

The Stations of the Cross



O Jesus, we are going to walk with you
through the stages of your suffering and dying.
We are spending a short time
thinking about the sacrifices you made for us.
By your suffering on the cross,
help us to understand a little better,
to love a little more,
and to give of ourselves more.



THE FIRST STATION
Jesus is Told He Must Die by Being Crucified

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: Look at Jesus, standing all alone. No friends with him. No one to defend him. He spent His life helping others. Now they are going to kill him.
All: God, when I see someone who is lonely, help me to be friendly and to make that person feel loved.



THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Accepts His Cross

N: We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: As they place the cross on his shoulder, Jesus knows that it will not be taken away until he is nailed to it on Calvary. But Jesus accepts it.

All: Any problems I have are my crosses. They are not fun and happy things. Lord, help me to try to accept my problems as you accepted your cross.



THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: Jesus is losing a lot of blood. He is weak and almost ready to faint from pain. He falls. Look at the soldiers pushing and kicking him. Nobody is helping him.
All: There are many times I begin something and get tired of it. I want to quit and forget it. Help me to keep working at things I start and to finish them as best I can.



THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: See all the people who hate Jesus. People are throwing things at him and shouting at him. Finally, Jesus sees his mother. She is someone who loves him. Mary can't do anything to stop his pain, but she looks at Jesus, telling him that she suffers with him.

All: Thank you for the people I live with. No matter how hard things seem for me, I know that they really do love me. Help me to love them.



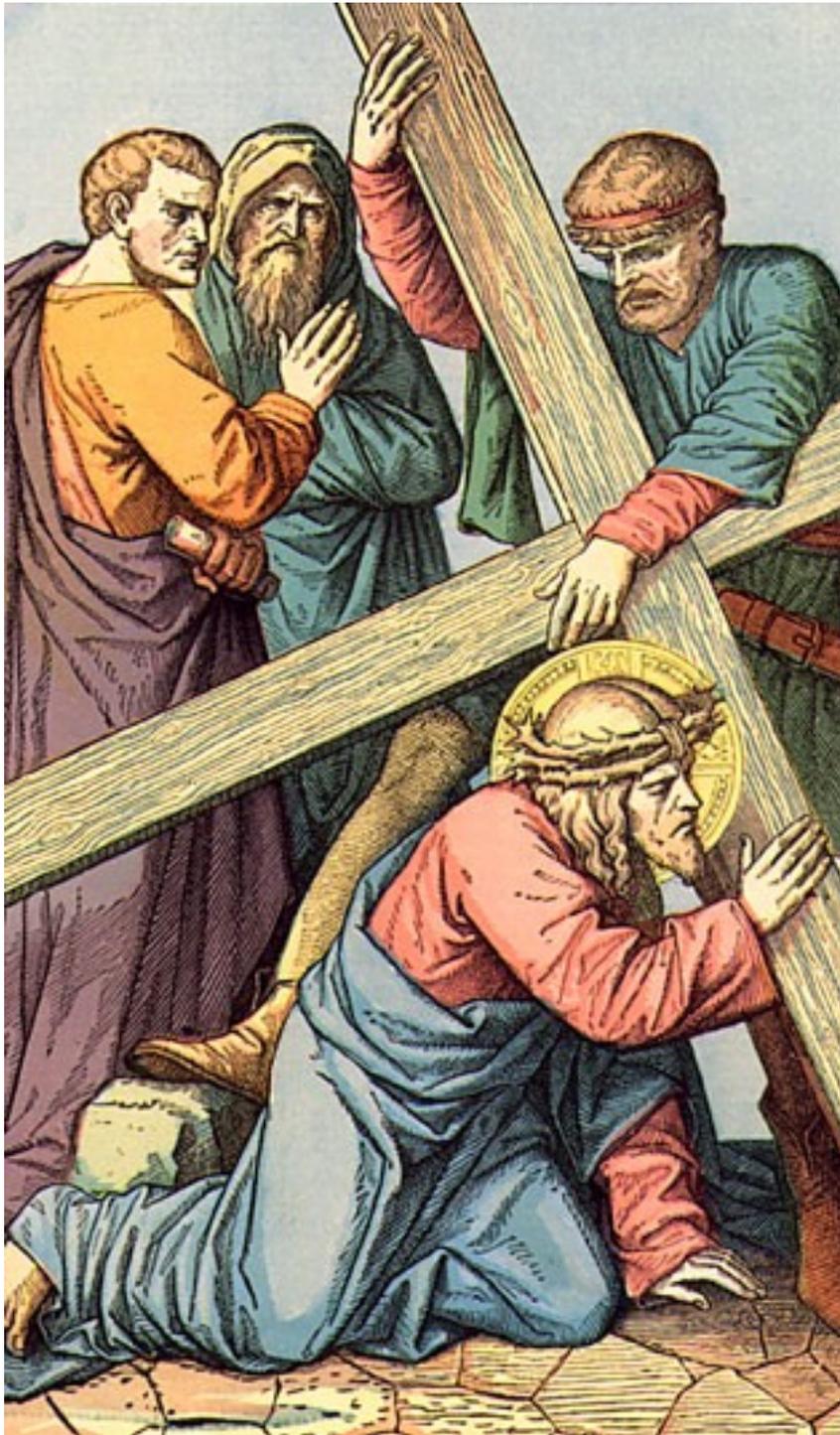
THE FIFTH STATION Simon Carries the Cross for Jesus

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: The soldiers are worried that Jesus will die before he reaches the place where he should be crucified. They grab a man from the crowd and force him to carry the cross.
All: I am a lot like Simon. There are so many chances for me to help people. But it is so much easier just to stand by and watch. Help me to be a "do-er."



THE SIXTH STATION Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: A woman pushes her way through the crowd. She is wiping away the tears and sweat from Jesus' face. Because of her kindness, Jesus leaves an imprint of his face on her cloth. Even when he is about to die, he continues to give.
All: Teach me, Lord, to give of myself to those who need me. Teach me to help even when I'm not asked. That is what it means to be a Christian.



THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls Again

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: Jesus cannot keep going. He falls again. The cross gets heavier and heavier. It is so hard for him to get up. He keeps trying and manages to get on his feet again.
All: There are so many times when I don't want to do something. I'm tired and uninterested. Help me to remember the second fall. Give me the strength I need to do what I should.



THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women and Children

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: There are a group of women watching Jesus. They are crying for him. Jesus stops. He talks to them. He tries to comfort them.

All: So many times I worry only about myself and my own problems. Help me to be aware of the suffering of others. Help me to try to make them feel better.



THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Third Time

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

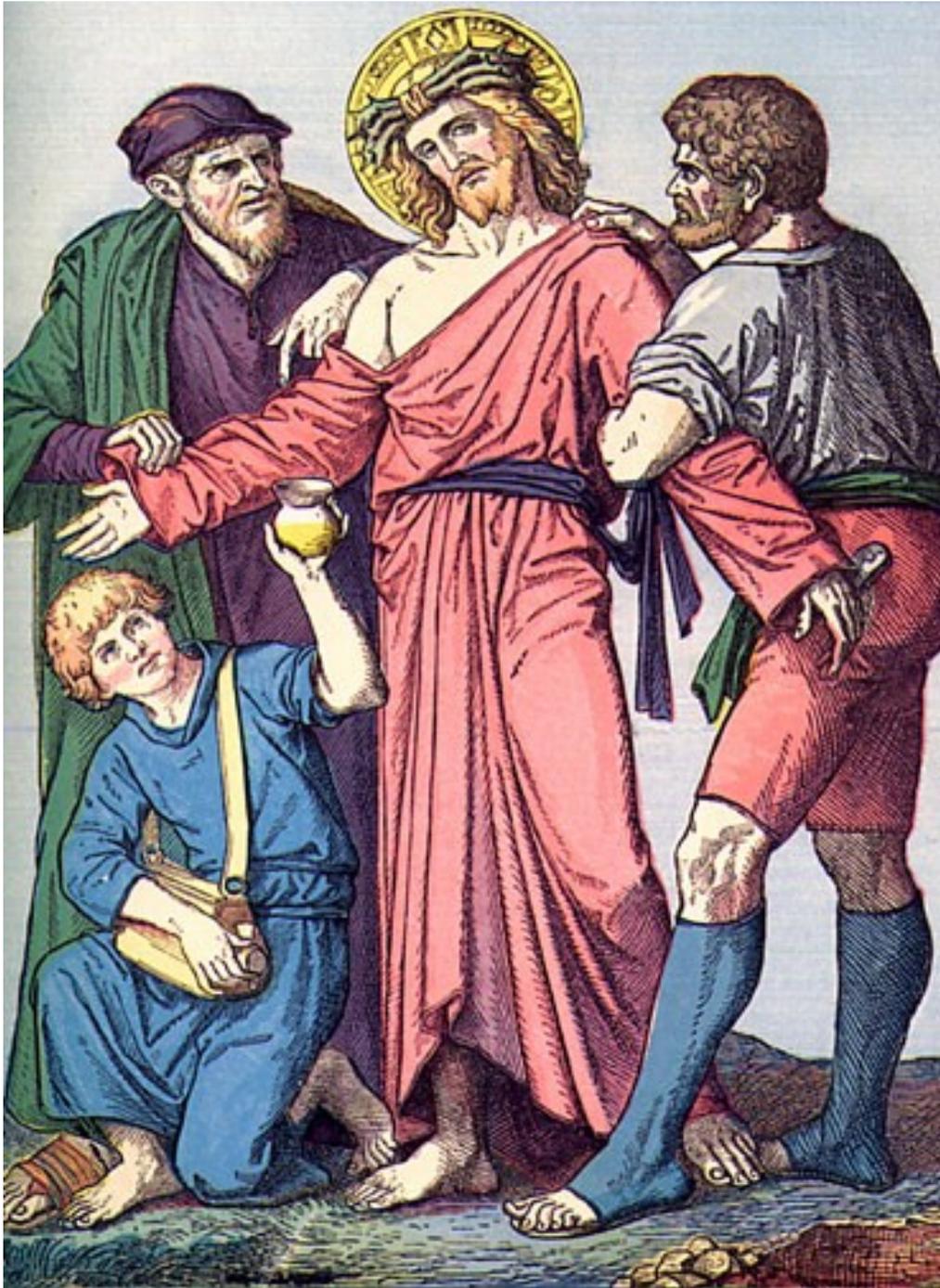
N: Jesus is close to the place where he will be crucified.

He has no strength left. His legs are weak. He falls again.

He looks up, and once again, he forces himself to his feet.

All: No matter how much I fall; by lying, cheating, carelessness and disobedience, you will help me to get up again.

If I try, You will help.



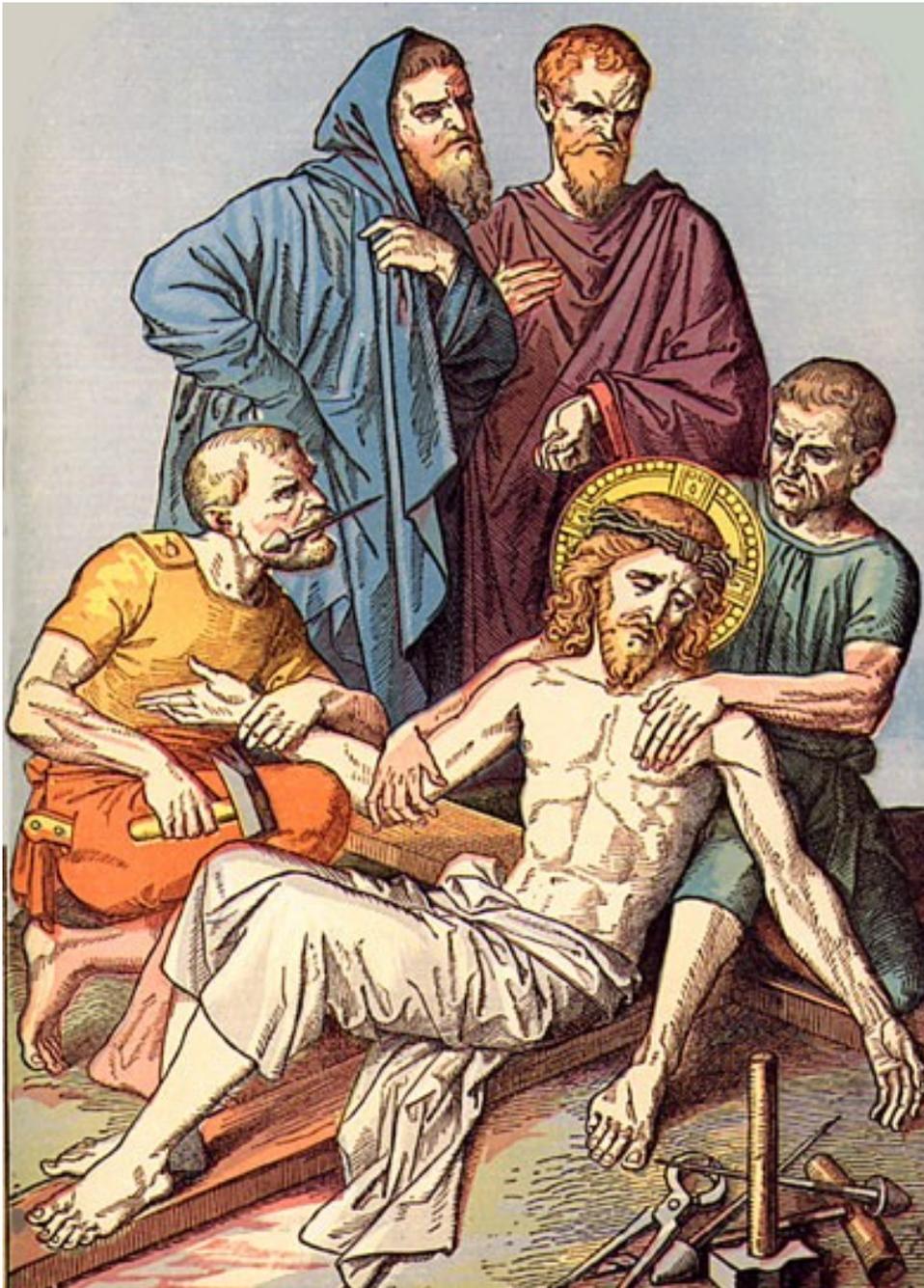
THE TENTH STATION Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: The soldiers are taking everything from Jesus. All his wounds are bleeding. His body is stiff and sore. People are making fun of Jesus. They are laughing at him. He is alone.

All: Remind me, Lord, not to make fun of those who have less than me. Help me to always think good thoughts, say kind words, and make my actions meaningful.



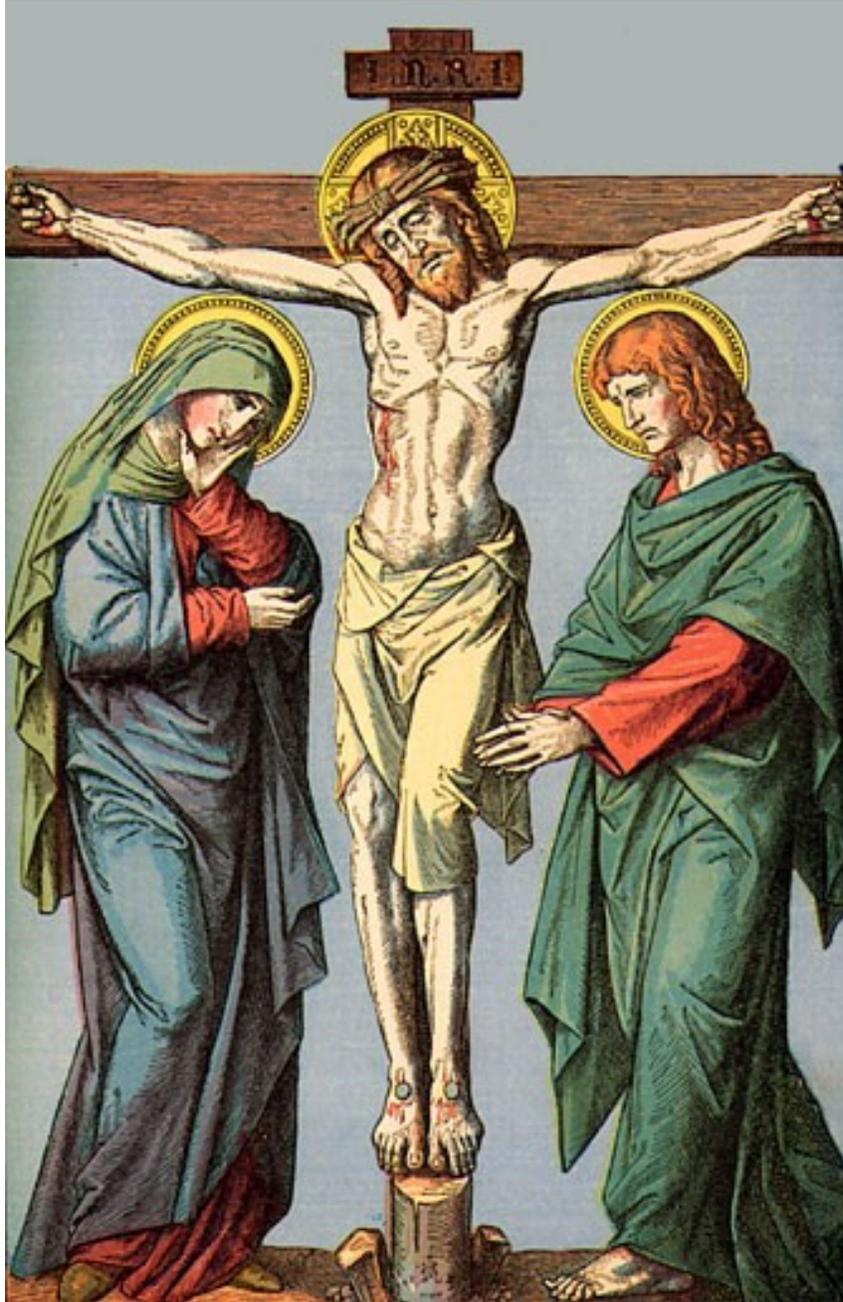
THE ELEVENTH STATION Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: Jesus is stretched out upon the cross. The soldiers begin to drive nails through his feet and hands. Soldiers are playing dice for the few pieces of his clothing. Jesus gave the world nothing but love. In return he received steel spikes, driven through his body.

All: Lord, sometimes we hurt each other by doing unkind things. We make fun of the way someone speaks or the way someone looks. Help us to know that these things are unimportant. Help us to care for and love one another.



THE TWELFTH STATION

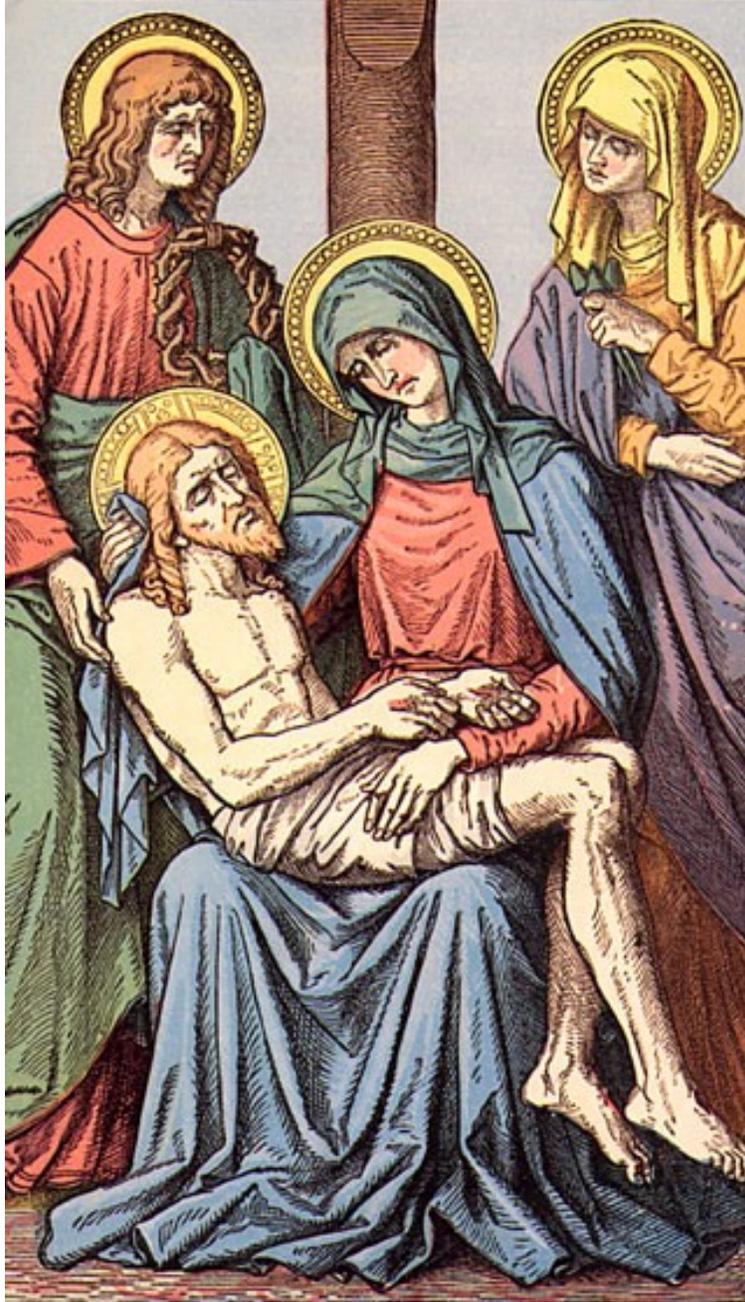
Jesus Dies

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

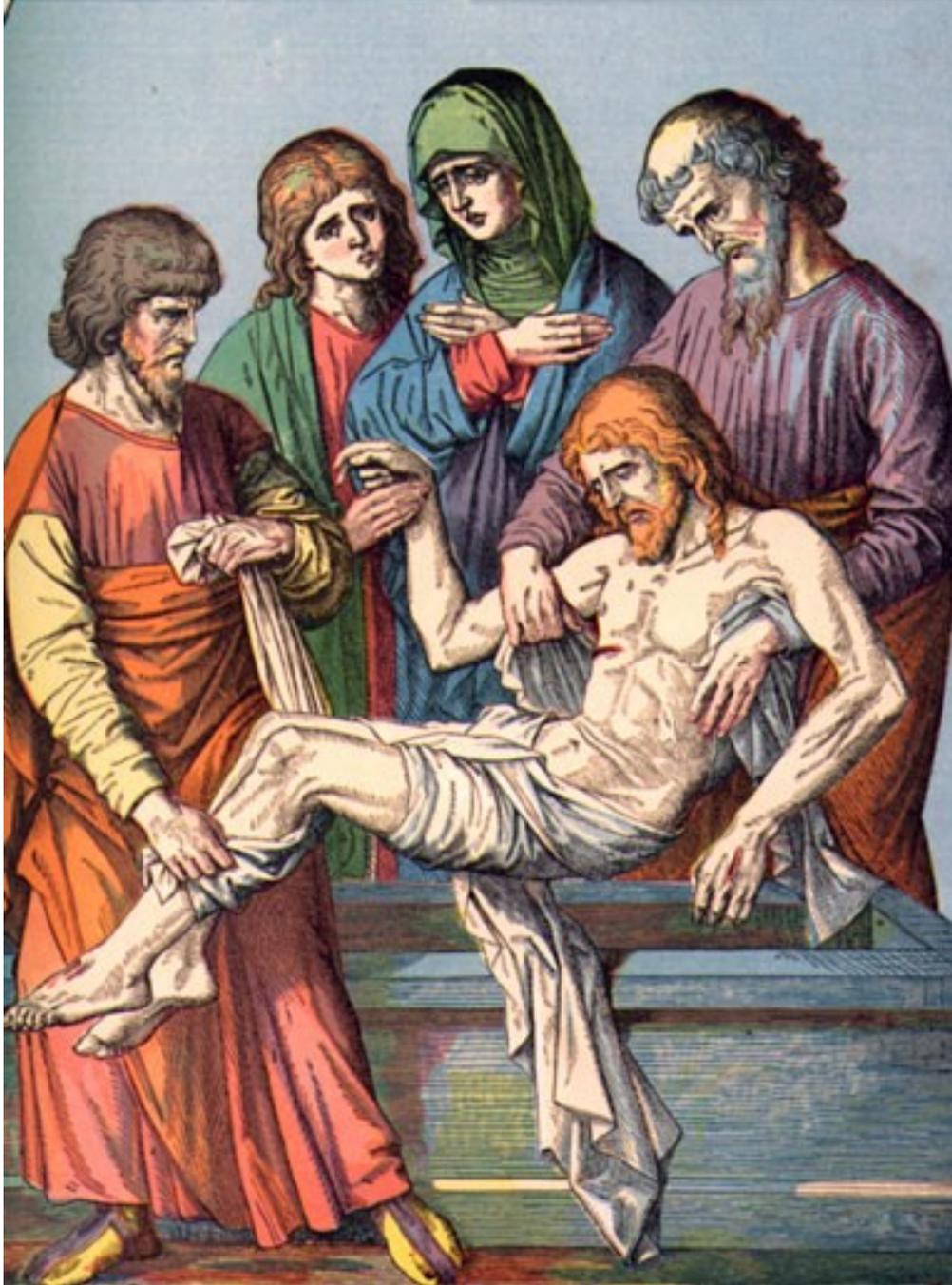
(All kneel; pause.)

N: As we reflect on Jesus' death, let us take this time to thank God for the gift of life.



THE THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

- N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
N: Jesus is gently taken down. It is his mother and a few friends who care for his body. They are sad and lonely without him.
All: O God, help me to make this life a happy place for everyone I meet. Let me say nice things to people whenever I can. Help me to appreciate life.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is Buried

N: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

N: Jesus is placed in his tomb. The stone is rolled over the entrance. All is quiet.

All: Lord, when things seem to be very hard for me, let me think of the life lived by your son. Help me to always follow the road of Christ.