

We Adore Thee

*A Way of the Cross
for Eucharistic Adoration*

Portia Webster



Liguori

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To Reverend Father Bruno Barnhart, O.S.B. Cam.



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Introduction

IN FALL 1994, I made the Ignatian exercises at the Spiritual Ministry Center in San Diego, California. One of the assignments was to meditate on stations two, four, and seven of the Way of the Cross. I did the assignment, but only in holy Communion did I deeply experience the journey our Lord made for our salvation. At the urging of spiritual directors, I completed the rest of the stations over the years.

We Adore Thee is not a typical Way of the Cross; it is a personal, intimate dialogue of the soul with Jesus and is best suited for individual use. It can be prayed entirely in one sitting, but you might find it most fruitful if you use only one section at a time. Writing this Way of the Cross has been a grace-filled journey for me, and it is my hope and prayer that reading it will be one for you.

My thanks to the priests, sisters, mentors, and friends who have read this manuscript through the years and urged me to have it published. For the past ten years I have had the privilege of living in silence and solitude on the grounds of an Olivetan Benedictine Monastery in Arizona. My thanks to almighty God, who has made all of these graces possible.

THE FIRST STATION
*Jesus Is Condemned
to Death on the Cross*



*“Be merciful,
just as your Father
is merciful.”*

LUKE 6:36

Meditation

LORD, YOU CLAIM me as yours, just as you did on the day you stood before Pontius Pilate. In your majestic humility, you foresaw this moment of vulnerability, yet you offer all strength and life if I only pay attention to your nearness.

You knew I would often condemn you and fail to recognize and honor you in your own person, in myself, and in others. You, the fully human, complete, and divine one, faced our representative, Pilate. You, Lord, stood as a perfect mirror reflecting God's will as only silent grace could. Let the eucharistic embers teach me to dissolve with love before all that convicts me of being other than conformed to you.

Prayer

LORD OF SUBMISSION, teach me not to judge or condemn others. You undertook your passion because you loved every one of us, so how can we do less? Grant me the grace of openness to all you ask. Lord, you knew I might recognize you in the actions of the priest but fail to see you in those assembled. Help me to see you among us at every moment and to be a peacemaker.

Condemned to death, you were the jar of ointment broken out of extravagant love. I adore you in the Eucharist and beg for the grace to set aside time in my life to sit before you, letting your graces fill me, making me the vessel that is ready to be broken for others. I know that it gives you pleasure when I ask for these graces, and I pray to use them well. Amen.

THE SECOND STATION
*Jesus Is Made
to Bear His Cross*



*After mocking him,
they stripped him of the robe
and put his own clothes on him.
Then they led him away to crucify him.*

MATTHEW 27:31

Meditation

YOU, LORD, LOOK up with innocent eyes. I am part of your cross. I am not heavy for you. "Let's go," you say. "I am the tool God is using, and because I love you so much I am happy to begin this walk." You were thinking of me and the happiness I would have in heaven, yet you knew I would often resist the death to myself, the journey into wholeness. With love, you anoint the dark places of my being. Your presence in the Eucharist brings light and wholeness, building on yesterday's graces.