

Sixth Station **Suzie**

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We cherish the faces of those we love. I relate to Veronica and her desire to run to Jesus and ease his suffering. I imagine he has been her beloved teacher and friend. She knows he will die soon and cannot bear to see the pain, sweat, and blood on his face any longer. She ponders what she can do to ease his pain. She bravely pushes her way through the crowd, past the soldiers, to go to him and offer her caring presence and a gesture of tenderness. Her courage inspires me.

He pauses and offers her his gratitude with love in his eyes, accepting her kindness. As she wipes his face the gift becomes hers.

In this moment together, they find that connection provides consolation. With this they can go on.

Veronica teaches us that we are called to recognize suffering and reach out with compassion. Jesus shows us that when we seek him, no matter what the circumstance, he is fully present loving us.

Reflection Questions: Who in your life may need their physical needs met?
How can you extend compassion in a way that shows your love?

Leader: We pray...

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe...

Seventh Station

Suzie

Jesus Falls a Second Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus' second fall is another reminder of his humility and humanity. Such physical fragility in his final hours harkens back to the fragility in which his life began – in an animal stall to a mother weathered by poverty, travel and delivery. Like his birth and death, so too were his years of ministry spent in the fragile margins of society.

From manger to crucifix, Jesus turned on its head the world's definition of power and strength, and gave us a new understanding of where and how to encounter God. His second fall urges us to let love repeatedly bring us to our knees. He invites us to continually engage in the pain, injustice and suffering of humanity, not to turn our backs or quit when we become weary. With each fall, he assures us that if we immerse ourselves in such humble fragility, we are certain to find Jesus there.

Reflection Questions: What stirs in your heart upon contemplating a fragile Jesus on his knees? What personal fragility or pain can you ask Jesus to help you carry? Where might this fallen Jesus be asking you to encounter him in today's suffering humanity?

Leader: We pray...

All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe...