Ninth Station **Linda**

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Some years ago, there was a very successful businessman who was also a recovering alcoholic. When he told his doctor that he was becoming confused and sometimes lost his balance, the doctor – who had known him for years – presumed he was relapsing. A second opinion, however, diagnosed a brain tumor the size of a grapefruit.

The surgery to remove the tumor was necessary to relieve his distress. Unfortunately, it was malignant, and radiation could only slow, not stop, its growth. His situation was compounded when the surgical site became infected. Between the effects of the radiation and the struggle with the infection, he was mentally and physically exhausted.

Finally, with very little time remaining, he regained himself and wanted to address his will. He had planned to leave everything to charity and the church, and that remained largely unchanged, but he also had a good friend whom he wanted to care for as well. On one of his lucid days, he asked another trusted friend what he should do. He replied that he was a good man and that he should do whatever he thought best. He marshalled what little energy he had, called his attorney and re-wrote his will to ensure the care of a loved one. Did Jesus fall? Yes. Was he helpless? No. Despite the incredible physical and emotional pain, Jesus was able to rise again for those he loves.

Reflection Questions: When have I experienced suffering that seems to never end? How can I take comfort in knowing Jesus is there with me?

Leader: We pray…
All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe…