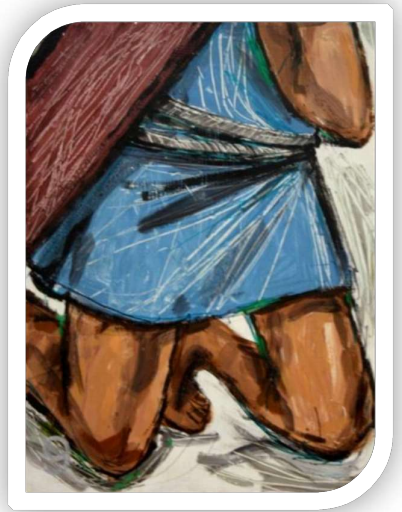


9: Jesus Falls for a Third Time

We Remember the Cross of Jesus:

Jesus falls for a third time, broken and exhausted physically and emotionally. Lying on the ground, Jesus must decide – does he get up once more or does he just stop and give up? We see him rise again, and with all his power he continues on his journey. Jesus shows us that we can go on, even if nobody else thinks that it is possible.



Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world*

We Name the Crosses of Today: Many in our world today feel that they are at that moment of final falling, that their burden is too much to carry. They cannot bear any more. Crushed by the weight of their cross they feel unable to get up, unable to go on. Some may look for relief in addiction. Some may look to escape through suicide.

In Jesus we find our hope and our encouragement. The third fall of Jesus reminds us that even in our moment of complete helplessness, or our experiences of depression, in our own Calvary, we can stand up again. Jesus is with us and Jesus is our strength.

We Pray: Lord, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary that we will put our unbounded trust in you.

In turn may we bring your love, in a word or action of comfort to another, in their moment of meaningless, depression or despair.

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father....*

Sung Response: *Were you there when Jesus fell again?*