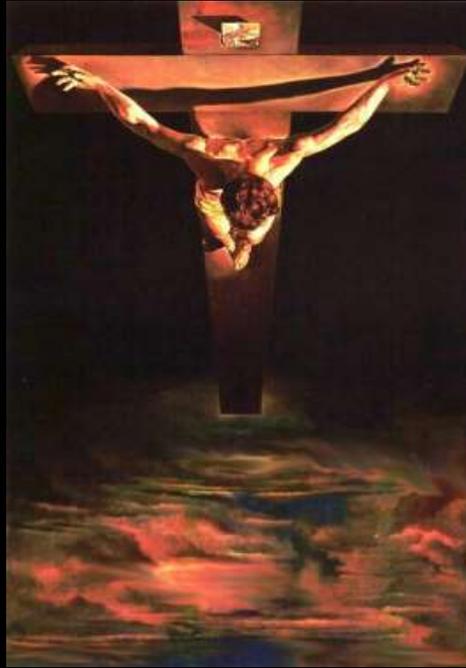
LET US PRAY.....



ALL: Jesus, through your divine patience, goodness and forgiveness,/ you opened the eyes of the centurion. Deepen our faith/ so that we might also see you present in the patience, goodness and forgiveness of others. Amen.

(We pause for a moment of silence)





*WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE DIED UPON THE CROSS?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE DIED UPON THE CROSS?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE , TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE DIED UPON THE CROSS?*

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world



Reading: Mark 15:42-46

Joseph of Arimathea: My name is Joseph. I saw the drama unfold to the bitter end. I sat on the council that planned his death. Although I did not support the action, I wonder if I did enough. Was I perhaps afraid they might discover I was a secret disciple? After his death I cared little about what the council thought. I am a rich man. I was overjoyed when Jesus accepted me as disciple and allowed me to use my resources to support him. I was privileged to ask Pilate for his body and to bury him in my family's tomb. I stood by when they closed the tomb. I was there when Jesus died for all, rich and poor alike. Are you there, too?

LET US PRAY.....



**ALL: You gave Joseph
The strength to break through the
fears that bound him. Send upon
us the power of your spirit/ so
that we may overcome all fear/
and announce the good news of
your death and resurrection.
Amen.**

***WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY LAID HIM IN THE TOMB?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY LAID HIM IN THE TOMB?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY LAID HIM IN THE TOMB?***

THE FIFTEENTH STATION

The Resurrection

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

LET US PRAY.....

ALL: Jesus, we have journeyed with
the characters of your passion and have
seen the strengths and weaknesses within
the human heart. We have discovered
within us that same human heart, with its
light and its shadows. Give us true
humility to acknowledge our strengths
and weaknesses and to have a
compassionate heart for others. Amen.

*WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE ROSE AND CONQUERED DEATH?
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE ROSE AND CONQUERED DEATH?
OH! SOMETIMES IT CAUSES ME TO TREMBLE, TREMBLE ,TREMBLE!
WERE YOU THERE WHEN HE ROSE AND CONQUERED DEATH?*