

Scheme IV

“VIA MATRIS” A JOURNEY OF LIFE AND SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

L. In the name of the Father
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

GREETING

L. We praise and we bless you, Lord.

A. Because you associated the Virgin Mother
to the work of salvation.

L. Holy Mary, we contemplate your suffering.

A. So that we might follow you on the path of faith.

ADMONITION

L. Brothers and sisters
we are gathered to repeat
that sorrowful journey
the Blessed Virgin made
in intimate union with her Son.

By disposition of Divine Providence
the Blessed Virgin was not just the Mother of the Redeemer
but a faithful companion
in all his journeys:
on the streets of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Egypt
- the painful journey of infancy –
to the ascent of Calvary.

The Church looks to Mary
the perfect image of a disciple of Christ:
with no thought of herself
she lived a life of service to God and men
she embraced the word with faith
she journeyed even to the cross, the true tree of life.

May Our Lady's intercession

make the mystery of Christ crucified live in us.
we must ever remember that if we suffer with Christ
we will be glorified with him.

PRAYER

L. O God
you willed that the life of the Virgin
would be marked by suffering;
grant, we pray,
that we may journey with her on the path of faith
and join our sufferings to the passion of Christ.
May our sufferings become an occasion of grace,
an instrument of salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen

I
MARY RECEIVES SIMEON'S PROPHECY
WITH FAITH

*The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant
in whom you delight.
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
(Mal 3, 1; Is 40, 9)*

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Luke (2, 22. 25. 34-35)

When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
they brought him up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord.
Now there was a man in Jerusalem
whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him
Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed
--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (*Psalm 40* [39])

R. Here I am, Lord:
Let your word be done in me.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
Then I said, "Here I am; R.

in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." *R.*

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

L. Hail Mary.

A. Holy Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

This is the time of our passion,
With him we go up to Jerusalem
May we meet the same fate.

Or:

Obedient Virgin, pray for us.
Offering Virgin,
Faithful Virgin,

II
MARY FLEES INTO EGYPT
WITH JESUS AND JOSEPH

*I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.
(Jer 15, 20-21)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.
R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Matthew (2, 13-14)

An angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Get up,
take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt,
and remain there until I tell you;
for Herod is about to search for the child,
to destroy him."
Then Joseph got up,
took the child and his mother by night,
and went to Egypt.

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (*Psalm* 118 [117])

R. You are with me, Lord, I fear no evil.

Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me
and set me in a broad place.
With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me? R.

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord. R.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

L. Hail Mary.

A. Holy Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

And you, O Mother, weep now
Not over him but over us
We are trapped in a state of death.

Or:

Woman in exile, pray for us.
Woman of strength,
Fearless woman,

III

MARY SEEKS THE LOST JESUS IN JERUSALEM

*Where has your beloved gone,
O fairest among women?
Which way has your beloved turned,
that we may seek him with you?
(Cant 6, 1)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.

R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Luke (2, 41-46, 48-49)

Now every year
his parents went to Jerusalem
for the festival of the Passover.
And when he was twelve years old,
they went up as usual for the festival.
When the festival was ended
and they started to return,
the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.
Assuming that he was in the group of travelers,
they went a day's journey.
Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
When they did not find him,
they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.

And his mother said to him,
"Child, why have you treated us like this?
Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."
He said to them,
"Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be
in my Father's house?"

Moment of silence.

R. All my joy is in your will, Father.

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. *R.*

L. Hail Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Or:

Hope of sinners,
Comfort of the afflicted,
Refuge of the destitute,

pray for us.

IV

MARY MEETS JESUS
ON THE ROAD TO CALVARY

*What can I say for you, to what compare you,
O daughter Jerusalem?
To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you,
O virgin daughter Zion?
For vast as the sea is your ruin;
who can heal you?
(Lam 2, 13)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.
R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Luke (23, 26-28)

As they led him away,
they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene
and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.
A great number of the people followed him,
and among them were women who were beating their breasts
and wailing for him.
But Jesus turned to them and said,
"Daughters of Jerusalem,
do not weep for me,
but weep for yourselves and for your children.

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (Psalm 24 [23])

R. Show us, Father, the face of your love.
The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers. *R.*

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully. *R.*

They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him
Who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R.*

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

L. Hail Mary.

A. Holy Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Mother, you are every woman who loves,
Mother, you are every woman who weeps
For a lost son, a son betrayed.

Or:

Woman of sorrows,
Virgin searching,
Mother of hope,

pray for us.

V

MARY STANDS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

*When they look on the one whom they have pierced,
they shall mourn for him,
as one mourns for an only child,
and weep bitterly over him,
as one weeps over a firstborn.
(Zech 12, 10b)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.
R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Luke and John (*Lk* 23, 33; *Jn* 25-27; *Lk* 23, 44-46)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull,
they crucified Jesus
there with the criminals,
one on his right and one on his left

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."
Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

At three in the afternoon,
Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Having said this, he breathed his last.

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (*Psalm* 31[30])

R. Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. *R.*

But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hand;
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. *R.*

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

L. Hail Mary.

A. Holy Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Just as you offered him to the Father
We ask you to offer us as well
Let no one's suffering be in vain.

Or:

Mother of the Crucified, pray for us.
Mother of the pierced heart,
Mother of the Redeemer,

VI

MARY RECEIVES THE BODY OF JESUS
FROM THE CROSS ON TO HER LAP

*My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.
(Lam 3, 17-18. 20-22. 25-26)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.
R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Mark (15, 42-46)

When evening had come,
and since it was the day of Preparation,
Joseph of Arimathea,
a respected member of the council,
who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God,
went boldly to Pilate
and asked for the body of Jesus.
Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead;
and summoning the centurion,
he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.
When he learned from the centurion that he was dead,
he granted the body to Joseph.
Then Joseph bought a linen cloth,
and taking down the body,
wrapped it in the linen cloth,

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (*Psalm* 116 [114])

R. My soul hopes in the Lord.

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray, save my life!" *R.*

Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears. *R.*

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

L. Hail Mary.

A. Holy Mary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Let no one profane suffering and death
There is nothing in the world more precious
Than to share in the lament of mankind.

Or:

Virgin of silence,	pray for us.
Virgin of forgiveness,	pray for us.
Virgin of expectation,	

VII

MARY PLACES THE BODY OF JESUS IN THE TOMB AND AWAITS THE RESURRECTION

*They made his grave with the wicked
although he had done no violence,
And there was no deceit in his mouth
Out of his anguish he shall see light.
(Is 53, 9. 11a)*

V. We praise you, Holy Mary.
R. Faithful Mother at the foot of your Son's Cross.

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to John (19, 40-42)

Joseph of Arimathea and
Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night,
brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,
weighing about a hundred pounds.
They took the body of Jesus
and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths,
as is the Jewish custom.
Now there was a garden
in the place where he was crucified,
and in the garden there was a new tomb
in which no one had ever been laid.
They laid Jesus there.

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION PSALM (*Psalm* 40 [39])

R. My soul thirsts for you, Lord.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. *R.*

When I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night

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A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of God,
all people redeemed by the blood of your Son:
may they live in justice,
harmony and peace.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Queen of peace,
those who govern nations:
repress all plans of violence and war;
help and strengthen Christians,
so that they may live a peaceful and honest life,
and give glory to the name of Christ the Redeemer.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of hope,
those who pray for good weather
for needed rain and an abundant harvest
assured work and family serenity.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of life,
the aged and disabled,
the sick and suffering,
emigrants and refugees,
those who are persecuted
because of their commitment to justice and peace
or on account Christ's name.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of life,
the homeless and those who shelter them,
the food they need,
and the clothing they lack;
remember those who suffer loneliness
or family discord.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of mercy,
us miserable sinners
your unworthy servants;
remember those who do not believe in God
or who do not know your Son.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of mercy,
those we entrust today
to your merciful kindness ...;
remember our dead brothers and sisters
who await the resurrection.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

Or:

Remember, Virgin Mother of sorrows,
who through the words of your dying Son
have become our mother too:
do not forget the grief
you have suffered for us;
intercede with your Son
that we may achieve
strength of faith
the joy of hope,
burning charity
and the gift of unity.

A. Remember, Virgin Mother.

L. Hear, o Father,
this people who with the Blessed Virgin
have commemorated the work of Redemption.
Grant us, your servants,
to live united to her on this earth
so that along with her
we may reach the full joy of your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

ACCLAMATION

A. Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs:

through your association with the passion of Christ
you have become our mother
and a sign of hope on our journey.

DISMISSAL

L. May the Cross of Christ
comfort us on our journey
in the footsteps of our Virgin Mother,
so that by sharing the passion of your Son
we may reach the glory of the Kingdom.

A. Amen.

BLESSING

If the presider is a priest or a deacon he will bless the others with these words:

L. With the resurrection of his Son
God has scattered the darkness of the world
may he light your hearts with the light of Easter
and establish them in peace.

A. Amen.

L. May Mary protect us
and graciously lead us along the path of life.

A. Amen.

Note: Some Bible texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>