

# Way of the Cross—*In Their Own Words*

**In their own words:** *Simon of Cyrene*

## Thoughts in Silence:

**Reflection:** *Consider, the powerful example of Simon, which reminds us that we also are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus. He has called us to die to ourselves so that we might live for Jesus. Reflect on the fact that sometimes we resist this call, even though we know that in dying to ourselves we find true life in Christ. Ask God to help you to carry your cross, as you journey through this new life with Christ, which is sustained by his eternal Grace.*

**Our Father, ...**

**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn -** *Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)*

## 6. In their own words: The Two Thieves

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

### Opening Prayer (Said together)

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** *Luke 23:32-43*

**In their own words:** *The Two Thieves*

**Thoughts in Silence:** *Many of us know the image of a person in a dilemma with a little angel on one shoulder and a little devil on the other, each offering their advice. The two thieves could be viewed in this way; one cynical and spiteful; the other accepting and hopeful. Which voice do we listen to when it comes to our faith? It can be so easy to be negative. But if we choose hope, Jesus is waiting for us. Like the second thief, we need only speak out to Him, to accept Him as our Saviour, and we too may join Him.*

**Reflection:**

**Our Father, ...**

**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn -** *Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)*



## General Welcome and Introduction

### 1. In their own words: Pilate

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

#### Opening Prayer (Said together)

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** *John 19:6-16*

**In their own words:** *Pilate*

**Thoughts in Silence:** *Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" (John 19:10) Pilate thinks he holds the cross of Christ. Jesus knows otherwise. How we see and understand the cross is determined by who we believe holds the cross – In human hands the cross tells a story of destruction, In God's hands it tells a story of love.*

**Reflection:**

**Our Father,** *who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, amen*

**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn -** *Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)*

### 2. In their own words: Peter

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

#### Opening Prayer (Said together)

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*



**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** John 18: 15-18 and 25-27

**In their own words:** Peter

**Thoughts in Silence:** *What must Peter have thought as he heard the cock crowing? Jesus, Peter's best friend for the past three years, the man whom Peter had come to believe was the Christ, was being led to his death. Peter had spent every day with Jesus, learning, healing, sailing, and probably even laughing and joking with him. They were best friends. But this man, in whom Peter had believed in enough to give up his life as a fisherman, was now to be scourged and killed. Reflect for a moment and see can you imagine what must have been going on in Peter's mind when he denied Jesus?*

**Reflection:**

**Our Father, ...**

**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn - Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)**

### 3. In their own words: The Women of Jerusalem

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

**Opening Prayer (Said together)**

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 23:27-31

**In their own words:** The Women of Jerusalem

**Thoughts in Silence:** *Jerusalem would suffer greatly at the hands of the Romans, and its people would need great endurance and faith to survive. Even in the midst of his own suffering, Jesus uses the image of wood to warn of this. He is the green wood, not suited to the fire, yet He is being punished. The people would become the dry wood: once sap is lost, they become dry kindling. Can we sense a 'sap' of faith and sacred devotion inside us? Has it helped us endure in hard times? How might reflecting on Christ's sacrifice, not just pitying it, strengthen this inner essence of faith?*

**Reflection:**

**Our Father, ....**



**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn - Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)**

### 4. In their own words: Mary the Mother of Jesus

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

**Opening Prayer (Said together)**

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:43-51

**In their own words:** Mary the Mother of Jesus

**Thoughts in Silence:** *Mary pondered all these things in her heart. When the love of God is poured out to us through the cross of Christ, it empowers us to do remarkable things in God's name. Am I willing to allow myself to receive the love of God to such a degree that I cannot contain it? Am I willing to see, despite all appearances, that even in the darkest and toughest of times the Lord loves, hold and comforts me?*

**Reflection:**

**Our Father, ...**

**Pray together:** *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us walk in your steps.*

**Hymn - Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation., O come, let us adore. (x2)**

### 5. In their own words: Simon of Cyrene

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

**Opening Prayer (Said together)**

*Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 9:18-27

