

CHAPTER 7 PRAYER SERVICE

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, be with us now as we meditate on the seven sorrows of your mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through her intercession, may we increase our compassion and empathy for those who are suffering. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Leader: The first sorrow of Mary is Simeon's prophecy.

Reader: Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

All: When we receive unsettling news, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The second sorrow of Mary is the flight into Egypt.

Reader: "When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

All: When we need shelter and safety, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The third sorrow of Mary is the loss of the child Jesus in the Temple.

Reader: Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

All: When we feel afraid, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The fourth sorrow of Mary is meeting Jesus on the Way of the Cross.

Reader: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

All: When we see our loved ones suffering, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The fifth sorrow of Mary is witnessing the Crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Reader: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

All: When we grieve, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The sixth sorrow of Mary is the descent from the Cross.

Reader: After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.

All: When we feel hopeless, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: The seventh sorrow of Mary is the burial of Jesus.

Reader: Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

All: When we feel all alone, Mother Mary, pray for us.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O most holy virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ: by the overwhelming grief you experienced when you witnessed the martyrdom, the crucifixion, and the death of your divine Son, look upon me with eyes of compassion and awaken in my heart a tender

commiseration for those sufferings, as well as a sincere detestation of my sins, in order that, being disengaged from all undue affections for the passing joys of this earth, I may long for the eternal Jerusalem, and that henceforth all my thoughts and all my actions may be directed toward this one most desirable object. Honor, glory, and love to our divine Lord Jesus, and to the holy and immaculate mother of God. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.