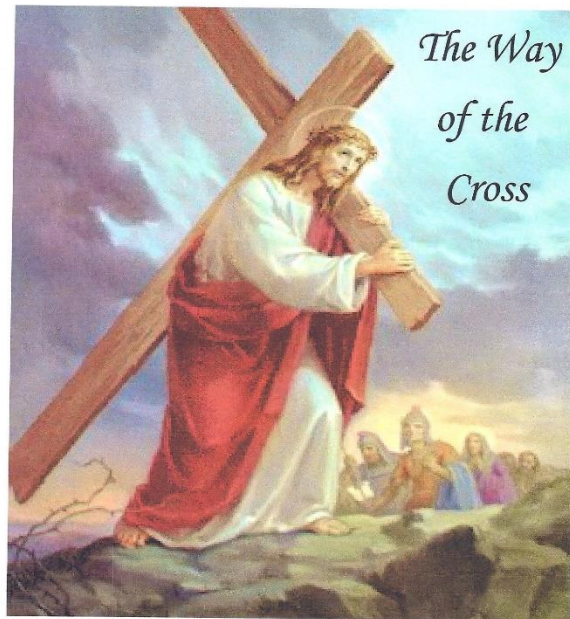


# Stations of the Cross

for  
Children



## **WELCOME:**

Welcome to the Lenten prayer called the Stations of the Cross. You may wonder how the stations came to be. Remember that Jesus lived on this earth and he walked the streets of Jerusalem as well as many nearby towns.

After Jesus died on the cross, many faithful people began to visit the places of Jesus' last journey to remember his life. They would walk the street and stop at certain places...to think and to pray...then continue walking. Over the years from what we read in the Gospels, this developed into the 14 stations to remember the events from Jesus' arrest to his death and burial.

Today, we will walk to each station and reflect on what happened to Jesus. Then we will pray about what each station might mean in our own lives today.

### **Opening Prayer**

Dear Jesus, take me along that holy way you once took to your death. Take my mind, my memory, above all my reluctant heart, and let me see what once you did for love of me and all the world.

**After each Station is announced, please respond:**

***We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
(genuflect/kneel if possible)  
because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.***

**Between each Station:** Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and/or a "Glory Be..."

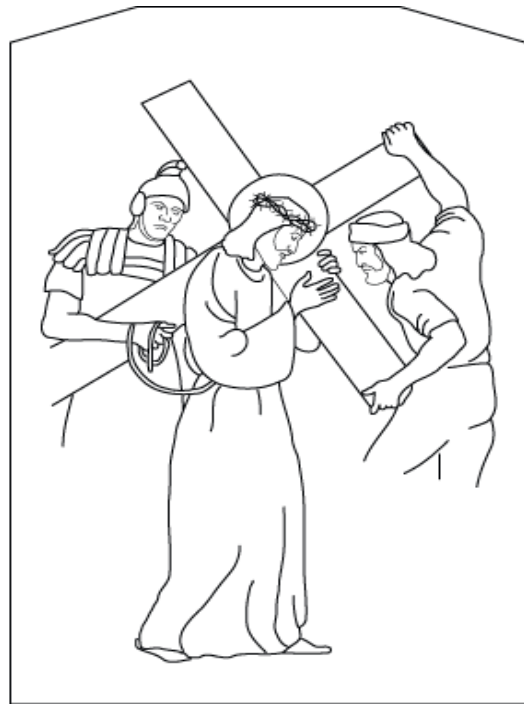
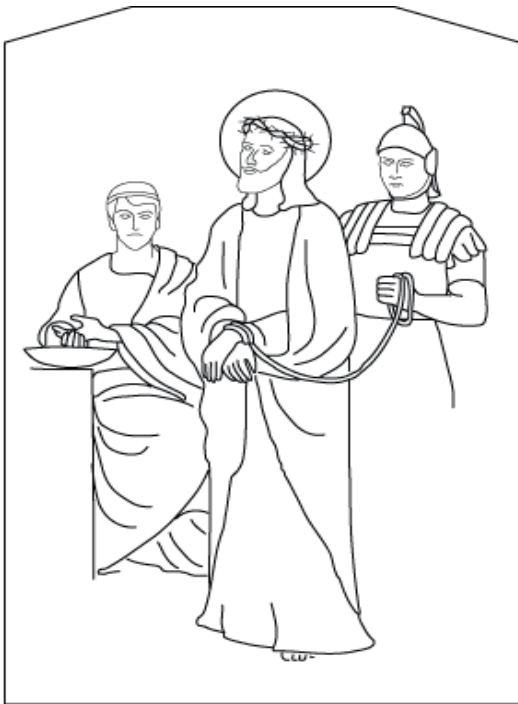


## 1. Jesus is condemned to death. (Respond: We adore you...)

Jesus was accused of many crimes he didn't commit. He didn't defend himself. He knew he needed to die for our sins.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, I often get defensive when I know I did something wrong. Help me to be honest. I also don't want to be a tattletale or accuse others of doing wrong.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## 2. Jesus accepts the cross. (Respond: We adore you...)

The cross was big and heavy. It was hard for Jesus to carry it. Jesus carried the heavy cross without complaining once.

**Prayer:** *Sometimes schoolwork or jobs at home are hard for me and I complain. Jesus, please help me not to complain. I want to keep trying, even when I find something hard.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### 3. Jesus falls the first time. (Respond: We adore you...)

Jesus was already badly wounded when he fell the first time. It must have hurt very much. Jesus got up and kept on going.

**Prayer:** *When we don't succeed in school or when we lose a sports game, it can make us feel defeated. Jesus was hurt but never defeated. Jesus, I want your attitude of hope and victory even if I am not succeeding.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



### 4. Jesus meets his mother. (Respond: We adore you...)

Jesus knew that his mother was sad to see him suffering so much. He was so happy she came to him. Mary loved Jesus very much.

**Prayer:** *Our parents love us very much, and sometimes we don't let them hug us and care for us because we are mad or sad or don't want them to see us in trouble. Jesus, I thank you for my parents and their love for me.*

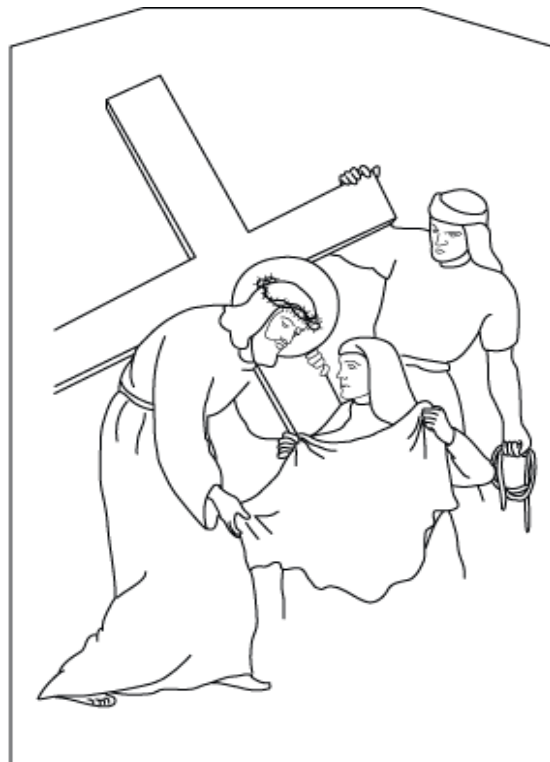
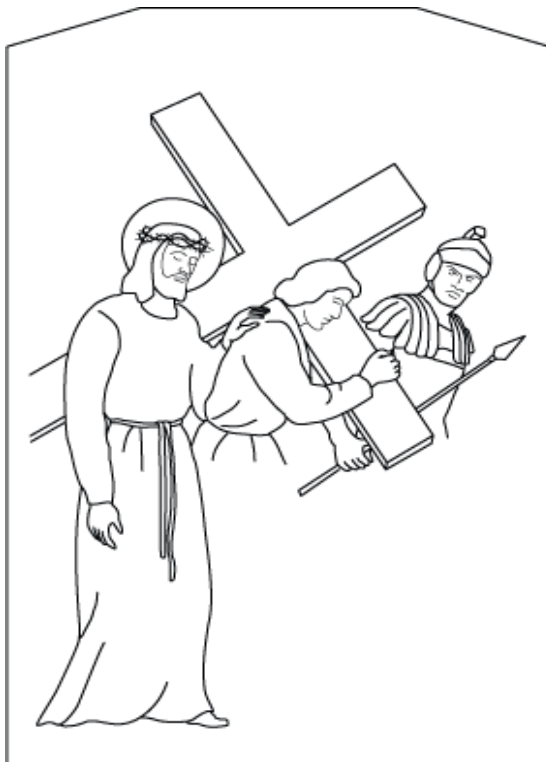
**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus. (Respond: We adore you...)

Simon didn't come to help Jesus but to see what was going on. Then he was ordered by the soldiers to carry the cross. Simon helped because Jesus was having such a hard time.

**Prayer:** *Sometimes I don't want to help my friends or brothers and sisters or parents when I am asked to help. Jesus, help me know that when I do help others, it is like helping you. I want to be kind and helpful.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## 6. Veronica wipes Jesus' face. (Respond: We adore you...)

Veronica loved Jesus very much. When she stepped out to wipe his face, she risked getting in big trouble from the soldiers. Her love and kindness overcame her fear.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, I want to love you like Veronica. Help me to be brave and love others who are unpopular.*

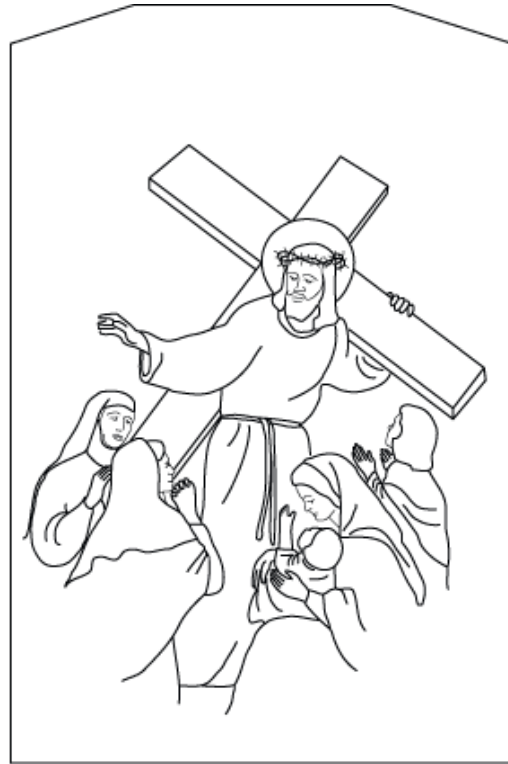
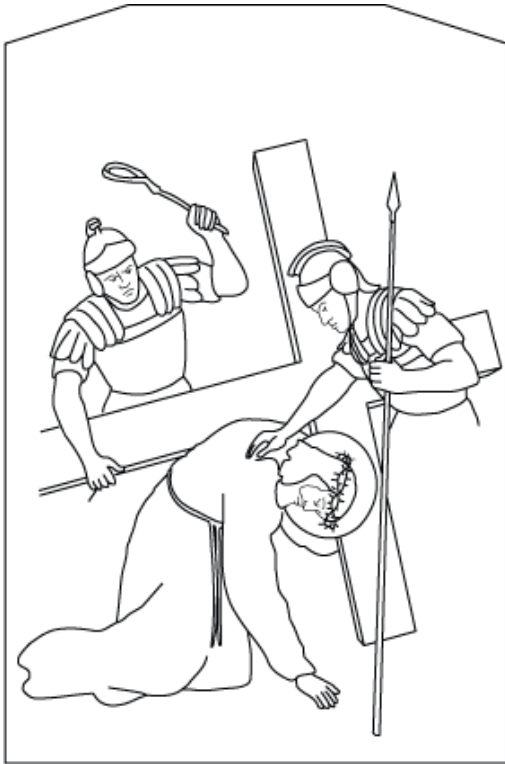
**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 7. Jesus falls a second time. (Respond: We adore you...)

Jesus fell again because he was so weak and tired from all his wounds. He still didn't give up. He got back up and continued on.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, when I have something that is hard for me to do, I want to remember that I can ask you to help me with it, and to continue on my journey without complaint.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## 8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem. (Respond: We adore you...)

A lot of people were against Jesus, but a lot of people followed him. They were his faithful friends.

**Prayer:** *Help me to be a faithful friend. When my friends are going through a hard time or are being made fun of, I want to help them and be a true friend.*

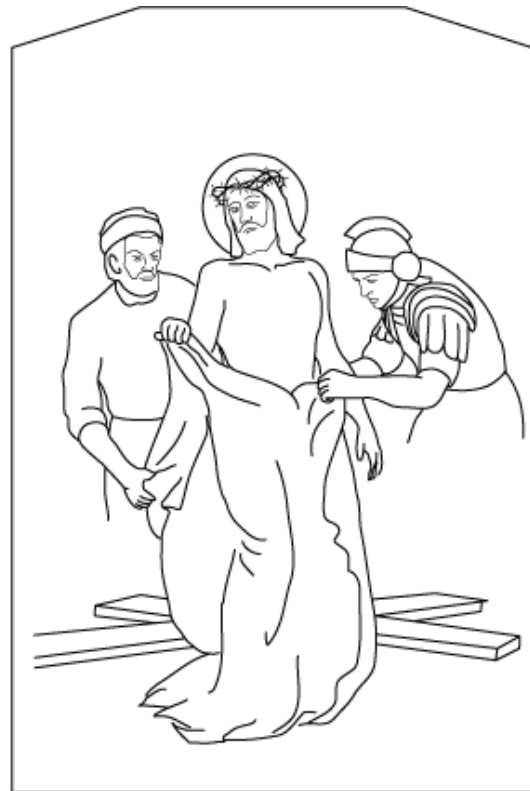
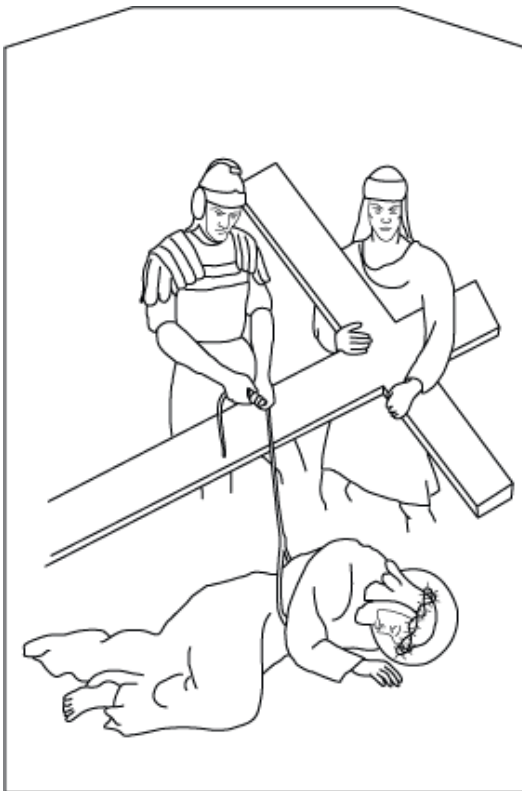
**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 9. Jesus falls a third time. (Respond: We adore you...)

It's unbelievable that Jesus fell again and the soldiers didn't help him. They only yelled louder for him to get up and continue on. Jesus didn't get mad at them; he forgave them.

**Prayer:** *Sometimes people say or do hurtful things to us or don't help us when we need them. Jesus, help me to forgive everyone like you did. Help me not to get angry or hold a grudge against someone who has hurt me.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## 10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes. (Respond: We adore ...)

To be without clothes in front of everyone is humiliating. Jesus wasn't ashamed because he knew his Father in heaven loved him, just like God loves me.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, I want to know how much you and the Father love me, so I will never be embarrassed or ashamed.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

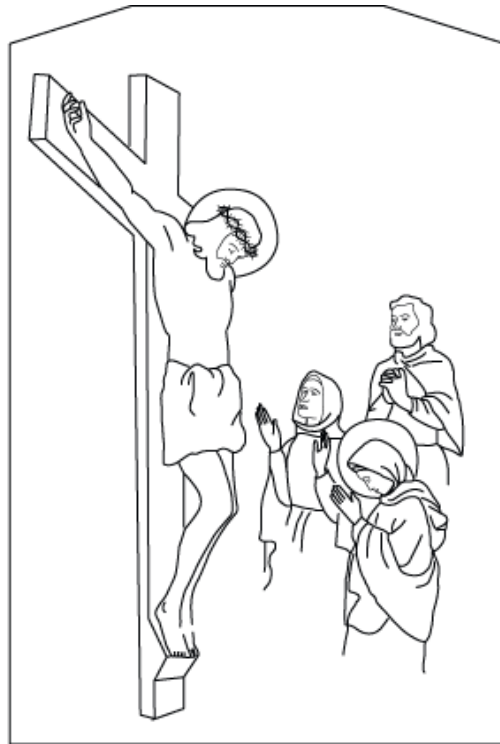
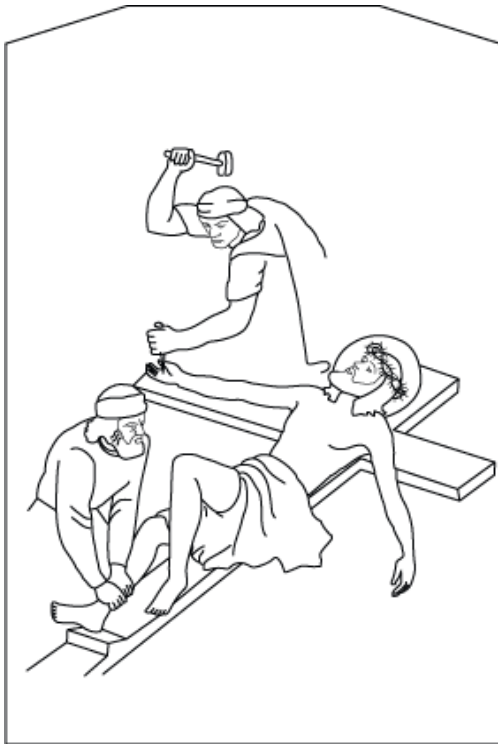


## 11. Jesus is crucified. (Respond: We adore you...)

The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Jesus was in a lot of pain.

**Prayer:** *Many people suffer pain every day from being sick, hungry, poor, or other bad things. Jesus, please comfort everyone who is in pain today.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



## 12. Jesus dies on the cross. (Respond: We adore you...)

When Jesus died, the sky got dark and the ground started to shake. This made some people very scared. They saw that Jesus was innocent and that they had made a big mistake.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, help me to admit when I make mistakes. Help me to say I'm sorry. Thank you for always forgiving me. I love you, and I want to do the right thing.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



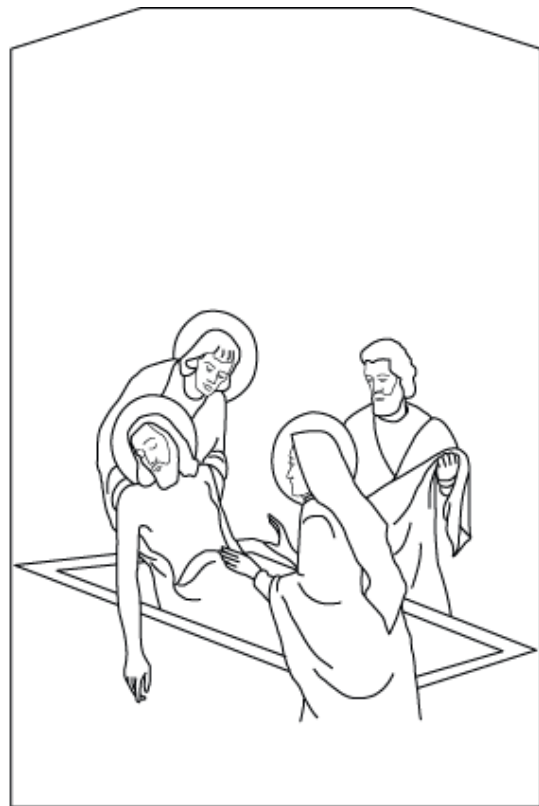
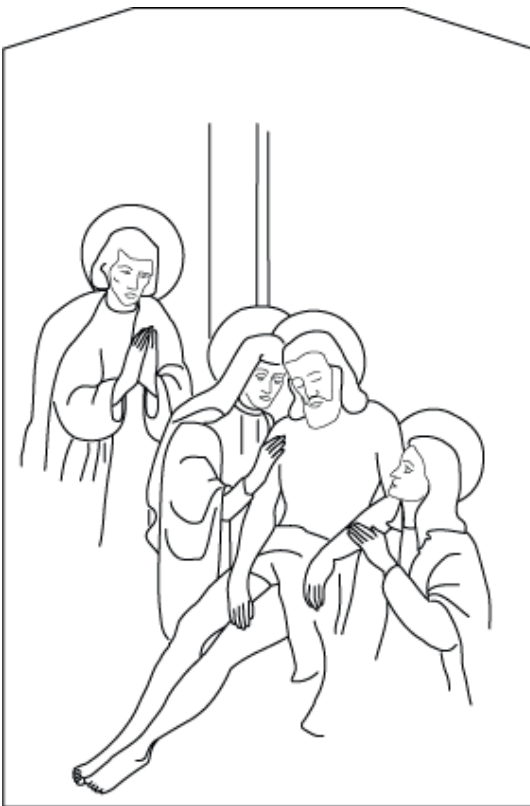
### 13. Jesus' body is taken down from the cross.

(Respond: We adore you...)

Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus his own burial cave because Jesus didn't have a place to be buried. Joseph was another one of Jesus' friends who took a risk to help him.

**Prayer:** *Sometimes it is risky to step out and help people who are in need. Jesus, I want to be a risk-taker and help others. Give me love and courage.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



### 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb. (Respond: We adore you...)

Everyone is quiet as the body of Jesus is buried in the tomb. Even when things look very difficult and sad, there is always hope that God can bring new life.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, help me to accept the hard times in my life. Help me to see how I can help to improve the world, and to follow the road you have planned for me.*

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Meditation - Waiting for Easter Sunday

You may think that this is the end...that it is all over...all done, but it's not.

Why not? Because of Easter and Jesus' Resurrection! Jesus *was* crucified but *we know* Jesus is alive! This is why we celebrate His Resurrection on Easter. Death is not the end of the Jesus story...Life always has the last word...

What a wonderful surprise for Jesus' friends on Easter morning when they see that he is alive! His body is like new! And he is no longer tired, sad or suffering. Jesus is alive in a new and special way. Let's be very still, very quiet for just a moment and think about our prayers tonight...and think about what we want Jesus to help us with this Lent...and about Jesus' love for each of us, and about life that lasts forever.

Here are some things that Jesus can help us with this Lent:

Love	Family	Kindness	Peace
Hope	Prayer	Spirit	Faith

Pray that this Lent, we are changed into people of love, compassion, and mercy. As we look to His Resurrection, we reflect on all the ways that Jesus asks us to follow the example of his life, and the promise of the Resurrection for all.

After Jesus rose from the dead, the first thing he did for those he loved was go to them, tell them not to be afraid and wished them peace: "Peace be with you," Jesus said. So let us close our prayer today by wishing one another the peace of Christ.

