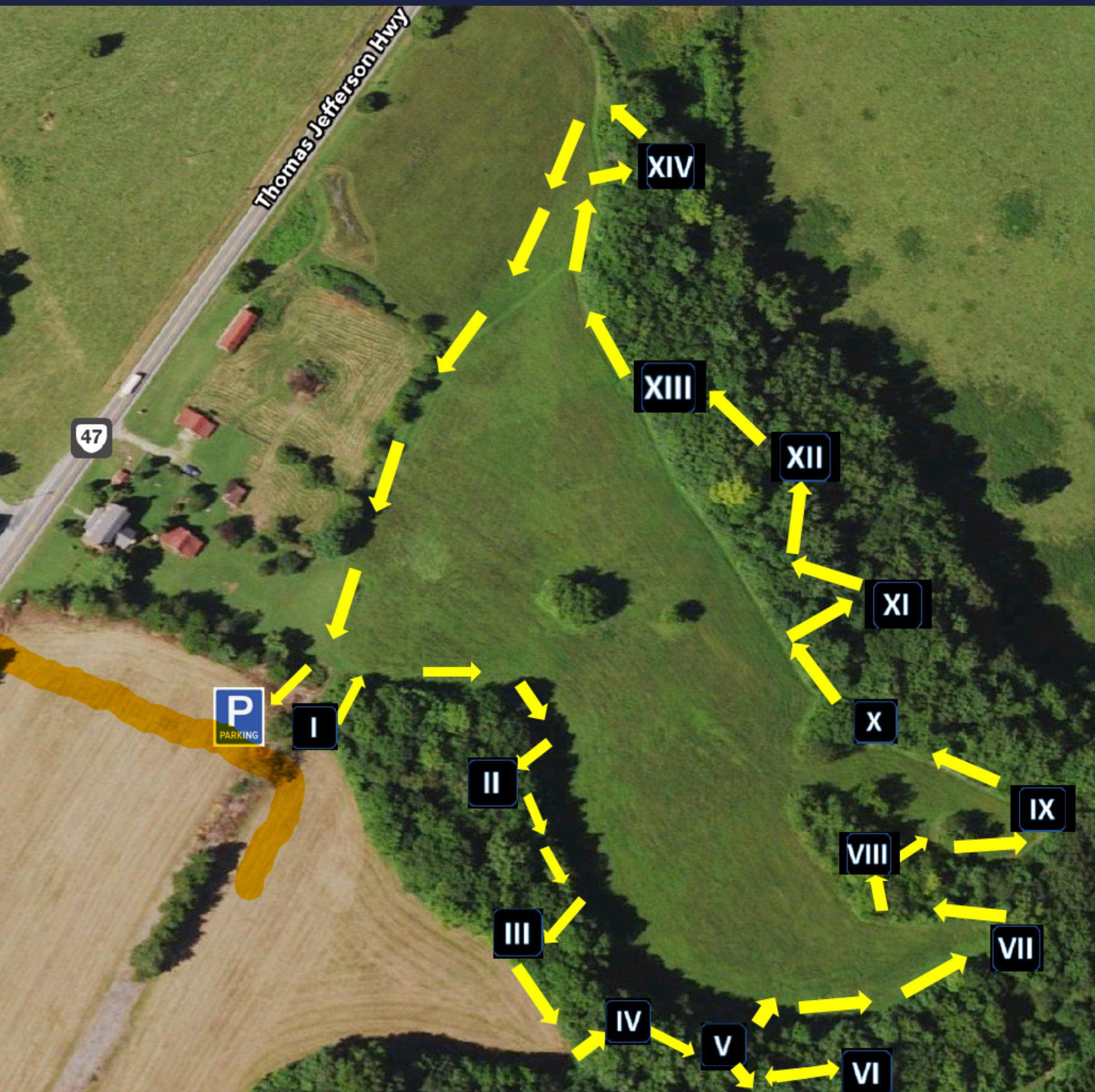




The Shepherd's Tavern WAY OF THE CROSS EXPERIENCE



We at The Shpeherd's Tavern Retreat & Farm have chosen to utilize the Way of the Cross material written by the folks at the COMPASS Center for Christian Formation and Leadership. All of the metal artwork is original craftsmanship by a Haitian artisan. The shelters were designed and made by our good friend, Gary Coy. Most everything else, God designed!

INVITATION

The Way of the Cross is an invitation to a personal retreat during Holy Week. It is an invitation to reflect on what the cross of Christ means for both our salvation and our formation. It is an invitation for you to spend some extended time with God.

This digital retreat guide is a modern take on stations of the cross. It includes art, scriptures, prayers and times for silence and reflection. Here are a few suggestions for your time:

- You can do this any time during Holy Week, but it may be most meaningful on Good Friday or Silent Saturday.
- Plan for one to two hours for your retreat.
- Find a quiet place to be alone – maybe a favorite chair in your home or a picnic table in a park.
- As a digital resource, it is designed to be used on a phone or tablet, but it can also be printed. If you do use it on your phone, we recommend turning on airplane mode so you can be free of distractions.
- Bring a journal or notebook and a pen.

It is our hope and prayer that God will draw near to you as you draw near to Him during your personal retreat.

Blessings,

Brad & Marmi Houff

Founders & Directors

Compass Center for Christian Formation & Leadership

Designed and written by Brad & Marmi Houff

COMPASSCENTERVA.ORG

Scriptures from World English Bible - a translation in the public domain

The Compass Center for Christian Formation & Leadership is a non-profit ministry located in Richmond, VA. Our mission is to guide leaders on a deeper journey with Christ by helping them learn to live, love and lead like Jesus. We offer retreats, workshops, spiritual direction and leadership coaching. To learn more, go to CompassCenterVA.org.

 **COMPASS**
Center for Christian Formation & Leadership



STATION I

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

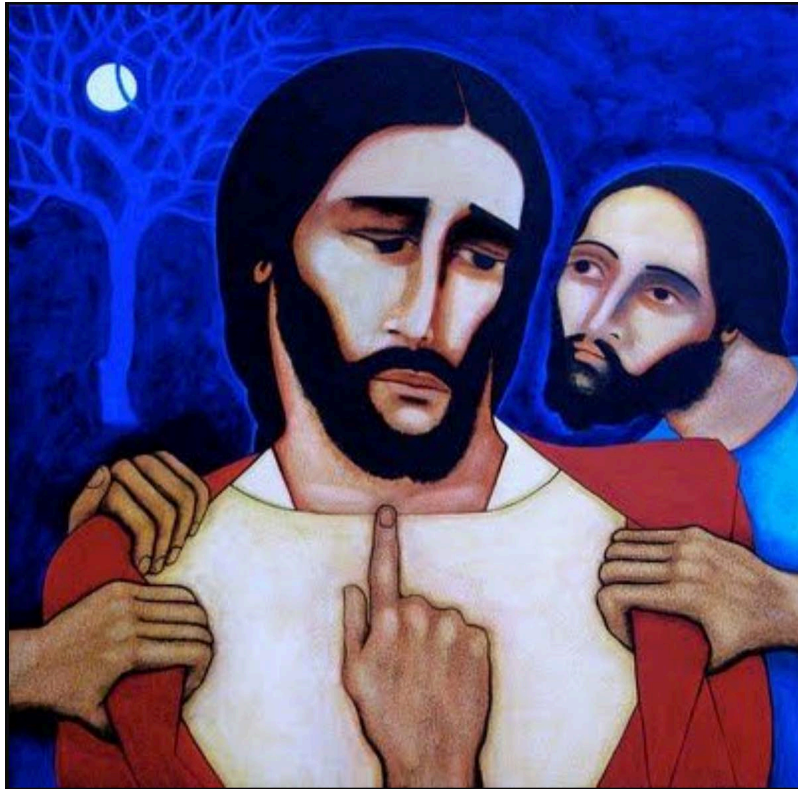
READ **Mathew 26:36-43**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go there and pray.”³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and severely troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me.”³⁹ He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.”⁴⁰ He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What, couldn’t you watch with me for one hour?⁴¹ Watch and pray, that you don’t enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”⁴² Again, a second time he went away and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup can’t pass away from me unless I drink it, your desire be done.”⁴³ He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

PRAYER Lord, teach me how to surrender.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me learn to trust you as we move through life together.



STATION II

JESUS IS BETRAYED BY JUDAS AND ARRESTED

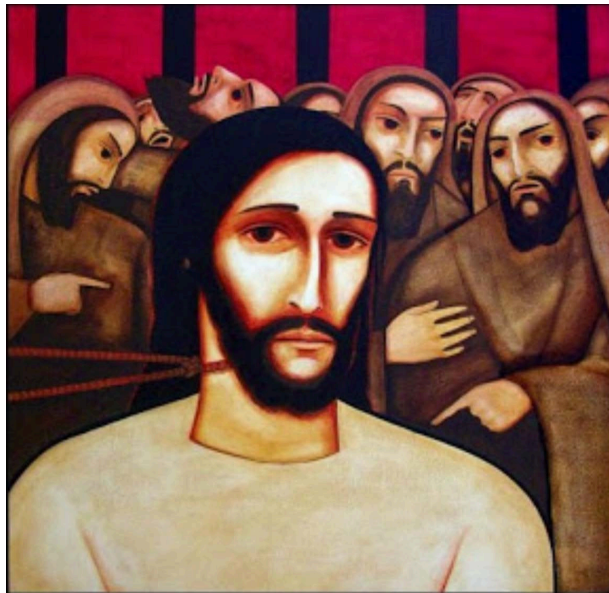
READ Mark 14:43-46

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came—and with him a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now he who betrayed him had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I will kiss, that is he. Seize him, and lead him away safely.” ⁴⁵ When he had come, immediately he came to him, and said, “Rabbi! Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ They laid their hands on him, and seized him.

PRAYER Lord, teach me how to love those who betray me.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me be faithful in relationship with you and with others.



STATION III

JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY SANHEDRIN

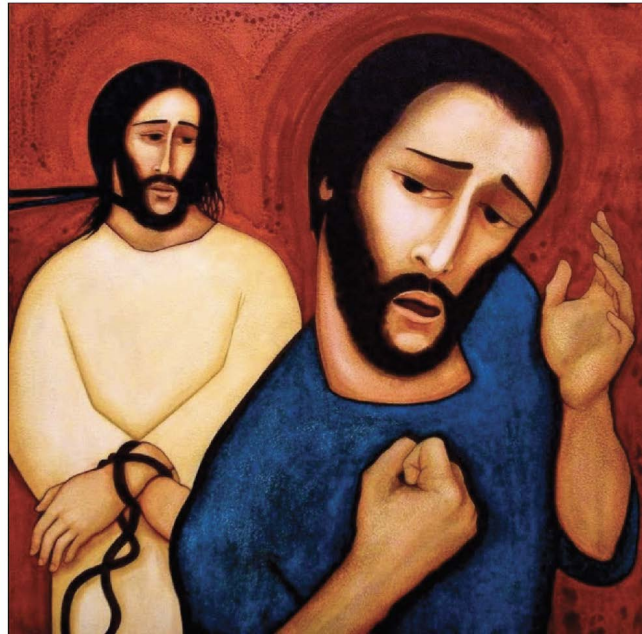
READ Mark 14:53, 57-65

They led Jesus away to the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes came together with him. ⁵⁷ Some stood up, and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’” ⁵⁹ Even so, their testimony didn’t agree. ⁶⁰ The high priest stood up in the middle, and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it which these testify against you?” ⁶¹ But he stayed quiet, and answered nothing. Again, the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶² Jesus said, “I am. You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of the sky.” ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes, and said, “What further need have we of witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?” They all condemned him to be worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to beat him with fists, and to tell him, “Prophecy!” The officers struck him with the palms of their hands.

PRAYER Lord, teach me to tell the truth, no matter what the cost.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me eliminate all that is false in me.



STATION IV

JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER

READ Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the court, and a maid came to him, saying, “You were also with Jesus, the Galilean!”⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”⁷¹ When he had gone out onto the porch, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth.”⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I don’t know the man.”⁷³ After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, for your speech makes you known.”⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and to swear, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately the rooster crowed.⁷⁵ Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Then he went out and wept bitterly.

PRAYER Lord, teach me to not react in fear.

SILENCE



STATION V

JESUS IS JUDGED BY PONTIUS PILATE

READ Matthew 27:15-17,20-24

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the multitude one prisoner whom they desired. ¹⁶They had then a notable prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷When therefore they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹But the governor answered them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” ²²Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do to Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let him be crucified!” ²³But the governor said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they cried out exceedingly, saying, “Let him be crucified!” ²⁴So when Pilate saw that nothing was being gained, but rather that a disturbance was starting, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this righteous person. You see to it.”

PRAYER Lord, teach me to not be indifferent to injustice.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me engage the needs in my world.



STATION VI

JESUS IS FLOGGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS

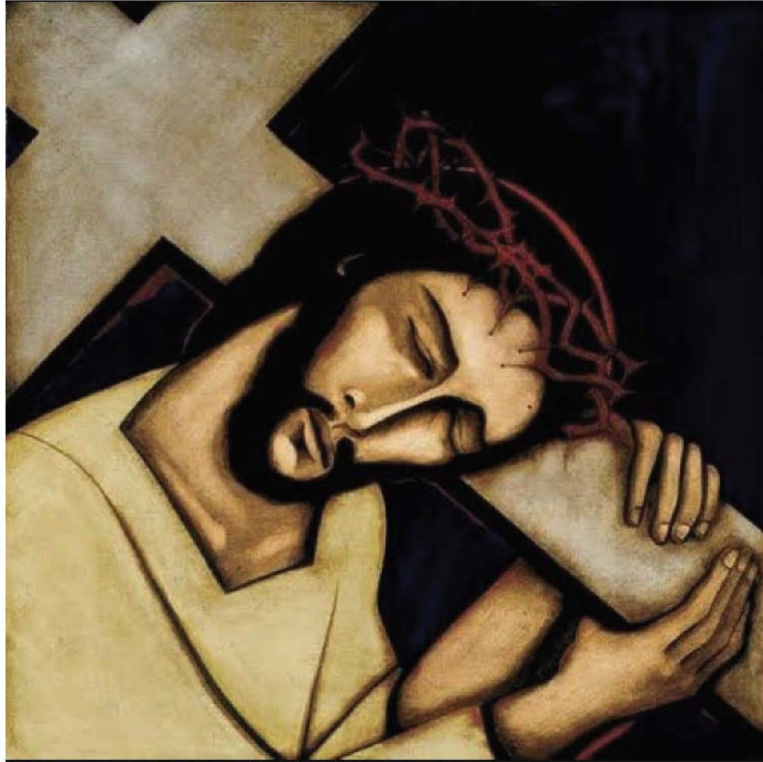
READ Matthew 27:27-31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered the whole garrison together against him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹They braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹When they had mocked him, they took the robe off him, and put his clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

PRAYER Lord, teach me how to endure the pain of this world.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me to never strike back.



STATION VII

JESUS BEARS THE CROSS

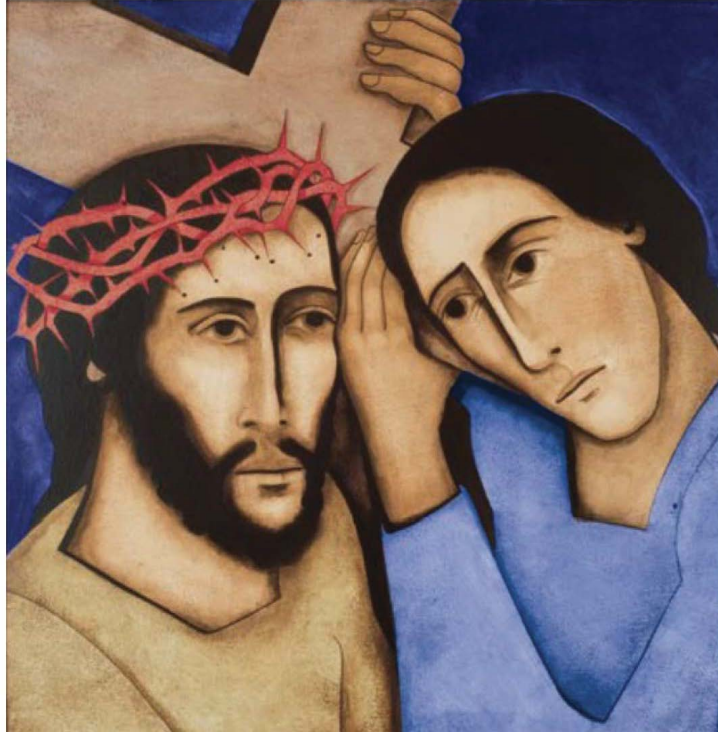
READ John 19:16-17

Then he delivered him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. ¹⁷ He went out, bearing his cross, to the place called “The Place of a Skull”, which is called in Hebrew, “Golgotha”

PRAYER Lord, teach me to bear my burdens well.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me pick up my cross to bear and follow you.



STATION VIII

JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON TO CARRY THE CROSS

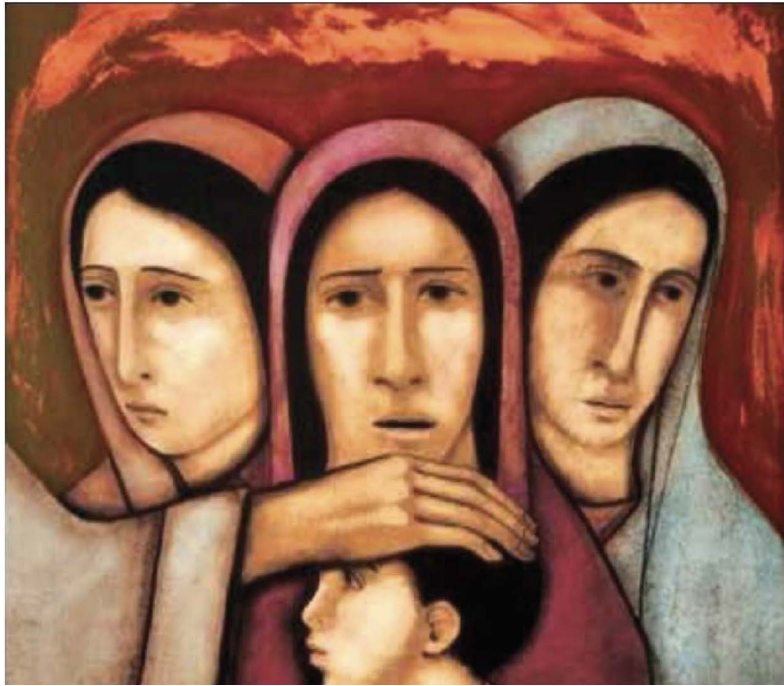
READ Mark 15:21-22

They compelled one passing by, coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to go with them, that he might bear his cross. ²²They brought him to the place called Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, “The place of a skull.”

PRAYER Lord, teach me that I need to let others help me.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me to be less independent and instead, live within community.



STATION IX

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

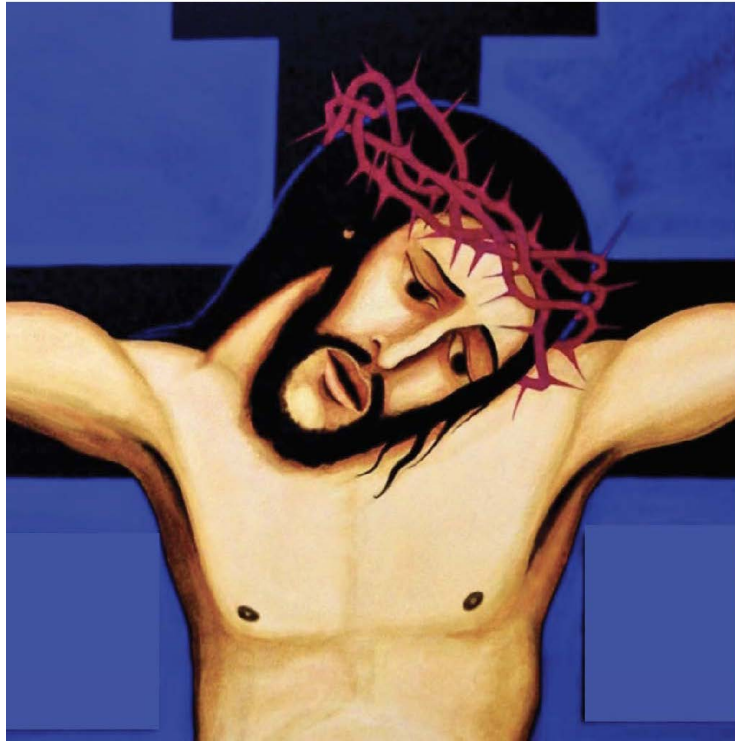
READ Luke 23:27-28

A great multitude of the people followed him, including women who also mourned and lamented him. ²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

PRAYER Lord, teach me to hold the pain with others.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me mourn and seek to offer relief and love.



STATION X

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

READ Matthew 27:33-37

When they came to a place called “Golgotha”, that is to say, “The place of a skull,”³⁴ they gave him sour wine to drink mixed with gall. When he had tasted it, he would not drink.³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided his clothing among them, casting lots,³⁶ and they sat and watched him there.³⁷ They set up over his head the accusation against him written, “THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

PRAYER - Lord, teach me that sometimes there are no words.

SILENCE

SURRENDER - Lord, help me to trust even in darkness...



STATION XI

JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE GOOD THIEF

READ Luke 23:32-34,38-43

There were also others, two criminals, led with him to be put to death. ³³ When they came to the place that is called “The Skull”, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots. ³⁸ An inscription was also written over him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

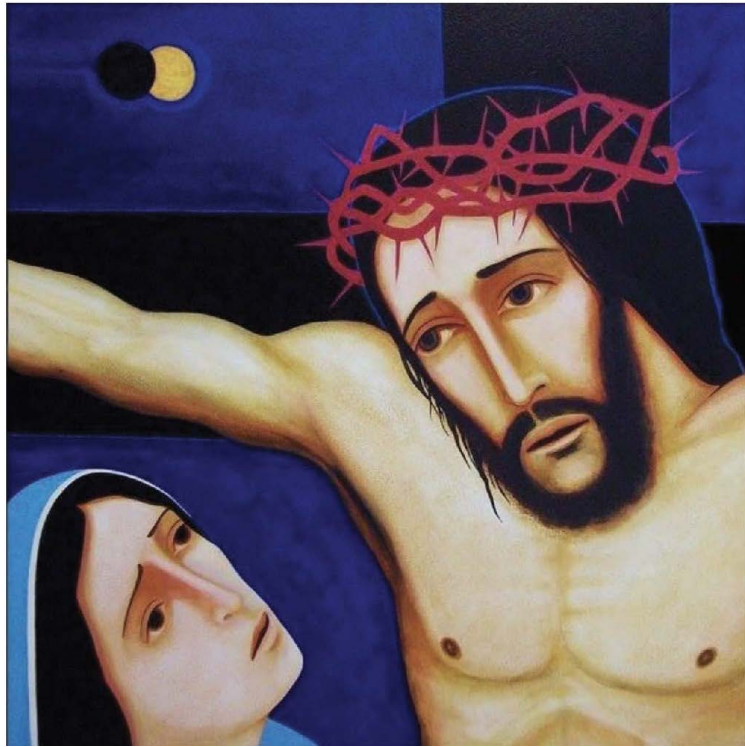
³⁹ One of the criminals who was hanged insulted him, saying, “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Don’t you even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?

⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² He said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus said to him, “Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

PRAYER Lord, teach me that even in suffering, I can extend mercy.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me love others even when I am suffering.



STATION XII

JESUS SPEAKS TO HIS MOTHER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

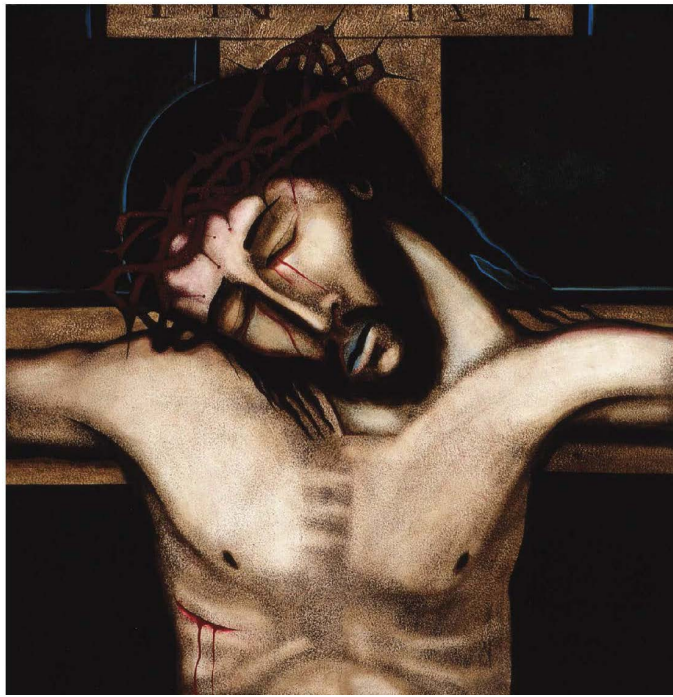
READ John 19:25-27

But standing by Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour, the disciple took her to his own home.

PRAYER Lord, teach me to be intentional with my love for others.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me make connections with those who are hurt and in need.



STATION XIII

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

READ John 19:28-30 and John 3:16-17

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ Now a vessel full of vinegar was set there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop, and held it at his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.

PRAYER Lord, teach me to understand what Christ accomplished for me on the cross.

SILENCE

SURRENDER Lord, help me trust in Christ alone for my salvation.



STATION XIV

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

READ Matthew 27:57-61

When evening had come, a rich man from Arimathaea named Joseph, who himself was also Jesus' disciple, came. ⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given up. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

PRAYER - Lord, teach me how to wait, with faith.

SILENCE

SURRENDER - Lord, help me rest in my anticipation of your resurrection.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONCLUDING YOUR RETREAT:

- Return to any of the designs, scriptures or prayers that seemed especially meaningful for you. Ask God to show you what he might be inviting you to learn.
- Get a journal or a piece of paper and respond by writing what is on your mind or in your heart. This may be your personal thoughts or a prayer to God.
- End your retreat with *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. The words are below for you to read or sing. You may want to find it on Spotify or Youtube so that you can sing along. We suggest the new version by Chris Rice (lyrics provided on the next page)

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood

See from his dead, his hands,
His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Where the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

