



## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Stations of the Cross began as a remembrance that pilgrims had when they were retracing Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem up to the hill where He was crucified. Wanting to share that practice and experience with people who couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, they created local stations of meditation that became in itself a tradition. You can find this tradition on the inside of many churches still today.

The journey to the cross is not only a meditation of Jesus accomplishing what He came to do - the redemption of humanity through His own willful sacrifice - but it's also a contemplation of Jesus silently participating in some of the worst aspects of being human. We see Him being tempted to give up. Being betrayed by a friend. Being convicted in an unjust political system. Physical pain. Mockery. Public humiliation. Broken family relationships. And one of our greatest fears...having to die. These are all aspects of human life that he was not insulated from.

These stations are a cross-section of elements, ideas, and objects from Jesus' journey to the cross. As you work through these stations, may you see that we are not troubled guests in this world...that we are not forsaken...and that the good news of this season was expressed best by Jesus when He said...

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."



**PRELUDE**

*Always Good*

**WELCOME**

Dr Jeff Lincicome  
Senior Pastor

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**SONG**

*We Will Feast in The House of Zion*

## **Station 1—JESUS IS TEMPTED**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Matthew 26:36-46**

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."*

Jesus is all alone. He is compelled to desperate prayer. His friends are called, and they come, but they fall asleep. Imagine for a minute what that loneliness must have felt like. Imagine your own times of loneliness. What drives you to such a desperate time of prayer?

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**Lord Jesus Christ, you didn't have to enter this dark journey to the cross. You didn't have to do this. And yet you did, out of love for all of us. Amid your desperation, you were identifying with us in ours. Help us to always remember that we are never alone in the dark, for you are with us, always. Amen.**

II



JESUS IS BETRAYED

"Friend, do what you came here to do." Matthew 26:50

## Station 2—JESUS IS BETRAYED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 26:14-16**

*Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.*

The Son of God was betrayed by a friend. The Son of God was betrayed by his own creation. What kind of God allows this to happen? What kind of God would put up with this kind of treason? What God allows us to be his amid our betrayals? Only one—the God of Jesus Christ.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Heavenly Father, Holy One, help us to see that through your betrayal, we witness your deep love for your fallen creation. Forgive us when we turn our backs on you, and instead, let us live as men and women of courage and protection of the innocents in your world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## Station 3—JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 22:66-71**

*When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"*

It was not the agnostic or atheist who condemned the Son of God—it was the religious. The leaders of the people. The ones who claimed to be God's closest companions. Their condemnation was met peacefully by our Lord, who knew they led only with fear for themselves.

If we are honest, there are times when with our words and deeds, we condemn him, too. When we refuse to speak up; when we take part in passive oppression; when we give in rather than resist. And yet, he loves us still.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

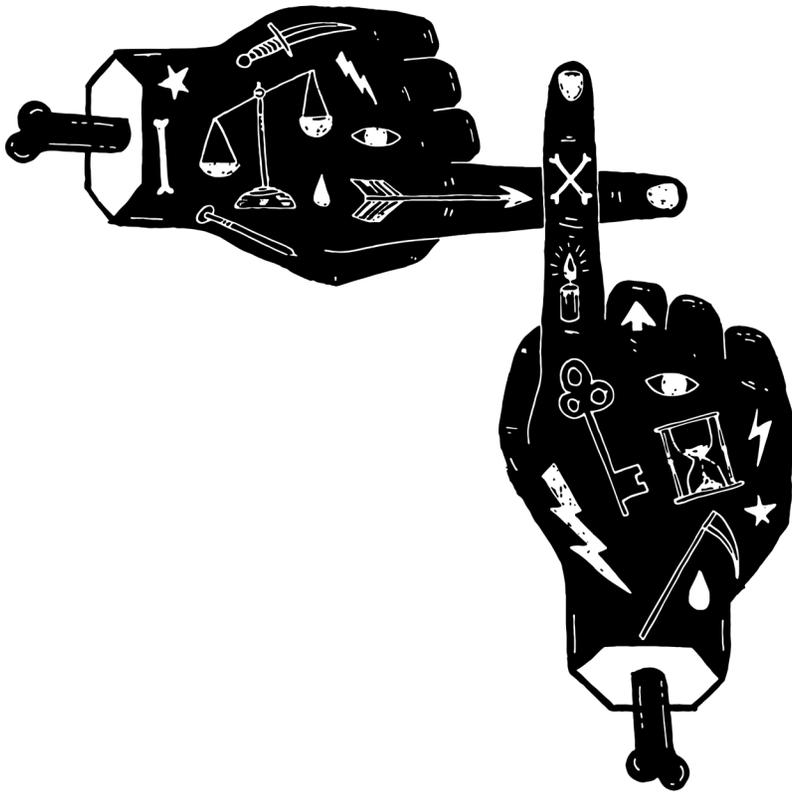
Let us pray:

**Almighty God, your Son was rejected and condemned to die by your own people. Grant that we may never reject his word of truth and salvation but follow him all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SONG

*Jesus Paid it All*

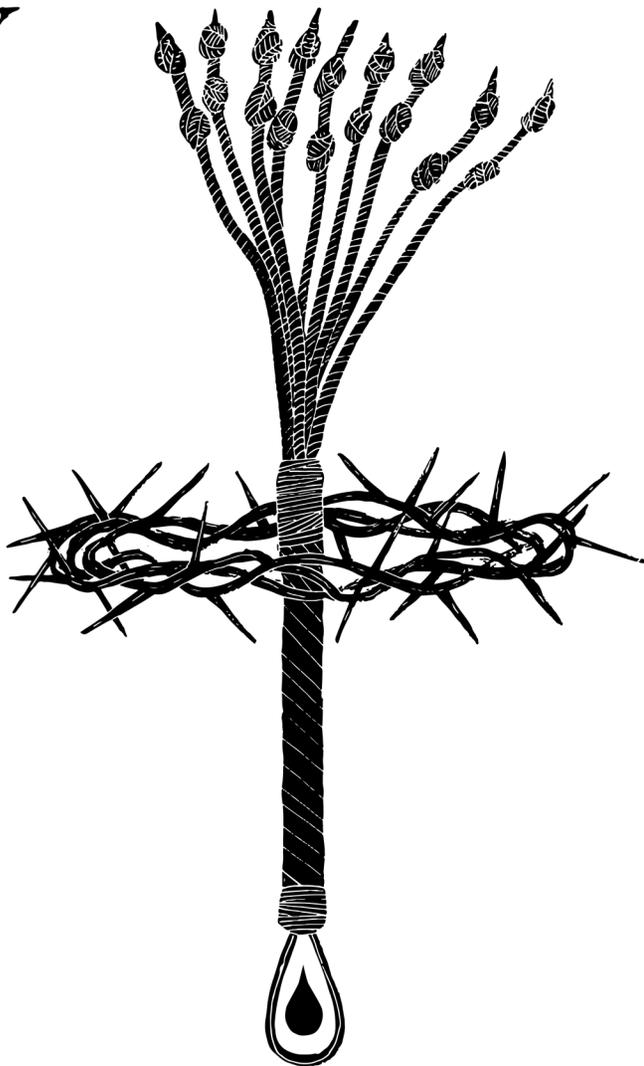
III



*JESUS IS CONDEMNED*

"But this is your hour - when darkness reigns." Luke 22:53

IV



JESUS IS MOCKED

"But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" John 18:23

## Station 4—JESUS IS MOCKED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**John 18:19-24**

*Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*

What brings on our mockery? Was it power? Fear? A belief that true victory comes in strength and not weakness?

Yes. And yet, Jesus does nothing. To stand up under such a weight—That is something only God can do.

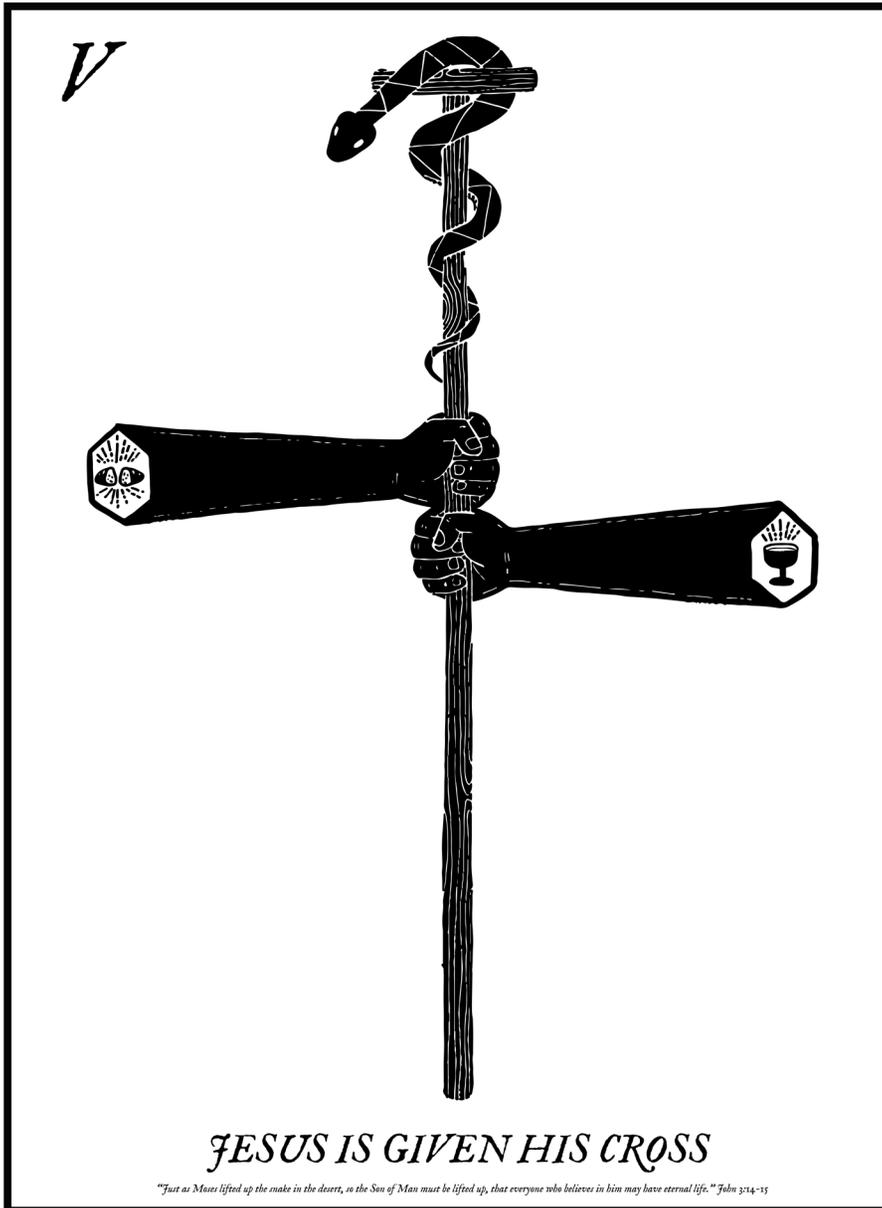
And we can, too. Only with his help.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Man of Sorrows, we acknowledge our part in your suffering in our desire for personal gain at the expense of standing up for you or in risking goodness towards others. Encourage us, guide us, and give us the strength to stand up, stand firm, and to follow through on our convictions. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**



## Station 5—JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### SCRIPTURE

**John 3:11-16**

*“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe; how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*

A wooden cross was handed to Jesus. Not a trinket, not a holy symbol, but a means of public torture and execution. “If any want to follow me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.” We are called to do the same.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Heavenly Father, your Son laid aside all power in order to take up the cross and show us the depths of your love for us. Increase our willingness to bear our own cross, for love of him and for love of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Station 6—JESUS FALLS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**John 12:23-26**

*Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.*

Imagine Jesus experiencing weakness and distress in this public setting, with nowhere to hide, nowhere to cover his cosmic humanity. Yet, in his weakness, Jesus identifies with our weaknesses, too. We fall. Jesus fell. And in doing so, he helps us to rise again.

### SILENT REFLECTION

#### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Lord God, your Son chose to be weak before the powers of this world, and you worked your power through him. In our time of weakness, help us to turn to you, that your power may work in us also; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SONG

*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*



## Station 7—SIMON CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 23:26-31**

*As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"*

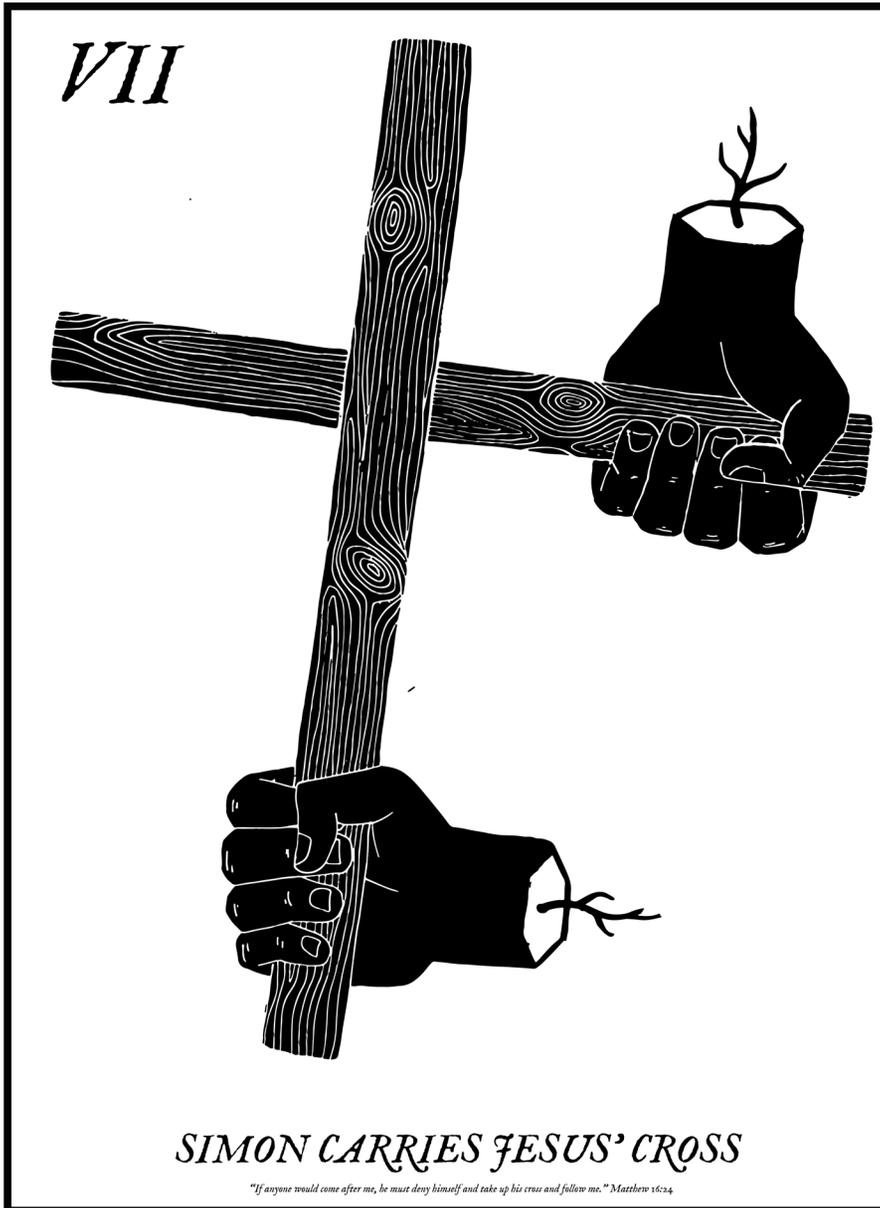
Simon didn't carry his own cross—He carried the cross of Jesus. Jesus' sweat and blood inhabited that wood, now pressed on Simon's back. What must he felt—Helping the Christ carry his cross? What must we feel, as we too, bear the cross of others in our world?

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Loving Father, you have called us into fellowship under the cross of your Son that we might bear your love to all in the world. Help us to be as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need, that all may be called out of the darkness into the light of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Station 8—JESUS IS STRIPPED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 23:34**

*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.*

Romans crucified criminals naked, fully exposed with no hope of discretion. Christ is stripped of everything that separated him from others. Which is exactly what the cross of Christ teaches us today.

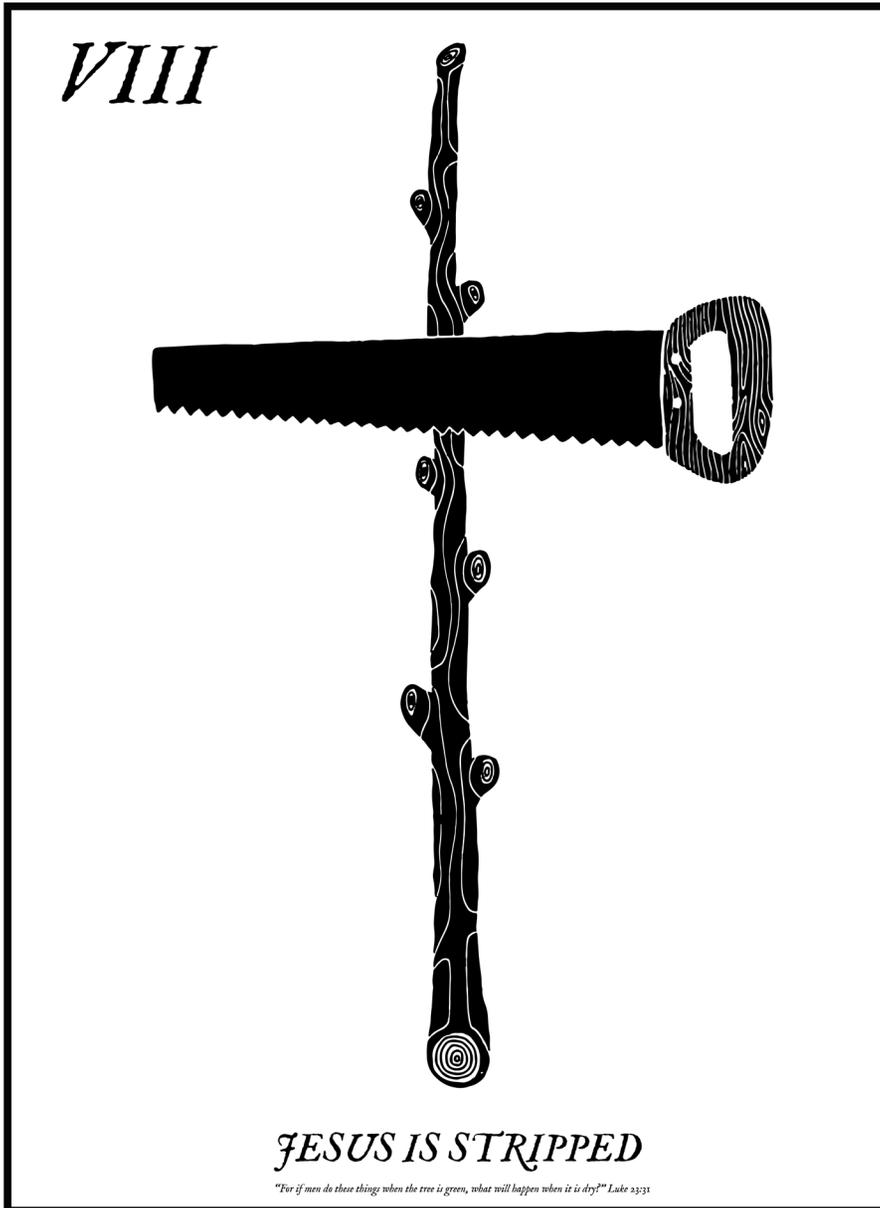
Nothing separating us from him. Nothing he would not do for you and me.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Lord God, your Son endured humiliations and indignities beyond compare, yet without complaint. Keep us humble in our work and daily lives with a willingness to put others before ourselves as Jesus put us before himself; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Station 9—JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 27:45,46**

*From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

It had to be a crown of thorns  
Because in this life that we live  
For all who seek to love  
A thorn is all the world has to give

And why did it have to be  
A heavy cross He was made to bare  
And why did they nail His feet and hands  
His love would have held Him there.  
(from the song *Why?* by Michael Card)

### SILENT REFLECTION

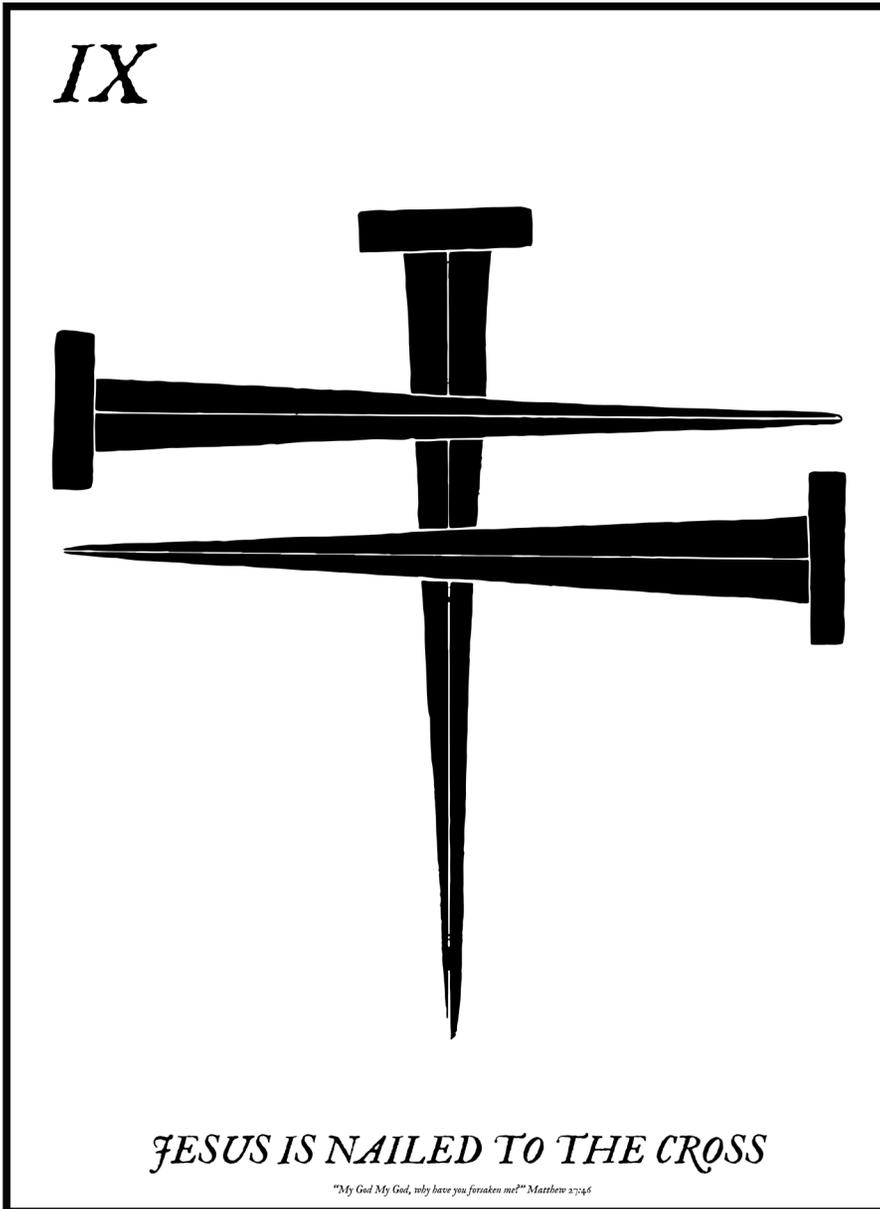
### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Heavenly Father, despite his wounds, Jesus showed his love throughout his passion: for his mother, for the women of Jerusalem, for the good thief, even for those who nailed him to the cross. Bind us ever to that love, and help us to look beyond ourselves and our sufferings in order to share that love with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SONG

*Why*



## Station 10—JESUS DIES

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### SCRIPTURE

**John 15:12-17**

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."*

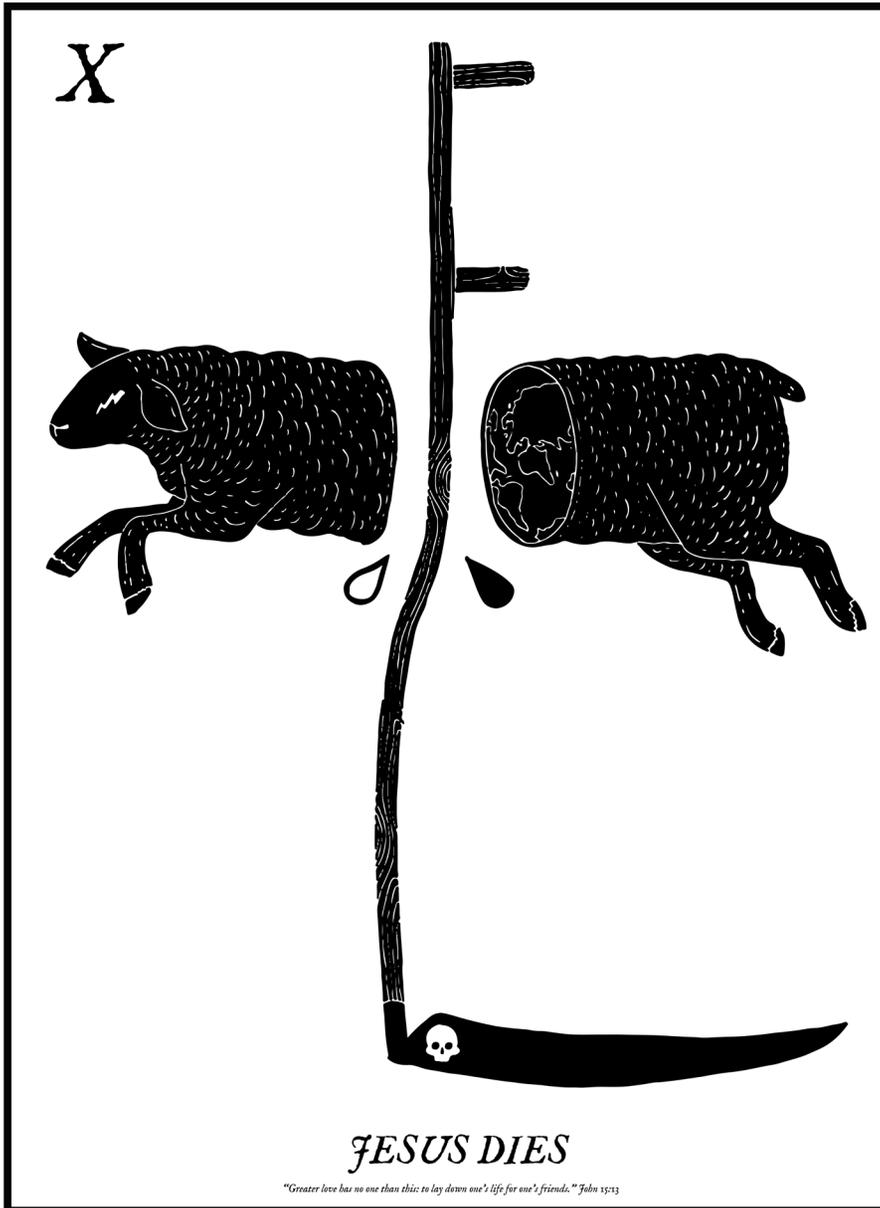
His death brings life, so that our lives might end the death around us. We are the people of the cross, followers of Christ. By his stripes we are healed, and through our lives lived in love, we help heal the world.

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Who would have believed it, O God? Who would have thought that the Savior would die? Yet in the world's darkest hour, you snatched him out of the jaws of death, crushing sin and death underfoot. Keep us ever close to his cross and death, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Station 11—JESUS IS BURIED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 23:50-56**

*Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.*

*On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.*

“When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:12-14)

### SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of hope, you have promised that if we are buried with Christ in the waters of Baptism, then we too will rise with him to new life. Make us ever mindful of our baptism and remove all stain of sin from us through repentance, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

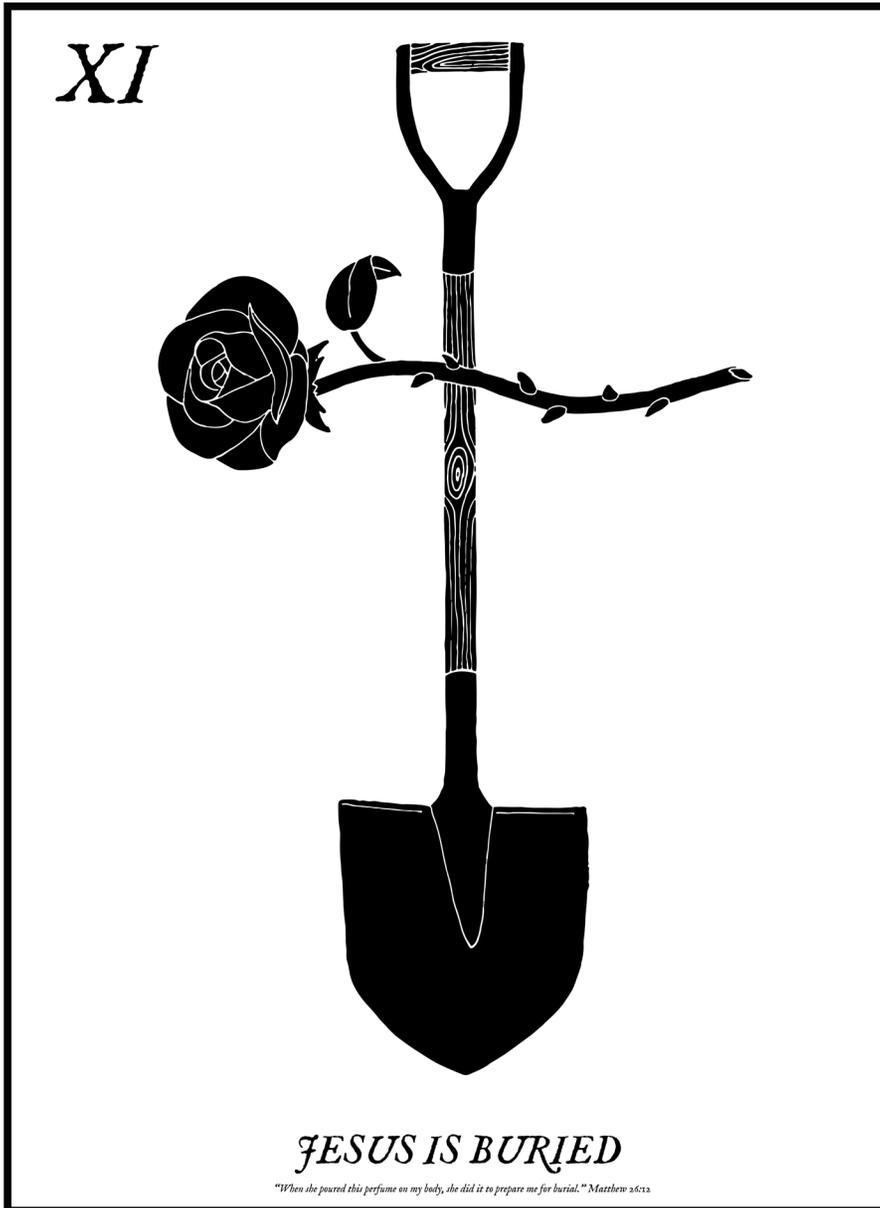
### MEDITATION

Rev. Kelly Hostetler  
Associate Pastor

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Dr. Jeff Lincicome

### THE LORD’S SUPPER HOLY TABLE



**Station 12—JESUS RISES**

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**People:** By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Revelation 1:12-19**

*Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.*

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this."*

The story ends.

Life begins.

What was lost is now found.

What was dead is now alive.

The rescue is complete.

Hallelujah!

**PRAYER**

Let us pray:

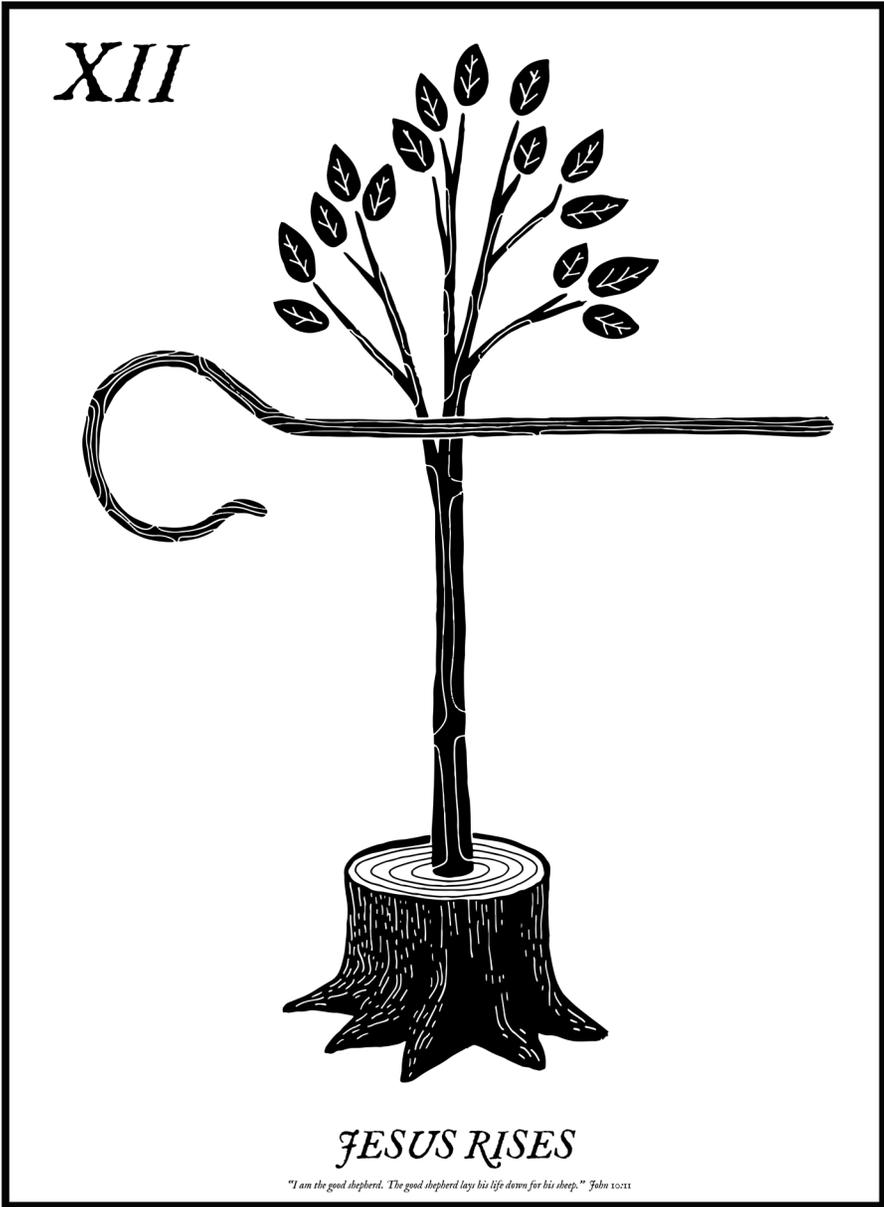
**Loving God, we are the people of the cross. We will remember. We will reflect. We will celebrate. We will proclaim that you are alive, that you are love, and that the world can have hope again. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG**

*Is He Worthy*

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kelly Hostetler

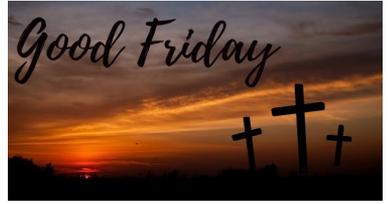


## Good Friday Tennebrae 7pm

This service has traditionally been a time to honor the griefs, losses and darkness of our own lives, as we hear the story of Christ's betrayal, suffering and death. **Have candles**

**ready to light** at the start, and extinguish at the end, as part of our liturgy. A very powerful time of worship, as we experience the reality of God-with-us in the dark.

The service will be available on both Facebook Live and the SPC website at: <http://spconline.org/livestream/>



## Easter Sunday 10am

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! The night has passed, and the morning has arrived; we rejoice in Christ's victory over death! Invite your facebook friends and email contacts to worship with us on Easter Sunday. Yes, the virus is near; but, Christ is nearer!



The service will be available on both Facebook Live and the SPC website at: <http://spconline.org/livestream/>



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