

The 2nd Station: Jesus Is Made To Carry The Cross



All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: *The soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).*

Reflection: Scholars generally agree that Jesus carried the horizontal beam of the cross, which weighed about 125 pounds. We can only imagine the pain he endured as he walked, the beam chafing his fleshtorn back. Steadfast acceptance of God's will allowed him to put on foot in front of the other.

Pause For Thought: What 'crosses' and burdens do you carry? What weighs on your mind? How do you embrace these 'crosses' and deal with them? What strength do you draw on? And where does this strength come from?

Prayer: Jesus, we avoid adversity. We fear humiliation and run from suffering. But you chose to take up the cross, a symbol of humiliation and suffering, and did so with steadfast acceptance. Teach us, we pray, to carry our burdens with the same grace, remembering that you will never leave or forsake us.