

# The Way of the Cross of My Ukraine

*Halyna Tereh*

**2023 A.D.**

# The Way of the Cross of My Ukraine



УКРАЇНСЬКА  
ХРЕСНА ДОРОГА  
Шлях до Воскресіння

Halyna Tereh

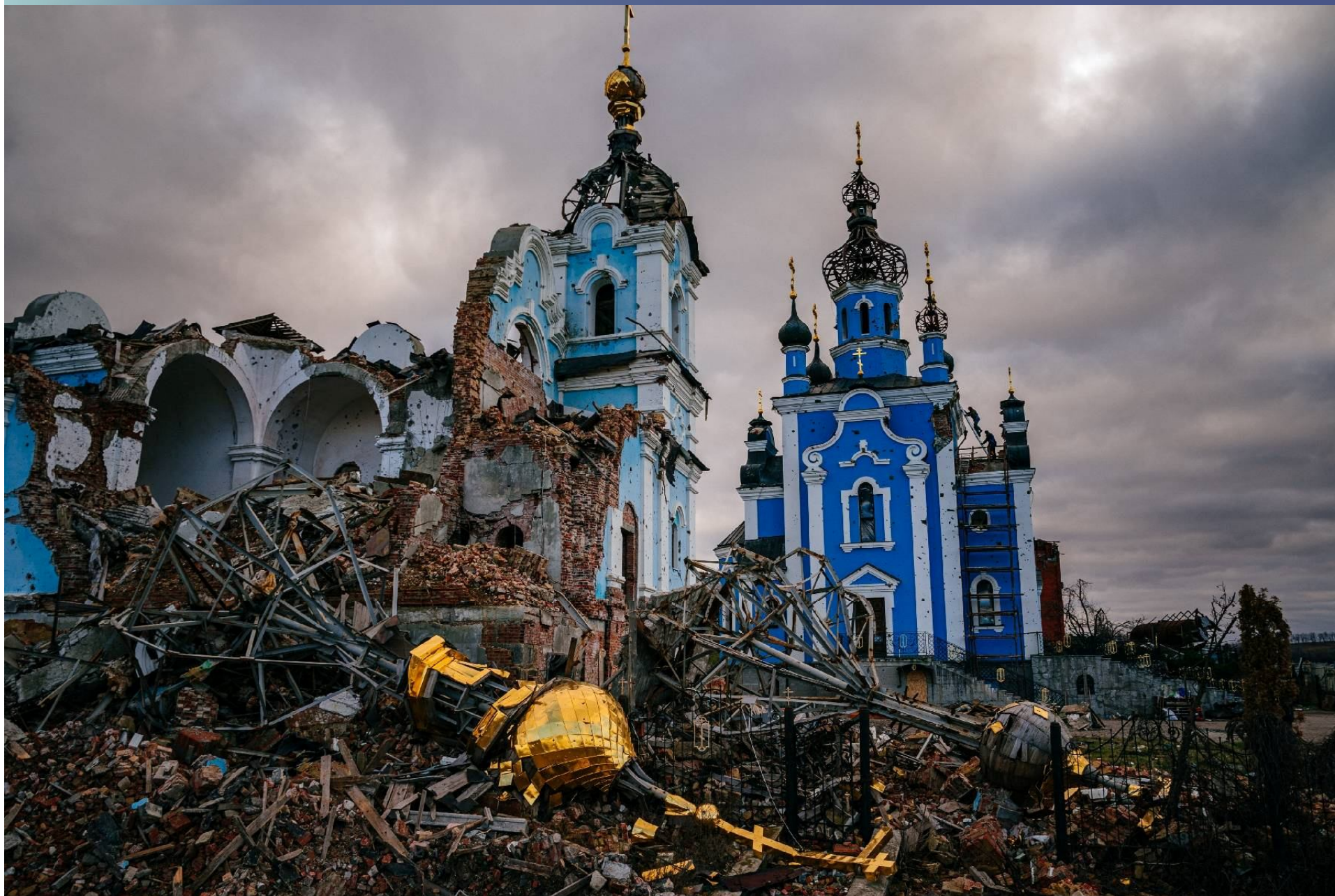
This text of the Way of the Cross intertwines the suffering of Jesus Christ on his way to Golgotha and the suffering of the Ukrainian people during the brutal war with Russia. After the crucifixion and death, Jesus is Risen, and we pray and believe that the way of the cross of Ukraine is a path to victory and peace.

The text also includes some thoughts from a defender of Ukraine.

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# The Way of the Cross of My Ukraine

# Introduction



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## The Way of the Cross of My Ukraine

### **Introduction**

Lord Jesus Christ, you walked the way of the cross on rough, rocky ground that severely wounded Your holy feet. And today, my Ukraine walks its own way of the cross, walking on rocks, ruins, and scorched land.

Today, I kneel before your cross. Allow me and all of us to take part in your holy suffering. We offer up the heavy burdens of our hearts that suffer together with our homeland. We sacrifice our prayers for Ukraine. We pray for the war to end, for us to emerge victorious, and for peace to come.

You gave your life for us on the cross. You showed the greatest measure of love. Help us to accept it and be with us in our sufferings.

Lord, be with me today, be my strength and courage, so that I may walk with dignity on the way of the cross of my Ukraine, remembering that Your love will conquer all evil.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

**STATION 1**

**Pilate condemns Jesus Christ to death**



# STATION 1

## Pilate condemns Jesus Christ to death

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The beginning of a long and difficult way of the cross. Jesus stands before Pilate. The Son of God Himself stands before a human being, God's creation. He humbles Himself! He does not show His greatness, the greatest one stands before the smallest one, before a man. Who is Pilate? Pilate is a man, just like me. His body has the same number of chromosomes as mine; he has two arms and two legs. But Pontius Pilate has the power of this world. And the power gives him the right to release or to condemn to death. A human being puts to death the One who created him. Today, the "pilates" condemn the Ukrainian people to death. Those who feel great and powerful believe that they can dispose of the destinies of others, deciding for whom to live and for whom to die. Some give orders, while others carry them out, shedding the blood of innocent people.

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your love is stronger than any weapon.

Let us pray for all the innocent victims of the war.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!



STATION 2

Jesus takes up the heavy cross



STATION 2

Jesus takes up the heavy cross



## STATION 2

### Jesus takes up the heavy cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Condemned, Jesus takes up the heavy cross on his shoulders and begins his journey. The huge cross of other people's sins, accumulated over the ages, weighs heavily on his shoulders... But the Savior bravely takes it up, for he knows that this path is the way of salvation.

Once, Christ said, "Whoever wants to follow Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." And now brave men and even women take up weapons on their shoulders and go to defend their homeland against the evil that has accumulated over the ages, against the enemy who wants to destroy us. And though it can be scary, and they may get tired, cold, and be far from home, they bravely take up their cross, knowing that this path is the way to victory.

Jesus, even though you are now bent like a reed under the weight of the cross, in You lies our strength. Please, increase the faith in me and in every person, give courage in these difficult moments of life. Lead our soldiers through the bullets, so that each of them may return home alive.

Lord, give me the strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your love is stronger than any evil.

Let us pray for all our defenders.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 3

Jesus falls for the first time under the weight of the cross.



## STATION 3

### Jesus falls for the first time under the weight of the cross.

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Jesus falls. He falls heavily under the weight of the cross.

And today millions of Ukrainians – children, women, and the elderly – fall to the ground in the corridors of their homes, in basements and shelters, or simply on the streets to save themselves from shelling and bombing. They are frightened, weakened, and crushed by grief.

Jesus fell because His physical strength had diminished, but His love did not diminish. The Savior rose and went on with a quiet, unsteady step. Lord, teach me and every person not to lose heart, be my comfort and strength in all trials.

Lord, give me the courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your love is stronger than any evil.

Let us pray for all those who are forced to hide in order to survive.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 4

### Jesus meets His suffering Mother



## STATION 4

### Jesus meets His suffering Mother

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Mary follows Jesus, her Son. She goes through her own way of the cross. It is hard to imagine the pain that a mother must feel when she sees the suffering of her child. What pain must have pierced the heart of Jesus and what anxiety and bitterness filled the heart of Mary when they met.

How many suffering mothers have we had in Ukraine in recent years? What is going on in their hearts? They fall asleep and wake up with a mobile phone in their hands; the first and the last call every day is to their child, asking: "How are you? Did you sleep well? Is everyone alive?"

Jesus stopped, with bloodshot eyes, looked at His mother, and said with His heart: "Mother, I am going to fulfill the will of my Father. I am going to offer my sacrifice for the salvation of the world!"

Lord, make sure every mother sees her son again.

Lord, give me and every mother the strength and the courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your protection is stronger than any weapon.

Let us pray for all mothers.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 5

# Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross





## STATION 5

### Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Jesus walks a difficult and rocky path. It is hard for Him; the cross is digging into His body. And the place where He will be crucified is still far away. Christ multiplied bread for the hungry, healed the sick, and restored sight to the blind – He helped many. But now Simon of Cyrene, tired from working in the fields, had to help Him.

Today's world needs such Simons. Ukraine needs them too. Simon was forced to carry the cross, but many foreigners voluntarily take up arms side by side with us, sacrificing their comfort and risking their lives.

Many people walked the way of the cross; some sympathized, some watched indifferently, some condemned. The cross that fell to the fate of my people is very heavy. Jesus, give wisdom and courage to those who can help, so that they are not afraid to do so.

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your power is stronger than any army in the world.

Let us pray for everyone who helps us.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

# STATION 6

## Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



## STATION 6

### Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The face of Jesus is bloody and sweaty. Blood and sweat flood his eyes, Jesus cannot help himself, because the cross weighs on His shoulders. In the midst of the crowd, the gentle Veronica couldn't bear it anymore and stepped forward to wipe Jesus' face with a white cloth. This brave act did not go unnoticed. Jesus rewarded Veronica by leaving the image of His holy Face on her veil.

Modern Veronicas weave camouflage nets, make dumplings, pray the rosary, bake bread, collect humanitarian aid, entertain children, heal, make tea, provide housing ... and countless other known and unknown things, because they cannot stand aside and understand that this is a common calamity.

Lord, give me strength and courage to do everything I can to walk with dignity the way of the cross of my Ukraine.

Let us pray for doctors, volunteers, and all people of good will.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father...".

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

# STATION 7

## Jesus falls for the second time under the weight of the cross



## STATION 7

### Jesus falls for the second time under the weight of the cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The road is long and difficult. Jesus walks, and once again the weight of the cross crushes Him to the ground. Helpless and exhausted, Jesus does not fall into despair, nor does He ask why it is taking so long. He gets up and continues on.

How often do I ask Jesus to take away my cross and give me another one because this one is too heavy and I cannot bear it? Every time I hear about new bombings, about victims, about new threats – it is a downfall for me. I, like millions of Ukrainians, ask to take this cross away and say, "Lord, how much longer?" I cry out, "Why?"

In such moments, I forget that I must carry my cross with Jesus. Not to fall into despair, not to fall before the enemy, but to fall on my knees before the Lord and ask for courage. Not to ask "Why?" but to ask "What for?"

Lord, give me strength and courage to courageously walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine. Instill in my heart and in the heart of every Ukrainian the belief that our sufferings are not in vain and that the victory is near.

Let us pray for all those who have lost hope.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

# STATION 8

## Women weep over the suffering Jesus



## STATION 8

### Women weep over the suffering Jesus

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

In the crowd following Jesus, there is a group of women weeping, lamenting the fate of Jesus. "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children!" says Christ to them.

"Mom, why did Russia attack us? Are we going to die? Mom, when will the war end? I want to go home," Ukrainian mothers hear today. And they weep... They weep, hiding their tears from their children, they weep when they carry sleepy babies to bomb shelters, they weep, covering the children with their bodies from bullets and shrapnel, they weep, burying their children...

Do those whose children kill Ukrainian children weep too?...

Lord, make it so that mothers all over the world teach their children to love, not to kill. Give strength and courage to me, to every child and to every mother to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your mercy will dry any tears.

Let us pray for the good upbringing of children.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 9

Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross





## STATION 9

Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross



## STATION 9

### Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The procession of the cross takes away Jesus' strength with every step; it becomes increasingly difficult for Him to walk, His strength is leaving Him, His body is suffering under the weight of the cross. Jesus falls for the third time.

There have been so many falls in the history of our nation. Often, external enemies were to blame for those falls, but sometimes it was internal. Every time we deceive, give or take bribes, envy our neighbors, do not speak the state language, sell our dignity and the interests of our country, city or village for money, ignore rules, or judge others, we become enemies of our Ukraine. And we become the cause of its decline, which has very painful consequences for us.

Jesus, your third fall was the heaviest, but you got up with all your strength and continued on. Our internal falls are just as heavy as yours. They make us vulnerable to those who attack us from the outside.

Lord, teach us to be united, for our strength is in unity. Please be my strength and the strength of every person on this way of the cross of my Ukraine. Give us the courage to rise from these falls and the wisdom not to fall again.

Let us pray for the consciousness and the responsibility of every Ukrainian.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 10

### They strip Jesus of his clothes



## STATION 10

### They strip Jesus of his clothes

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Jesus carries his cross to the place where his difficult journey is to end – on Calvary. Most of the people who followed the procession mocked the Son of God as they pleased, but this was not enough for them. At the place of execution, the executioners wanted to take the last thing that Jesus had – his clothes – and divide it among themselves.

Life circumstances can sometimes force us to leave everything we have and simply run. To escape in order to survive. "Now I have only one jacket and one pair of shoes, but my son and I are alive," says a woman who left Bucha. And unfortunately, there are countless such stories today. Destroyed houses, smashed cars, ruined villages and towns.

The cruel executioners strip the clothes from Him who covered the sky with stars, dressed the earth with flowers and forests. Jesus easily gives the soldiers his last garment. Lord, teach me not to grieve over the loss of material things, but in the greatest sadness to rely on You and Your mercy.

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that my home is where You and Your love are.

Let us pray for the people who have lost their homes.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 11

### Jesus is nailed to the cross



## STATION 11

### Jesus is nailed to the cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

Big black nails pierce the hands and the feet of Jesus Christ, causing unbearable pain to His already mutilated body. The executioners nailed the feet and the hands of the Savior as if to make sure that He wouldn't go anywhere. They nailed His body, but they didn't break His spirit.

Today, heavy rockets and bombs pierce buildings, sharp fragments injure and bring people to the ground. The enemy wants to break the will and the dignity of human beings and bring them down.

Jesus, You who endured the heavy wounds of the nails, but with Your arms outstretched on the cross wanted to embrace all the needy, help us endure the wounds caused by war, do not let our spirit of freedom be broken, embrace us, Christ.

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your love heals any wounds.

Let us pray for all the wounded.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 12

# Jesus Dies on the Cross



## STATION 12

### Jesus Dies on the Cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

"Into your hands I commit my spirit," Jesus said to his heavenly Father. His head fell forward, and Jesus died. It is finished. The killing of the world's greatest good had occurred. The earth shook, and the veil in the temple was torn in two.

Our earth trembles today from death. Defenders die, children die, women die, elderly people die. Someone loses a son, someone loses a father or a mother, someone loses a beloved husband or wife, brother or sister. And the earth trembles from unspeakable grief. I am scared to hear about death. I mourn and cry.

Lord, do not allow me to fall into despair, but help me always to remember that through Your death, people have received eternal life, and that in heaven, in the House of the Lord, we will meet with all those whom we loved so much.

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that Your love is stronger than death.

Let us pray for the dying.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!



## STATION 13

### The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross



## STATION 13

### The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross



## STATION 13

### The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The body of Jesus was taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of his mother. Mary received her son. The Mother of God is consumed with grief and unbearable pain. The pain of all mothers who hold the bodies of their children in their arms.

The Mother of God knew that this was the will of God and accepted it, although her motherly heart was breaking.

Mary, Mother of God, calm the pain of mothers who suffer greatly from the death of their child. Give them comfort of heart in suffering.

Lord, give me and every mother the strength and the courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine, remembering that Your love is stronger than death.

Let us pray for mothers who bury their children.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!

## STATION 14

### The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



## STATION 14

# The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



**2022** April 1-8 th

**RUSSIA'S WAR  
AGAINST UKRAINE**

**Kyiv region**

(Bucha, Irpin, Motizhin)

we find more and more corpses

## STATION 14

### The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



## STATION 14

### The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



## STATION 14

### The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Glory to Your Passion, glory to Your Long Suffering, o Lord!

The body of Jesus is placed in the tomb, those closest stand by the tomb. The body is in the tomb, the tomb is sealed, all is finished!

Images of burials in mass graves on the outskirts of war-torn cities come to mind. Burials of those who cannot be buried otherwise due to shelling. People do not have their own tomb, just like Jesus, who was buried in someone else's tomb.

It seems that the tomb is the end. But Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die!" (John 11:25).

Jesus, teach us to believe in you. To believe in our own resurrection. For those who believe in the Son of God, there is no death, no despair, because He assured us: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Lord, give me strength and courage to walk the way of the cross of my Ukraine with dignity, remembering that after death there will be Resurrection.

Let us pray for the strengthening of our faith.

"Our Father...", "Hail Mary...", "Glory be to the Father..."

You suffered greatly for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!



# ENDING



# ENDING



# ENDING



# ENDING



# ENDING



# ENDING

Dear Jesus, your journey to the cross was difficult. You were beaten, you fell heavily and bruised your feet on sharp stones. You were stripped, nailed to the cross, and ultimately killed. Then you were laid in the tomb and a large stone was rolled in front of it because they were afraid of you even when you were dead. But after three days, you were not found in the burial place. The heavy stone fell, the guards were frightened and fled. You, Lord, rose from the dead.

Today, our Ukraine and I, along with it, and each of us, are walking the way of the cross, suffering heavily. Today we gaze at your cross and your empty tomb and believe. We believe that you will lead us through this valley of darkness and we will rise again. My Ukraine, our Ukraine will rise again. And where there were ruins and stones, flowers will grow.

Lord, today I kneel before you and thank you for your love and mercy towards us humans. Teach us, Lord, to live a righteous life, teach us to be responsible for our land, so that such bloodshed will never happen again. Teach me to do everything I can for you, for people, and for Ukraine. Be my strength and faith to live a dignified life. Strengthen my faith, revive my hope, kindle my love. Make it so that the way of the cross of my Ukraine is its way to a bright resurrection. We, your children, ask you, "Be with us, Lord. Accept our prayer."

# ENDING



# ENDING



Alessandra Tarantino (AP)



# The Way of the Cross of My Ukraine



2023 A.D.

# Christ is Risen!





**Glory be  
to Jesus Christ!**

