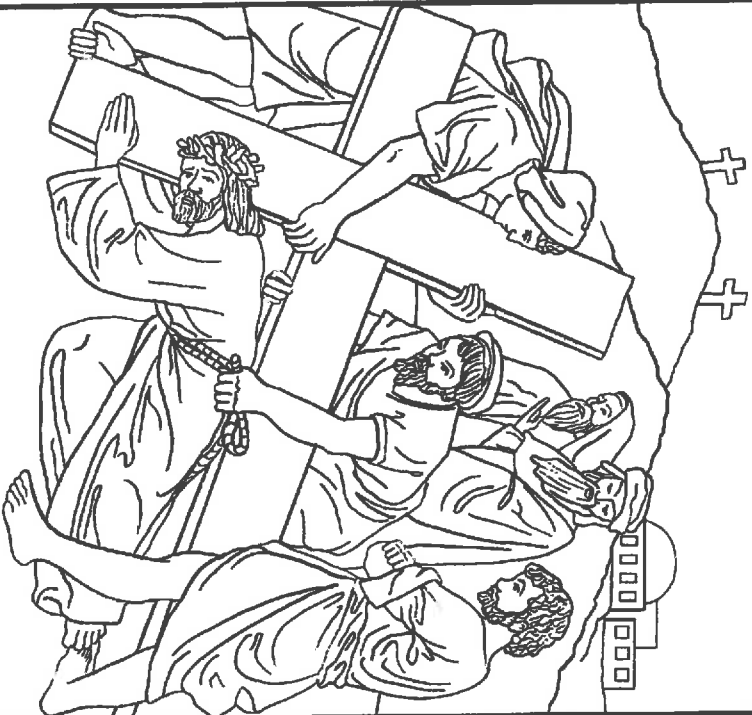


The
Ninth
Station



Jesus
falls
the
third
time



NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls
a Third Time

Meditation

Jesus has been arrested, unjustly condemned, whipped and beaten. He has been forced to bear the means of his own death on his back. His friends have disappeared. He falls again.

Prayer

Jesus, your journey on this hard road is a journey of pain and struggle, but most of all, it is a journey of love. It is hard to see this from the outside. Someone who doesn't understand sees nothing but a shattered man falling under a terrible load on a Jerusalem street.

But there is more to it than this, I know. There is love. You endure all of this because you love us. You suffer because you love me. It's hard for me to fully realize that love involves suffering. I doubt anybody truly understands the mystery of how love and suffering are joined. But through your journey, I see how true this connection is.

I see you fall, broken and weak. But in this pain, I also see a love that astonishes me and gives me hope. Help me love as you love. Help me accept the suffering that comes with real love.

No one has greater love than this,

To lay down one's life for one's friends.

(John 15:13)