

Scheme V

**MARY'S JOURNEY OF SUFFERING
AND DISCIPLESHIP**

INTRODUCTION

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

A. Amen.

L. We praise and we bless you, Lord.

A. Because you have joined our Virgin Mother
to your work of salvation.

L. We contemplate your suffering, Holy Mary.

A. So that we might follow you on your journey of faith.

ADMONITION

L. Sisters and brothers,
we are gathered here to follow
the journey of suffering Mary made
in close association with the Redeemer.
The Church sees her as the perfect image
of discipleship of Christ.
The Blessed Virgin's example
is for us both strong and persuasive
when we contemplate the suffering
she endured
by hearing and living the Word of the Lord
both faithfully and with love.
May her intercession help us to live intensely
the mystery of Christ Crucified
in our heart and in our flesh.
We know that by suffering with him
we will also be glorified.

CANTICLE (*I Pet 2, 21-24*)

Christ also suffered for you,
leaving you an example,
so that you should follow in his steps.

He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse;
when he suffered, he did not threaten;
but he entrusted himself to the one
who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins
in his body on the cross,

so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.

PRAYER

L. Let us pray.

O God, you willed that Mary's life
would be marked by the mystery of suffering.
Grant, we pray,
that we may make with her the journey of faith
and join our sufferings to the passion of Christ
so that these sufferings may be an occasion of grace
and an instrument of salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

I
MARY RECEIVES SIMEON'S PROPHECY
WITH FAITH

And a sword will pierce your own soul too
(Lk 2, 35b)

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

R1. It is the era of Herod!
The age of the Magi, those who seek God, the slaughter of the innocents.
the time of unbelieving priests
and scripture experts.
The time when the meek encounter salvation.

R2. In a little village
not found on Roman maps
in solitude, at night
you gave birth to your Son, Mary:
a son who upset kings and princes at his birth
a sign of salvation and a sign of contradiction
for everyone and forever,
a son who makes the aged prophet
happy to die:
allow your servant now, O Lord
to bring his long day to a peaceful end.

A. Our own eyes now see
the salvation prepared by God;
and your heart, O Lady, pierced by a sword.

RI. A revelation of the compassionate love of God
appeals to the tender and loving heart
that responds to love with love.

A. Our own eyes now see
the salvation prepared by God;
and your heart, O Lady, pierced by a sword.

PRAYER

L. O God, hope of mankind,
who through Simeon
predicted a time of darkness and suffering,
for the Virgin Mary
grant that our faith may remain strong
in time of doubt and trial.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Perhaps not even you can tell us, O Mother
who this Son of yours might be?
Now scripture is about to be fulfilled
and form the history of the world.

You walk away from the prophet in the Temple
where you have heard his unexpected words:
the shadow of the Cross is already upon the world
and a blood soaked sword is in your heart.

II
MARY FLEES INTO EGYPT
WITH JESUS AND JOSEPH

Out of Egypt I have called my son.
(Mt 2, 15)

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Matthew (2, 13-15)

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.
and remained there until the death of Herod.

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION

R1. Events overlap:
the Magi cross deserts and cities
seeking him;
Bethlehem is filled with countless mothers
who weep and lament their slaughtered children.
The king had but one goal
to kill your Son.

R2. Mother, you were one of us
when you fled by night
a family in exile
experiencing
the foreigners' wandering
looking for a place of shelter,
the suffering of those forced from their homes
the hunger of those who have fled in haste taking nothing.

A. Mother, filled with fear
you still press him to your bosom
as you press each one of us
during our journey of exile.

RI. I hear you weeping with all mothers
who have lost their son:
someone has been killed for every mother,
or has had to flee
from home or country.
No one knows better
than you do.

A. We are still like you
when fear stops you
on your return journey
there is always someone
who wants to kill – nothing has changed -:
someone sitting on a throne
someone speaking of peace but still killing.

PRAYER

L. O God, you entrusted the care of your only Son
persecuted by Herod,
to Mary and Joseph
help us defend our brothers
who are oppressed by injustice
or are victims of violence.
Through Christ our Lord.
A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Not even you can tell us, Mary
what thoughts you kept in your pure heart.
But why did God act in this way
why does he reveal himself when he is hidden?

Only just born and disaster occurs
those who die for him are innocent
and he, with the name he bears, in flight
going to the country of his first exile.

III

MARY SEEKS THE LOST JESUS IN JERUSALEM

*Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety
(Lk 2, 48b)*

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.

MEDITATION

R1. Jesus remained in Jerusalem
without his parents knowing it.

R2. And you continued your journey.
For Joseph, Jesus was still a child
and he was certainly traveling with his mother
with the other women.
For Mary, Jesus was a man
and was certainly with his father

travelling with the men.

R1. Son, why have you done this to us?
Behold, your father and I have been looking for you
in great anxiety.

A. You too were growing in faith, Mother
and did not understand.
This was the only time you said you suffered.
The one complaint in your life.

R1. How troubled the heart must be
of one who has lost a child.
or of one who no longer
can find his God!

R2. And she kept all these things
mulling them over in her heart.
Wonder overwhelms lament.
The true believer is always ready to wonder.

A. Obtain for us, Mother, a heart that listens
a memory that does not forget,
a search that does not give up.

PRAYER

L. Holy Father,
the Virgin Mother lost her Son
and after three days found him in the Temple
carrying out your will:
grant, we pray,
to seek Christ in earnest
and to find him in your Word
and in the face of our brothers.
He lives and reigns throughout the centuries.

A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

So not even they understood!
He went down with them to Nazareth
And was like everyone else in the village:
But you kept all these things in your heart.

Let us turn back to look for him:
For centuries we too have lost him
And we do not weep like his Mother
Who sought him anxiously for three days!

IV

MARY MEETS JESUS ON THE ROAD TO CALVARY

*If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
(Mt 16, 24)*

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to Luke (23, 26-27)

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

R1. Among the people crowded
along the road to Calvary
was the Mother of Jesus.
Every year she went up to Jerusalem
to celebrate the Passover:
the Passover – by now she realized – of the Lamb, her Son.

R2. Jesus sees his mother's eyes
they share a moment of unspeakable suffering
but also of mutual comfort:
both are aware
of having accepted
the Father's plan of salvation
and they encourage each other to remain faithful
to their mission.

A. Their understanding is intense.
The Mother then starts
her journey to Calvary
because the place where her Son dies
is the place where countless children will be born,

the place of the Skull
becomes the source of life.

R1. Holy Mary
Mother of Jesus “the sign of contradiction,”
you are sister to countless mothers,
who weep for a son
humiliated, wounded, killed.
Intercede for them
so that filled with grace
they may give witness to the sacredness of life,
regaining their dignity
and teaching us peace.

R2. Relieve with the balm
of your courageous love
the open wounds
of violence and hate
in the body and heart of the human community;
and through their faith in the Living One,
let confidence in the future and in life
be born out of ashes of death.

A. To you, Holy Mary,
fearless mother
whose heart was pierced with the sword of suffering
goes our mindful, grateful praise.

PRAYER

L. Holy Father.
Even more than Simon of Cyrene the Mother shared
the weight of your Son’s cross
the abandonment of the disciples
and the betrayal of a friend.
Raise in us the desire to follow Christ
to carry our cross
and to succor our suffering brothers.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Mother, you are every woman who loves
Mother, you are every mother who weeps
For a murdered son, a son betrayed.
You are the compassion that succors every victim.

You are the true image
Of a church that is forever
Our eternal mother who gives life
And whose compassion comforts the earth.

MARY STANDS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

*Woman, here is your son.
Here is your mother
(Jn 19,26.27)*

GOSPEL READING

R. From the Gospel according to John (19, 25-27)

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."

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION

R1. Holy Mary,
you are well acquainted with suffering
you know the heart of man
help us understand that suffering
is not the final word:
it is rather the narrow gate that measures love,
where we learn the value of things.

R2. Holy Mary
we dare not ask you
to protect us from suffering
we pray only that
in the hour of our trial
you keep us from despair.
Renew in us Sorrowful Virgin
the strong and tender love you felt for Jesus,
when darkness covered the earth
from noon to three o'clock
and in this darkness you stood by him.

A. Be present also
next to the crosses of your children:
if you are there, Mother, the light will not fail.
Increase our courage,
kindle the light of hope
and keep us from losing sight of him

in times of darkness and sadness
Change our lament to dancing
and our sackcloth to festive garb.

PRAYER

L. O God, in your loving plan
you have decreed that the passion of your Son
be completed in mankind's countless crosses;
grant that we
inspired by your Mother standing at the foot of the Cross
may remain close to our own suffering brothers and sisters
and bring them comfort, love and hope.
Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Standing close to the Cross
There was his silent mother
She looked like a shadow clad in black
She made no gesture in the motionless wind.

"All is completed" he cried from the agony
That consumed his body
And then he bowed his heavy head
And gave his great spirit back to his Father.

VI

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

*So he came and removed his body
(Jn 19, 38)*

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 Joseph¹ bought a linen cloth,
and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth,

Moment of silence.

MEDITATION

R1. Holy Mary, Our Lady of the night
we beg you be near us
when suffering occurs and trial befalls us
a cloud over our existence
with the chill of disappointment
and the blow of death.

R2. Holy Mary
free us from the terror of darkness
at Calvary
you saw the eclipse of the sun
cover us with your mantle
so that we can endure
the long wait for freedom.

A. Relieve with a mother's embrace
the suffering of the sick.
Fill the bitter hours of loneliness
with friends, trusted friends.

Turn your merciful eyes
to those who mistrust life.

RI. Holy Mary, Woman of Sorrow,
leave us not alone in the dark
sighing with fear.
If you are with us in times of darkness
you will whisper that you too,
Virgin of hope,
waited for the light to appear
to dry the tears
on our faces.

A. We will awake together at dawn.

PRAYER

Merciful Father
you supported our desolate Mother
in the hour of trial:
give us the spirit of consolation
so we can comfort our brothers
who live in loneliness
and groan in affliction.
Through Christ our Lord.
A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Certainly you thought of the time
When everything would be over
When you would once more hold him in your lap
And give birth to him again, Mary.

Creation in the suffering of birth
Awaits to be born again from the mount:
Through the obedience of the new Adam
And through you, Woman, whose life is faith.

VII

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

*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth
it bears much fruit.
(Jn 12, 24)*

GOSPEL READING

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

Nicodemus, who had at first
come to Jesus by night, also came,
bringing 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,
according to the burial custom of the Jews.
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

R1. Creation echoes the silence of God.
In the most intense silence the Word was made flesh.
In the silence of the grave
the love of the Father and the life of the Son came together
a new creation was born.

R2. Holy Mary
Virgin of silence and peaceful mystery:
sorrowful, strong, faithful,
you stand at the tomb
where the Word is silent and the Holy One of God lies.
A. Keep watch! from darkness comes light
And from the earth, life.

R1. Wait for the dawn of that endless day
the hour when a new mankind is born.

R2. Wait to see the Risen Son
the new face of man redeemed

wait to hear the new greeting of peace
to sing the new song of glory.

R1. Virgin of the Spirit, image of the Church
give us your faith in the Word
your hope in the Kingdom,
your love for God and man
the love which is stronger than death.

R2. We will keep our eyes on the future
in spite every sign of death
share with us your belief in the Living One.

A. Hail, mother and sister of every man,
hail, Woman of the third day,
foretaste of the Resurrection.

PRAYER

L. O God, kind Father
in Mary you gave us
the first born of redemption
a mother of great tenderness,
fill our hearts with the joy of the Spirit
and let us learn – like Our Lady –
to magnify you for the great work
accomplished in Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns throughout the centuries.

A. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Night has fallen, Lord
But peace eludes us:
This eager city that never sleeps
Is ever more desperate and abandoned.

O blessed and mysterious Trinity
We praise you because you have given us
A new dawn proclaiming your day:
Christ, the glory of all creation.

HOMILY

Moment of silence.

DISMISSAL

ADMONITION

R. We have walked the sorrowful path
of the Virgin Mother who followed Jesus:
it was a journey of hardship,
marked by the passion of her Son;
the path led to the sepulcher,
at the time of sleep, rest and waiting;
it was a journey of hope
and watchful prayer;
a journey of confidence
in the fruitful presence of the Spirit
to the humble house in Nazareth
to the upper room in Jerusalem.

We salute the Mother of God who is our mother.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs:
Joined to the passion of Christ
You have become our mother
A sign of hope on our journey.

Or:

Rejoice, Daughter of Zion, Exult Israel,
Rejoice with all your heart
Daughter of Jerusalem:
The Lord has revoked the condemnation,
And has scattered the enemy,
You will not see misfortune.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MOTHER

L. Blessed Virgin
at the foot of the Cross
you are the mother of all people;
intense solitude
at the sepulcher.

In you rests the hope of Israel
the dark expectation of nations
the faith of a Church in birth.

Your Son descended into hell
to release our waiting ancestors:

Adam, Abraham, David
from the bonds of death;
he is their son, their holy offspring.

A. You, Mother, know and understand these things.

L. In the warm spring air
the earth trembles at the seed of life buried within.
the hour of new birth has arrived:
the sacrificial lamb
is about to be born to eternal life
a never-ending Passover.

A. You, Mother, believe and await these things.

L. Virgin of expectation,
obtain for us
faith in Christ buried and risen
the definitive image of the new man.

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.

The faithful depart in silence.

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