INTRODUCTION

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
A. Amen.

L. We praise and we bless you, O Lord.
A. Because you willed that the Virgin Mother share in the work of salvation.

L. We contemplate your sorrow, holy Mary.
A. May we follow you in the pilgrimage of faith.
MARY ACCEPTS IN FAITH THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON

WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to Luke
LK 2: 34-35

Simeon blessed them
and said to Mary his mother:
“This child is destined to be the downfall
and the rise of many in Israel,
a sign that will be opposed-
and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword-
so that the thoughts of many hearts
may be laid bare.”

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Holy Mother, the joy of presenting your son to the Lord for blessing quickly turned to anxiety as you heard Simeon’s prophecy about Jesus’ life and mission. When I think of my family and friends, I feel joyful in the love we share. But these present days, filled with uncertainty and fear, cause me anxiety as I feel great concern for myself, my family and friends. Help me to have faith in God’s providence as you did, to see the Lord’s faithfulness in my fear and anxiety.

I Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to Matthew
MT 2:13-14

The angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command:
“Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.”
Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt.

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Holy Mother, having to leave all that you knew — family, friends, home and synagogue, must have been tough, almost unbearable. Having to leave in the night, without saying goodbye, must have been a sad moment. Travelling to an unknown place with nothing familiar must have been overwhelming. Yet, the safety of your son and Joseph was most important. You went to Egypt with complete faith in the Lord’s love and protection for you and your family. You knew that all would be well because God is always faithful. Mary, as I struggle with changes in my family and work routines, in my daily activities, and in the ways I can communicate with loved ones given these days of “stay at home, stay safe,” help me to strengthen my faith in God’s faithfulness. Help me to see that trusting God is my sure hope in days filled with new routines and undefined confinement. Amen.

I Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
MARY SEEKS JESUS LOST IN JERUSALEM

WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to Luke
LK 2:43-45

At the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind unknown to his parents. Thinking he was in the party, they continued their journey for a day, looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances. Not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him.

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Holy Mary, the pain of losing Jesus for three days must have been indescribable. Your child is gone with no hint of where he might be and who he is with. Was he safe? Was he warm? Was he hungry? The multitude of questions which filled your soul were probably numerous and seemingly endless. You searched for Jesus trusting that his heavenly Father was watching over him and keeping him safe. You found hope in God’s love. Mary, I have lost my ability to go to work and volunteer, to go to school, to see friends, to care for those I love in the distance we need to keep safe and healthy. I am losing my sense of being safe and happy as my concern over this crisis grows. Holy Mother pray for me that I have faith in God’s care for me and my loved ones. As I search for meaning in these uncertain days, may I be always aware that I am not alone, but that my Heavenly Father walks with me through this present moment. Amen.

I Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to Luke
LK 23:26-27

As they led Jesus away, they laid hold of one Simon the Cyrenean who was coming in from the fields. They put a cross beam on Simon’s shoulders for him to carry along behind Jesus. A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him.

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Holy Mother, you needed to be near Jesus as he made the long walk to Calvary. His pain was your pain - so deeply does a mother feel what her child feels. You needed to see him. He needed to see you. You found hope in the look of love you both exchanged. In the meeting you and Jesus shared on the Via Dolorosa he was strengthened to continue his mission. Mary, in these days of social distancing and of lost routines, pray that I can avoid the temptation to procrastinate, isolate and become bored. May I be faithful in fulfilling what work I can do to feel purposeful and productive. May I reach out to loved ones, coworkers and friends in safe ways to find hope in the exchange of friendship and love. Amen.

1 Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to John
JN 19: 25-27

Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, “Woman, there is your son.” In turn he said to the disciple, “There is your mother.”

REFLECTION/PRAYER

The Cross! It is a difficult place to be. An innocent man is crucified for breaking no law. Your son dies for the salvation of the world. His life lost is our life gained. It must be this way, but it seems unfair. This is how God’s love will be forever born in the heart of humanity. Yet, in the pain of your mother’s broken heart your faith as Jesus’ disciple knows that God is doing something great. Jesus said that ‘unless the grain of wheat dies it cannot bear fruit’. Mary, in these scary and uneasy days, I stand next to the cross with you. I feel that a part of me is dying as I try to make sense of all that is happening in the world and in my life. Holy Mother, pray that I have the faith to trust the Father’s love in the midst of suffering, uncertainty, and change. May I learn to let go of the unnecessary things that have filled my life and replace them with a renewed sense of the blessings that have always surrounded me: family, work, friends and faith in God. Amen.

I Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to Mark
MK 15:42-46

As it grew dark (it was Preparation Day, that is, the eve of the sabbath), Joseph from Arimathea arrived—a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin. He was bold enough to seek an audience with Pilate and urgently requested the body of Jesus. Pilate released the corpse to Joseph. Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took him down.

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Mary, in holding Jesus’ lifeless body, life changed for you. What you had known was different. As you held Jesus, did you think of the past? Did you remember Jesus’ birth and his first steps? Did you remember His first miracle at Cana and the words of his first sermon? As a mother, beautiful and tender memories must have flooded your mind. Yet, as Jesus’s disciple you trusted that something new was happening even as you grieved your son’s death. Death and life go hand-in-hand. Mary, as I am confined to my home to keep well these days, I can easily become bored, isolate or let depression set in. Mother, be with me these days that I may move from feeling lost in this new normal to having hope. Pray that I can discover new ways to live and care for myself and others. Pray that I remember to reach out to others in order to build a caring community around me. Pray that I remember that this present crisis too will pass and life will be renewed once again. Amen.

χ Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
WORD OF GOD

From the Gospel according to John
JN 19: 40-42

They took Jesus’ body, and in accordance with Jewish burial custom, bound it up in wrappings of cloth with perfumed oils. In the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried. Because of the Jewish Preparation Day they buried Jesus there, for the tomb was close at hand.

REFLECTION/PRAYER

Holy Mother, the tomb seems so final. Inside lies your son, the Savior of the world. As the stone is rolled to close the tomb the finality of his death is real. In your sorrow at Jesus’ death, you never lost trust in God’s will. You kept believing in the faithfulness of God. Mary, I have created a tomb in my life as I struggle with fear, hopelessness, and in not having strong faith in Jesus these days. I want to believe that all will be well in this time, but my faith is weak and inconsistent. Mother pray for me. Pray that I trust in the faithfulness of God and that I not lose hope in this challenging time. I pray for the strength and faith to open my self-created tombs to the new life that God promises. Amen.

I Our Father and 7 Hail Marys
PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION AND PEACE

After the last group of Hail Marys, three more may be said to ask the gifts of reconciliation and peace for the Church and world.

CONCLUSION

L. We praise you, Holy Mary.
A. Faithful Mother at the cross of your Son.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs:
united to the passion of Christ, you became our Mother
and a sign of hope in our life.

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
A. Amen.