

1 - Jesus is condemned to die.

Jesus is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death. His commitment to entering our lives completely begins its final steps. He says "yes" to God and places his life in God's hands. We follow him knowing how much he loves us.

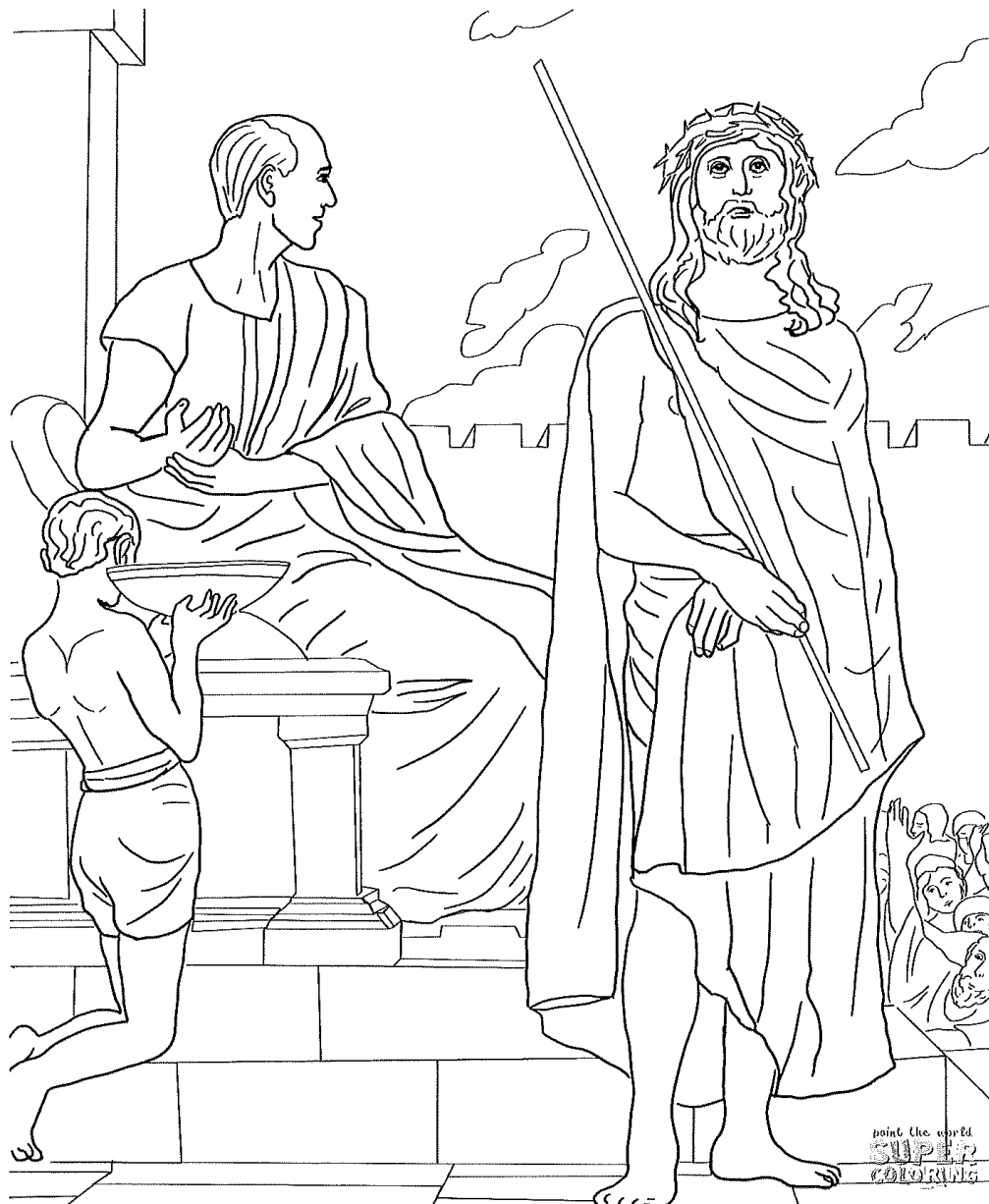
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

We view the scene. We are moved with deep thanks. Can you picture Pilate washing his hands of the whole affair and sending Jesus off to die? This is for me. This is for us. Jesus does this willingly so we are made free.

We sing together:

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.



2 - Jesus Carries His Cross.

Jesus is made to carry the cross. He walks the path of misery and suffering experiencing the heavy weight of the cross.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

I think about the wood of that cross. I imagine how heavy it is. He takes on the weight of sin. This is for me. This is for us. Jesus does this willingly carrying the weight of our sin. He lightens our load.

We sing together:

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus love me, the Bible tells me so.



3 - Jesus Meets His Mother.

Jesus' mother Mary is the handmaid of the Lord. On the way to Mount Calvary they see each other. How hard it is to see your mother crying. How hard it is to see a child suffering. They are bound by Love and trust in God.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

At this place along the way, I think about the power of love to give strength.

Mary knows the sorrow in every mother's heart that lost a child to tragedy or violence. I long for peace.

This is for me. This is for us. Jesus brings peace to our tear filled eyes.

We sing together:

I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul.



4 - Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross.

Jesus experiences struggles. In his struggles he receives help from Simon. He models the need for us to help one another because we can't always do things on our own. We depend on others to survive.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

I look around and see people who are helpers. Do you see helpers here tonight? God gives us helpers. God gave Jesus a helper named Simon. I need helpers to get me through struggles. I am grateful for helpers. This is for me. This is for us. We say thank you to God for providing helpers. We say thank you to God for Jesus. With him we never carry our burden alone.

We sing together:

**I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul.**



5 - Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.

The women of Jerusalem, and their children, came to comfort and thank Jesus. They experienced his compassion and welcomed his words of healing. He did many things to connect with them. Now they are supporting him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

I look at the faces of women gathered here. In them I see love and gratitude, loss and fear. Jesus looking at the women knew their deepest joys and their greatest fears. The women experienced his tender, compassionate, merciful love. This is for me. This is for us. Jesus looks with favor on us. It stirs up deep gratitude.

We sing together:

**I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul.**



6 - Jesus is stripped of his clothing.

Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. Jesus is completely stripped of his garments and of any pride. Don't look at me. But people stare. Jesus looks to heaven.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

I think of everything that is taken from Jesus, even his clothing. Holding nothing back the story continues to show how much he loves us.

We sing together:

I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul.



7 - Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to fix him on the cross. So much so that he is bleeding. As the cross is lifted up, the weight of his life hangs on those nails. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his ability to cling to life slips away.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

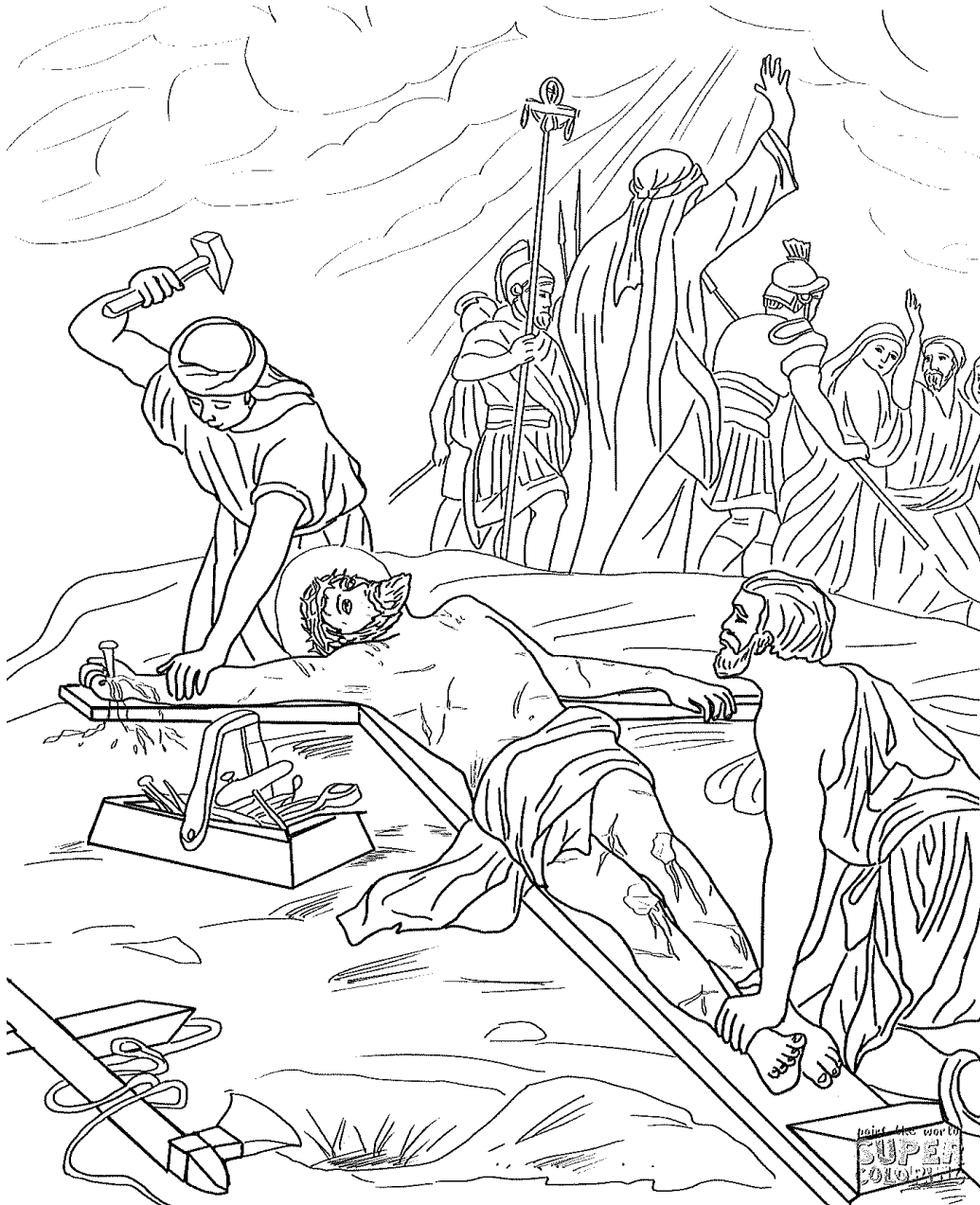
I don't like the thought of nails being driven through flesh. It makes me shiver with pain. I look away not wanting to face what is painful. But there isn't any pain or agony Jesus would not understand. He bears the weight of it all. This is for me. This is for us. Sorrow and gratitude fill my heart!

We sing together:

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.



8 - Jesus Dies on the Cross.

Between two criminals, an insulting title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath: "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

I stand here, at the foot of the cross, side by side with all of humanity, and behold our salvation. I watch and listen to all that is said.

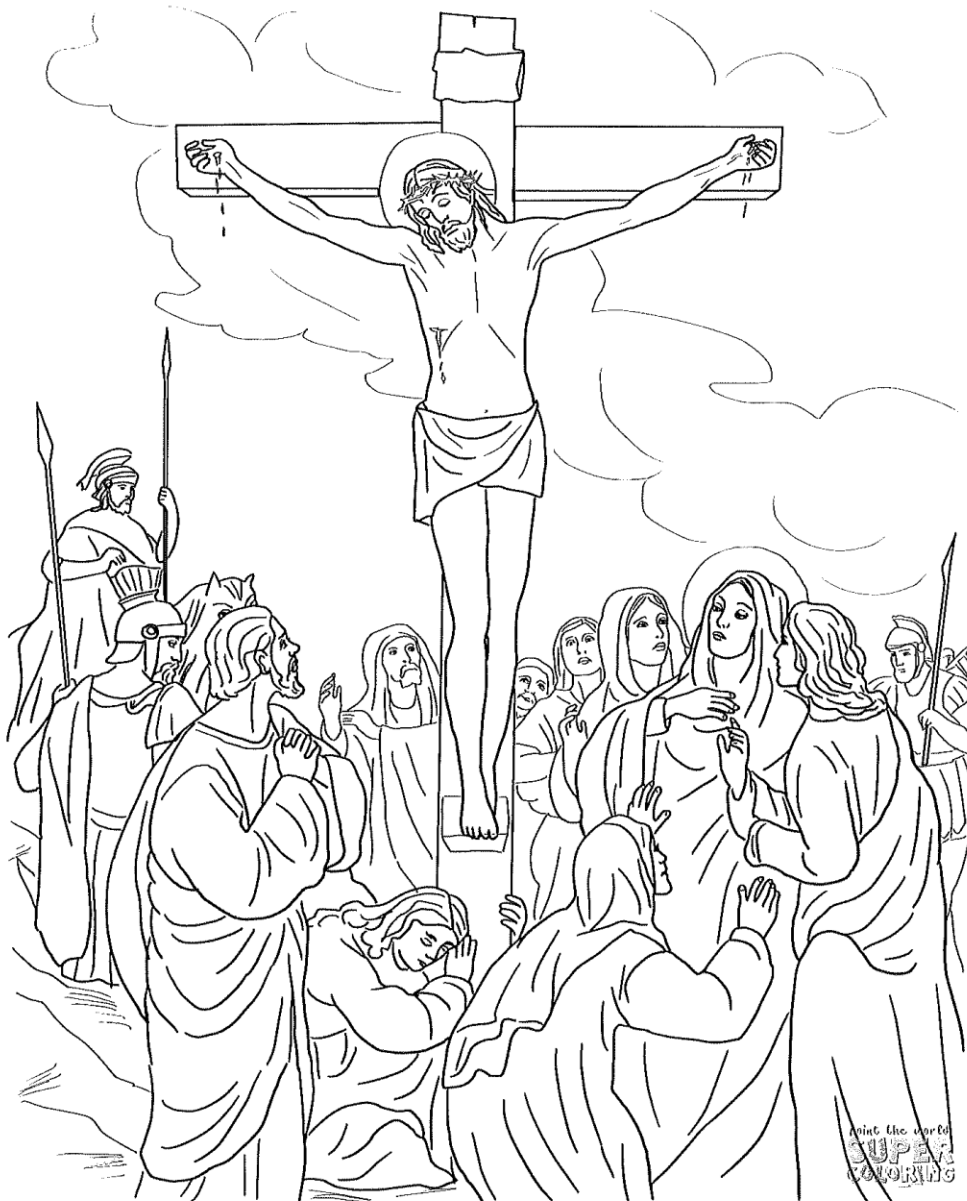
And then, I experience the one who gives life pass from life to death. This is for me. This is for us. I am Consoled by Mary and John and Mary and by you my sisters and brothers. We express our deepest feelings.

We sing together:

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.



9 - Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross.

A man named Joseph helps in taking down the body of Jesus from the cross. There in a tender moment of mourning, his lifeless body is placed in his mother's arms. He has truly died. Jesus is a profound sacrifice, given for us.

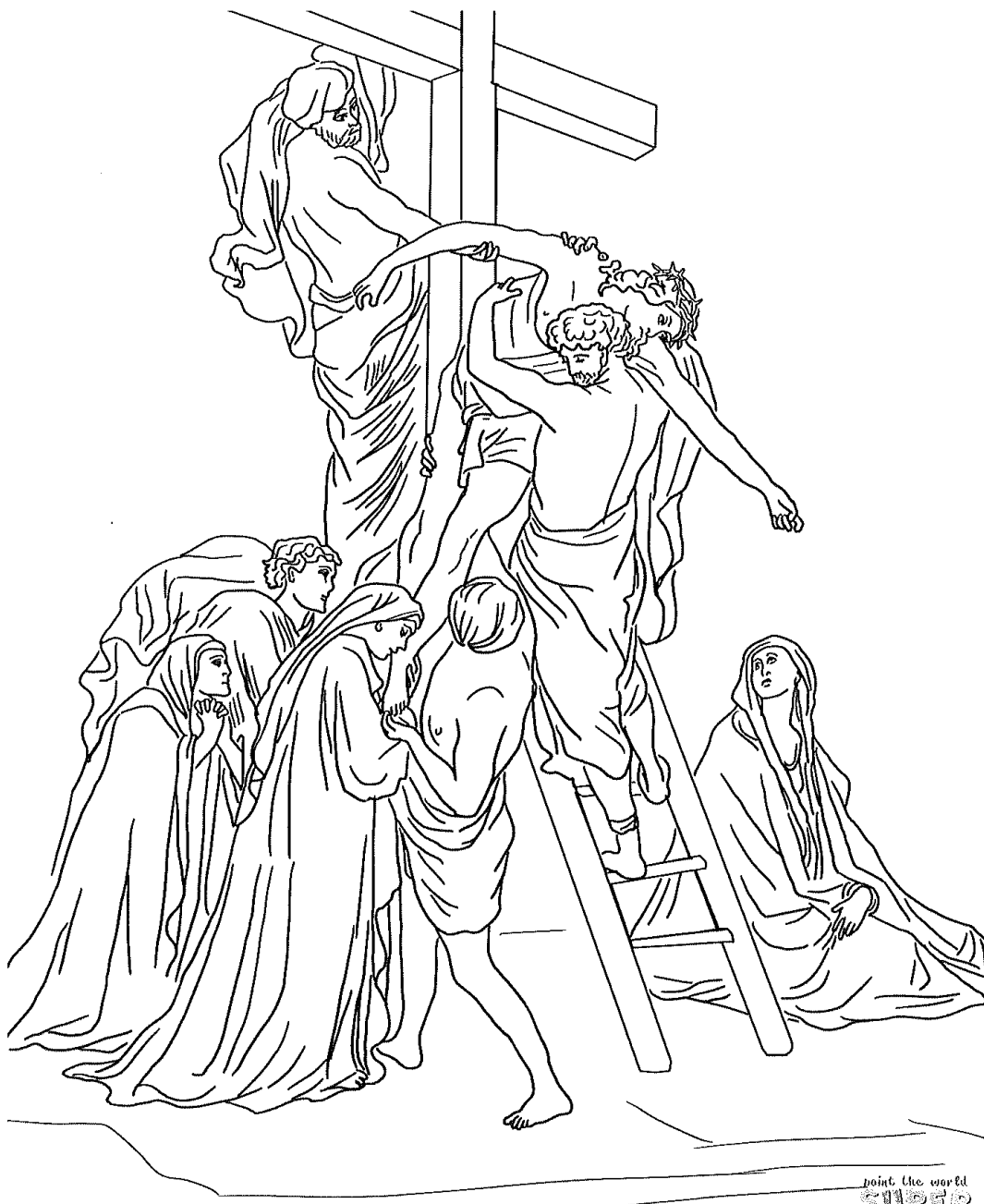
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

This is for me. This is for us. I behold this scene at the foot of the cross. Remembering his healing and blessing and all whom he embraced are hard to soak in. This is for me. This is for us. That we might love as we have been loved. We pour out our heart to the God of all mercies.

We sing together:

**There's new life in Jesus, lift up your heart. There's new life in Jesus, lift up your heart.
Lift up your heart. Lift up your heart. There's new life in Jesus, lift up your heart.**



10 - Jesus Is Laid InThe Tomb.

They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. Oh, that our hearts might burn within us, as we realize how he had to suffer and die so as to enter into his glory, for us.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your cross you have redeemed the world.

This tomb represents every tomb we stand before with fear, in defeat, struggling to believe it could ever be empty. In the fullness of faith in the Risen One, we express our gratitude for this way of the cross. We ask Jesus, whose hands, feet and side still bear the signs of this journey, to grant us the grace we need to take up the cross to be servants of our Lord Jesus.

We pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

