A wooden cross is the central focus, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The text 'Stations of the Cross' is written in a black, elegant cursive font in the upper left quadrant of the image.

Stations of the Cross

**FRIDAYS AT
7:00 PM**

At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her Son to the last.

1. Jesus is Condemned to Death

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Lord,
obedience cost you your life.

For me
it costs an act of will—
no more—
and yet how hard it is for me to bend.

Remove the blinders from my eyes
that I may see that it is you alone whom I obey.

Lord, it is you.



Through her heart,
His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length
the sword has passed.

2. Jesus Takes His Cross

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Lord,
I take my daily cross.

I welcome the monotony
that often marks my day,
discomforts of all kinds,
the summer's heat,
the winter's cold,
my disappointments, tensions,
setbacks, cares.

Remind me often
that in carrying my cross,
I carry yours with you.

And though I bear a sliver only
of your cross,
You carry all of mine,
except a sliver in return.



O how sad
and sore distressed
was that Mother,
highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

3. Jesus Falls

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Lord Jesus, how can I refuse?
I willingly accept my weaknesses,
my irritations and my moods,
my headaches and fatigue,
all my defects of body, mind and soul.

Because they are your will for me,
these “handicaps of my humanity,
I gladly suffer them.

Make me content
with all my discontents,
but give me strength
to struggle after you.



Christ above
in torment hangs,
she beneath
beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

4. Jesus Meets His Mother

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Lord,
I know what you are telling me.

To watch the pain of those we love
is harder than to bear our own.

To carry my cross after you,
I, too, must stand and watch
the sufferings of my dear ones--
the heartaches, sicknesses and grief
of those I love.

And I must let them watch mine, too.
I do believe--
for those who love you
all things work together unto good.



Is there one
who would not weep,
whelmed in miseries
so deep,
Christ's dear Mother
to behold?

5. Simon Helps Jesus

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Lord, make me realize
that every time I wipe a dish,
pick up an object from the floor,
assist a child in some small task,
or give another preference
in traffic or the store;

each time I feed the hungry,
clothe the naked,
teach the ignorant,
or lend my hand in any way--
it matters not to whom--
my name is Simon.

And the kindness I extend to them
I really give to you.



Can the human
heart refrain
from partaking
in her pain,
in that Mother's
pain untold?
to behold?

6. Veronica Helps Jesus

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Lord, what you ask is hard.
It calls for courage and self-sacrifice,
and I am weak.

Please give me strength.

Don't let me run away because of fear.

Lord, live in me
and act in me
and love in me.

And not in me alone—in all of us--
so that we may reveal
no more your bloody but your glorious face
on earth.



For the sins
of His own nation,
She saw Jesus
wracked with torment,
All with
scourges rent:

7. Jesus Falls Again

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Give me your courage, Lord.
When failure presses heavily on me
and I am desolate,
stretch out your hand
to lift me up.

I know I must not cease,
but persevere in doing good.

But help me, Lord.

Alone there's nothing I can do.
With you, I can do anything you ask.
I will.



She beheld
her tender Child,
Saw Him hang
in desolation,
Till His spirit
forth He sent.

8. Jesus Consoles the Women

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

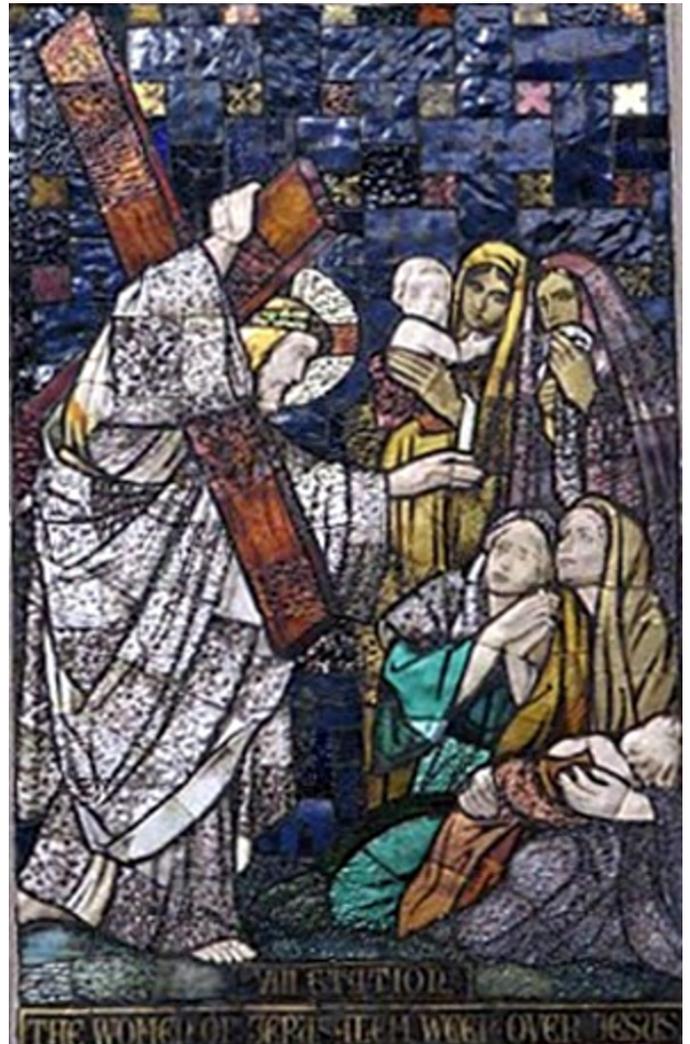
Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus,
your compassion
in your passion
is beyond compare.

Lord, teach me,
help me learn.

When I would snap at those
who hurt me with their ridicule,
those who misunderstand,
or hinder me with some misguided
 helpfulness,
those who intrude upon my privacy--
then help me curb my tongue.

May gentleness become my cloak.
Lord, make me kind like you.



O thou Mother!
Fount of love!
Touch my spirit
 from above,
 make my heart
with thine accord:

9. The Third Fall

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

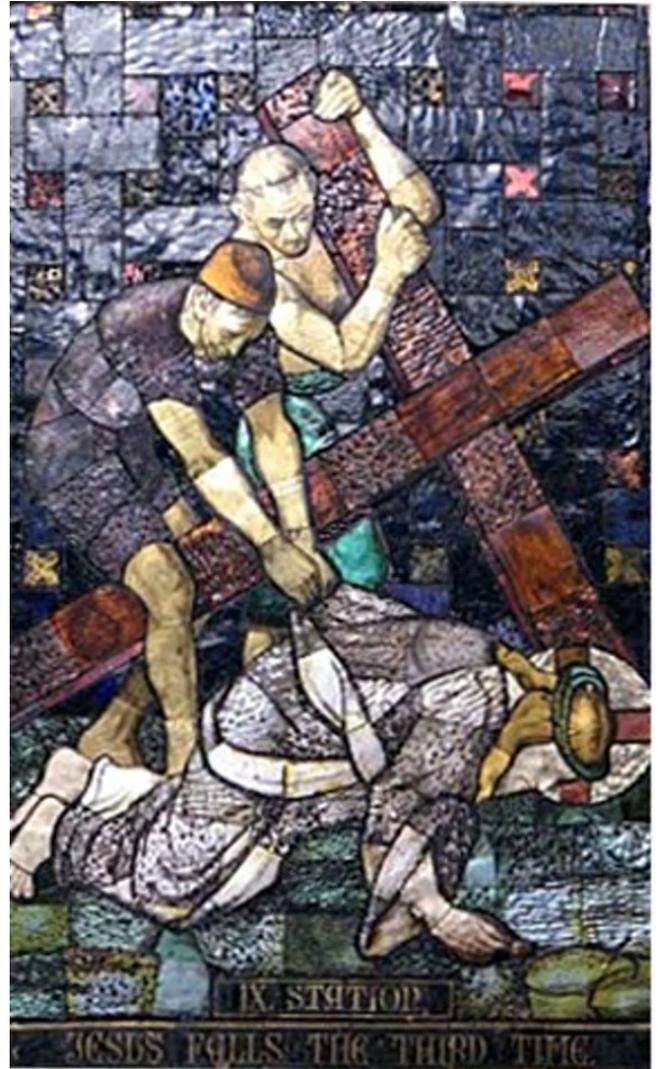
My Lord,
I see you take a moment's rest
then rise and stagger on.

So I can do--
because my will is mine.

When all my strength is gone
and guilt and self-reproach
press me to earth and seem to hold me fast,
protect me from the sin of Judas--
Save me from despair!

Lord, never let me feel
that any sin of mine
is greater than your love.

No matter what my past has been
I can begin anew.



Make me feel
as thou hast felt;
make my soul
to glow and melt
with the love
of Christ my Lord.

10. Jesus is Stripped

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

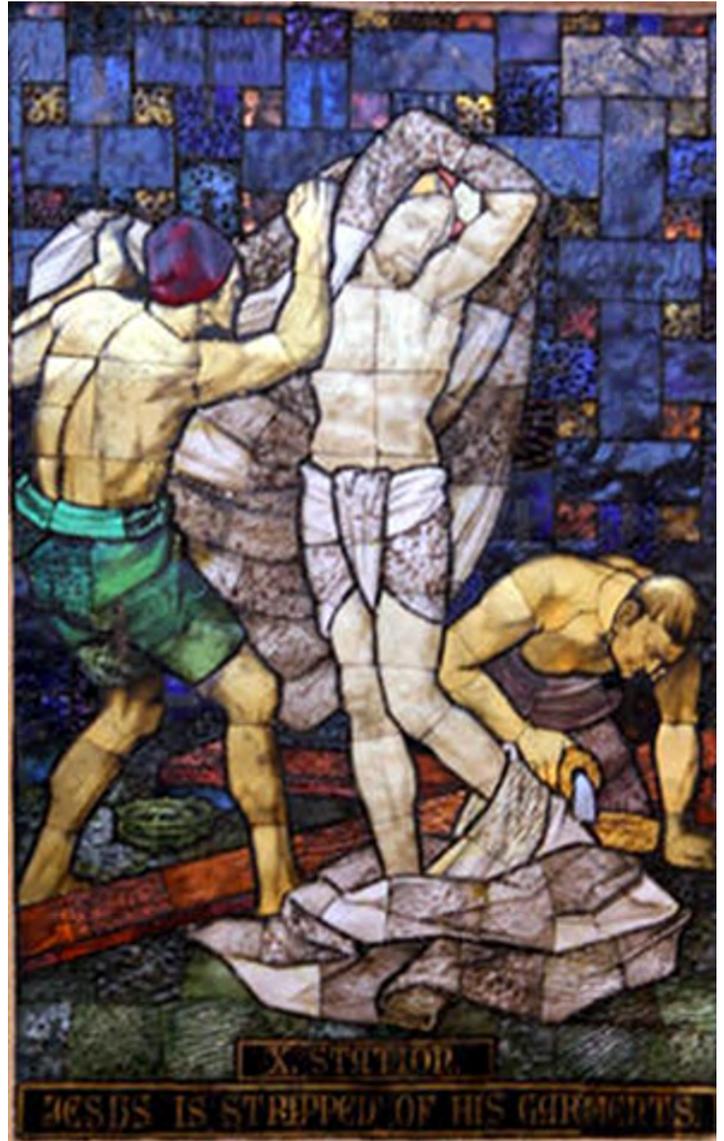
My Lord,
I offer you my all--
whatever I possess,
and more, my self.

Detach me from the craving for
prestige, position, wealth.

Root out of me
all traces of envy of my neighbor
who has more than I.

Release me from the vice of pride,
my longing to exalt myself,
and lead me to the lowest place.

May I be poor in spirit, Lord,
so that I can be rich in you.



Holy Mother!
pierce me through,
in my heart
each wound renew
of my Savior
crucified:

11. Jesus is Crucified

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My God,
I look at you and think:

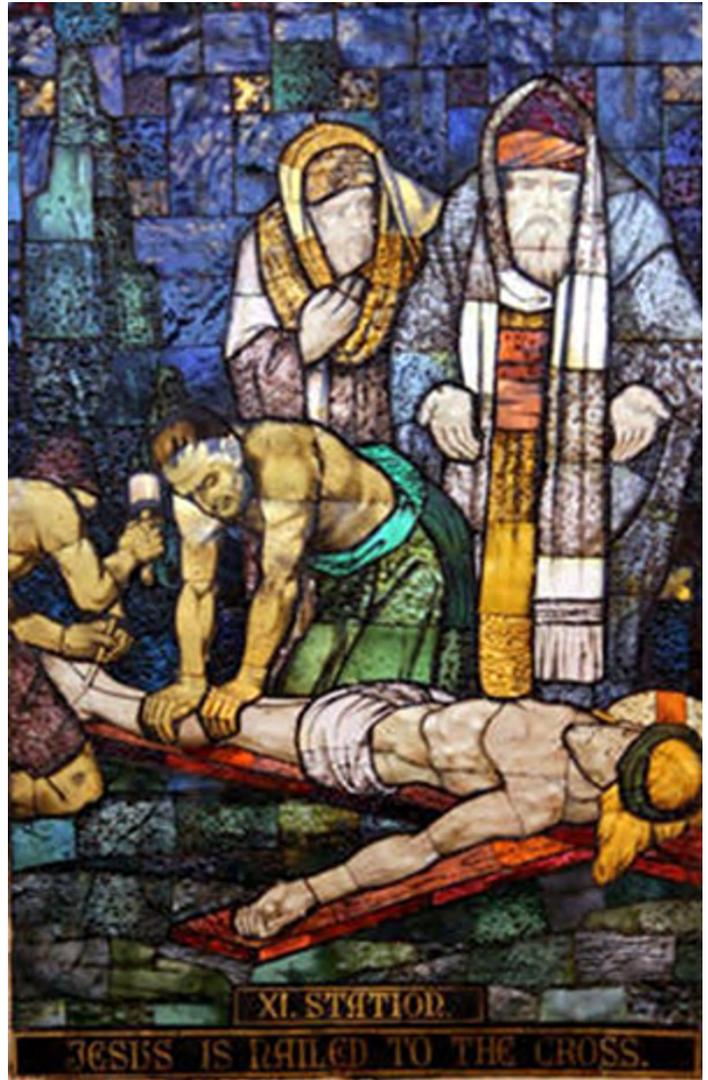
Is my soul worth this much?

What can I give you in return?

I here and now accept for all my life
whatever sickness, torment,
agony may come.

To every cross I touch my lips.

O blessed cross that lets me be--
with you--
a co-redeemer of humanity.



Let me share
with thee His pain,
who for all
my sins was slain,
who for me
in torments died.

12. Jesus Dies

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus, God,
What can I say or do?

I offer you my death
with all its pains,
accepting now
the time and kind of death
in store for me.

Not by a single instant
would I lengthen my life's span.

I offer you my death
for my own sins
and for those of all humanity.

My God! My God! Forsake us not.
We know not what we do.



Let me mingle
tears with thee,
mourning Him
who mourned for me,
all the days
that I may live:

13. Jesus is Taken Down

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

I beg you, Lord,
help me accept the partings that must come--
from friends who go away,
my children leaving home,
and most of all, my dear ones
when you shall call them to yourself.

Then give me the grace to say:
“As it has pleased you, Lord,
to take them home,
I bow to your most holy will.

And if by just one word
I might restore their lives against your will,
I would not speak.”

Grant them eternal joy.



By the Cross
with thee to stay,
there with thee
to weep and pray,
is all I ask
of thee to give.

14. Jesus is Buried

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

All:

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Lord,
you know my spirit is as willing
as my flesh is weak.

The teaching you could not impart,
the sufferings you could not bear,
the works of love you could not do
in your short life on earth,

let me impart,
and bear,
and do
through you.

But I am nothing, Lord.
Help me!



Virgin of
all virgins blest!,
Listen to
my fond request:
let me share
thy grief divine;

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