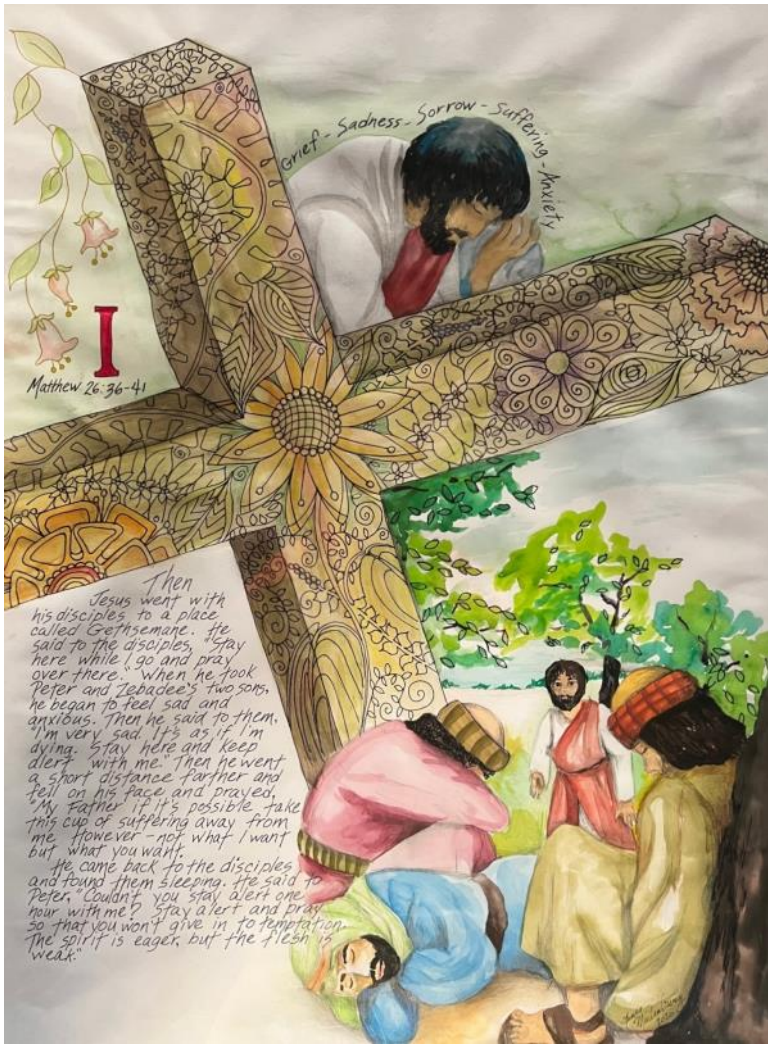


# The Way of the Cross



A Lenten Devotional

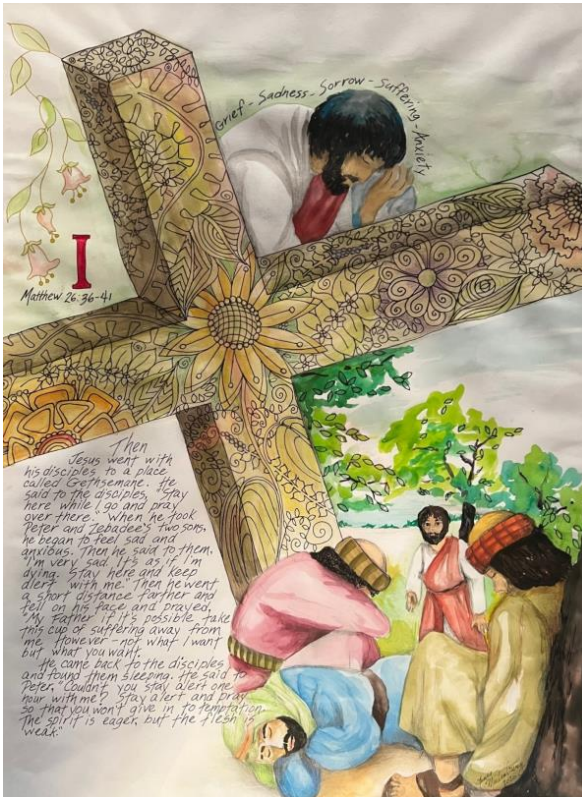
Featuring artwork by Linda Muilenburg  
Questions by Rev. Alexis Johnson

For centuries, people have made pilgrimages to Jerusalem to trace the footsteps of Jesus as he carried his cross to Calvary—the “Via Crucis,” or the Way of the Cross. Over the centuries, the pilgrimage route became known as the “Via Dolorosa,” or the Way of Sorrow. Every year during Lent, particularly on Good Friday, thousands of Christians retrace the route of Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. Along the Via Dolorosa, chapels and places to pray or meditate are signified as stations of the cross.

We are so grateful for Linda Muilenburg and her consent to replicate her beautiful artwork for this journal. The art featured is from Linda’s Stations of the Cross series that is displayed in our Sanctuary. Our photos of her work are nowhere near as impressive as the real thing so, we hope you will come see them in person.

There are 14 stations of the cross. We invite you to visit 2 or 3 each week until Easter. Our hope is that as you reflect on the scripture and images you will find something new as you make your way to Easter Sunday.

# Station 1



## Matthew 26:36-41

Grief • Sadness • Sorrow • Suffering • Anxiety

Reflect on Jesus, the leader, being sad and anxious. If you were face to face with Him in that moment, what words of comfort would you offer? Would you stay awake and stay present with Him?

---

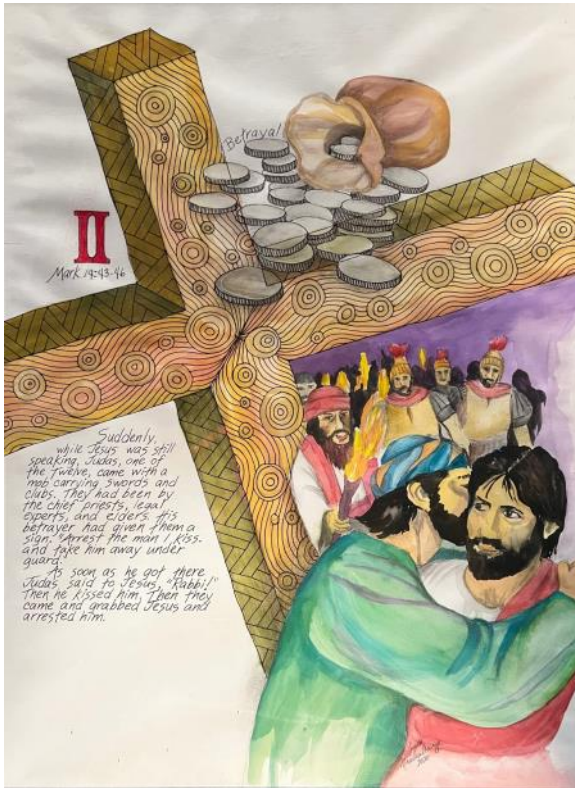
---

---

# Station 2

**Mark 14:43-46**

Betrayal



Greeting with a kiss is a sign of equality and intimacy. When those closest to us betray us, it cuts deeply. Write down the name of anyone that has betrayed you. What would it take to heal from the hurt and even offer them your forgiveness?

---

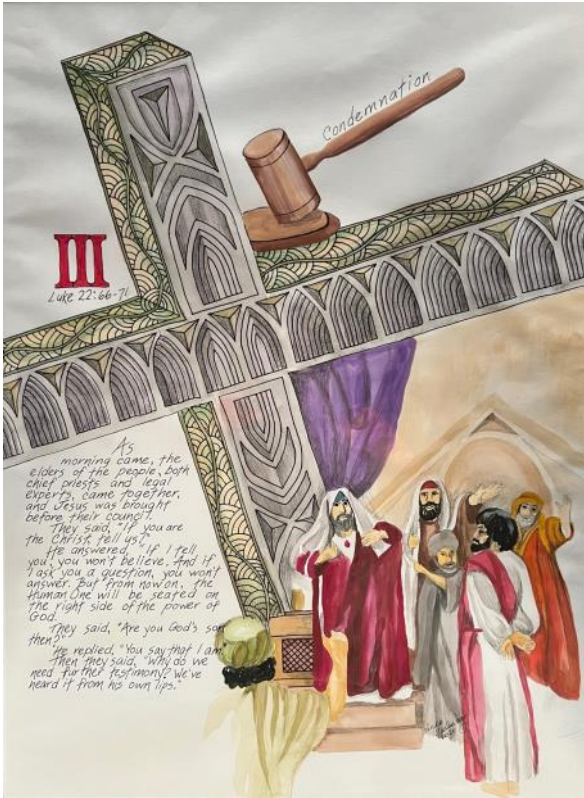
---

---

# Station 3

**Luke 22:66-71**

Condemnation



Jesus speaks truth instead of saving His earthly body. What is more important to you than your own earthly life?

---

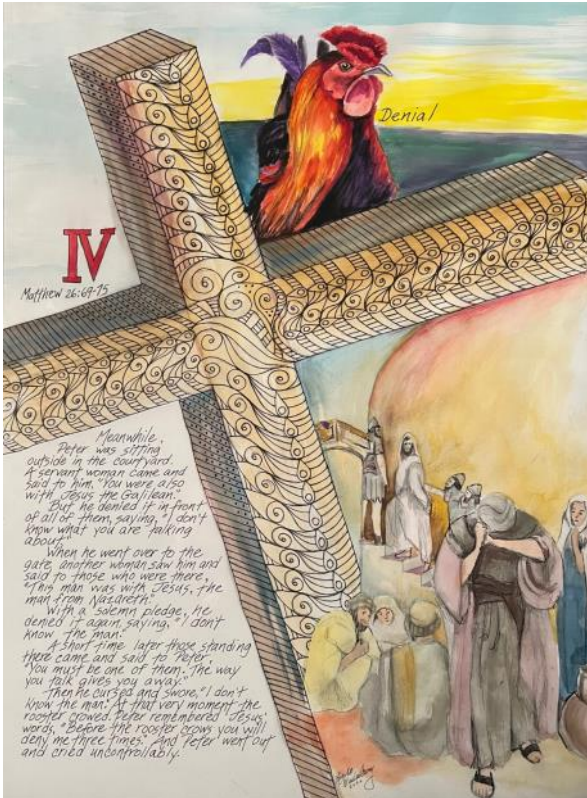
---

---

# Station 4

## Matthew 26:69-75

### Denial



Fear and shame are powerful drivers in our lives. What have you done to distance yourself from perceived danger? Do you regret these decisions?

---

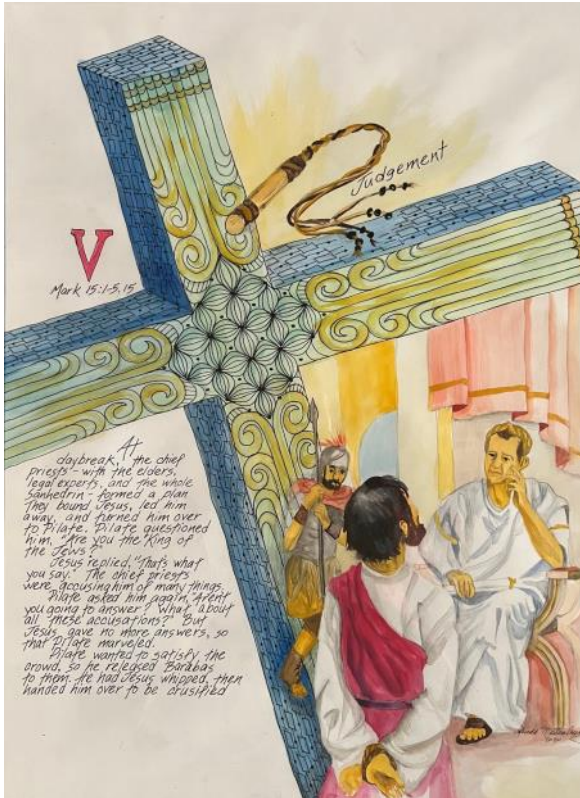
---

---

# Station 5

Mark 15:1-5, 15

Judgment



There were people in the crowd who had called Jesus Savior mere days before His trial. Now they followed the mob to call for His death. Where would you be in the crowd? When have you allowed popular opinion to sway your actions?

---

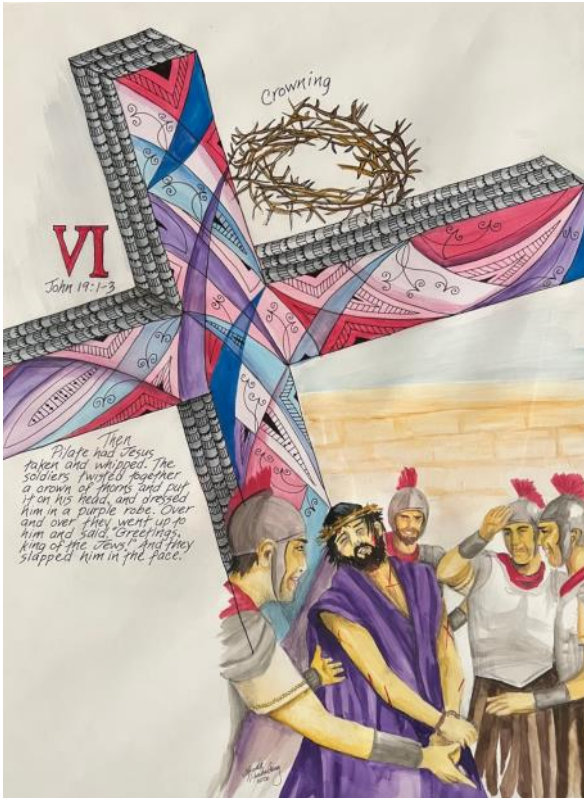
---

---

# Station 6

**John 19:1-3**

Crowning



We've all heard sticks and stones...but do words really never hurt us? We live in a world full of mocking and cruelty. Who are we called to be? How might our words heal?

---

---

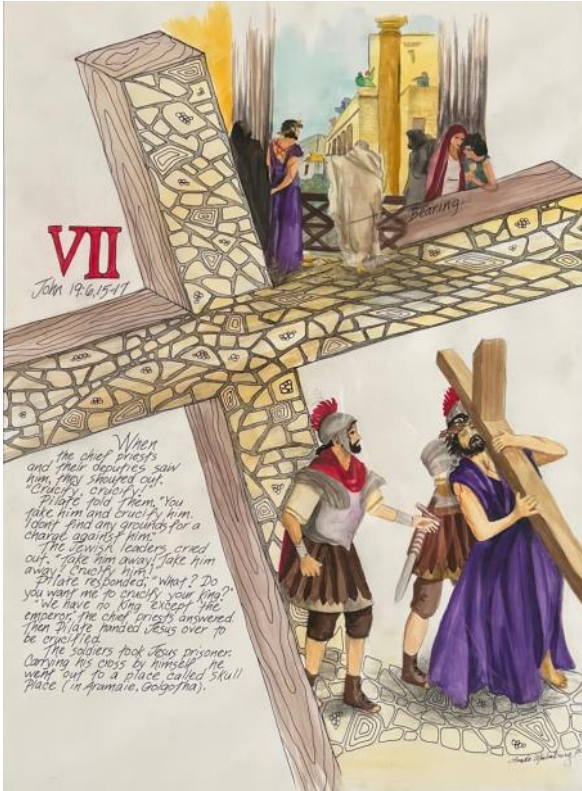
---



# Day 7

John 19:6, 15-17

Bearing



Pilate seems helpless to the crowd and he compromises what he knows to be right. When have you lived outside your values or compromised your belief?

---

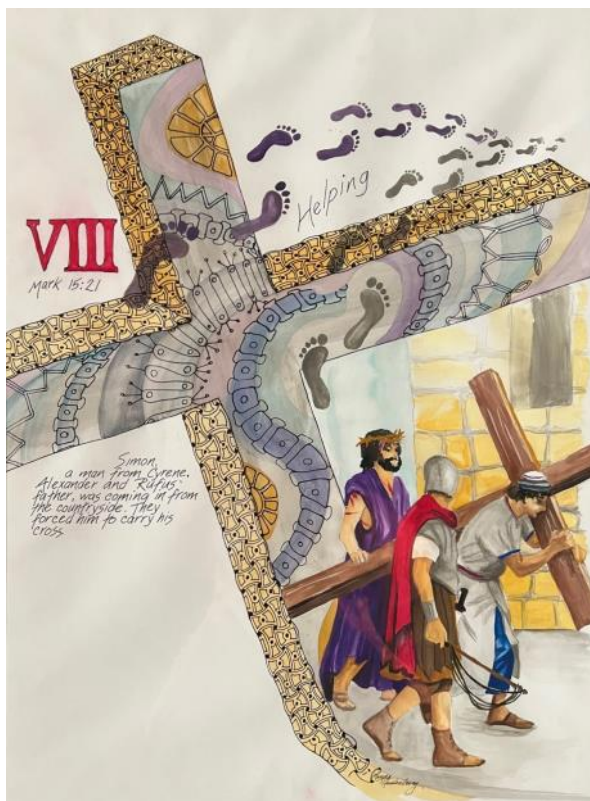
---

---

# Day 8

**Mark 15:21**

Helping



Mr. Rogers always told us to look for the helpers. When have you been a helper? When have you had help?

---

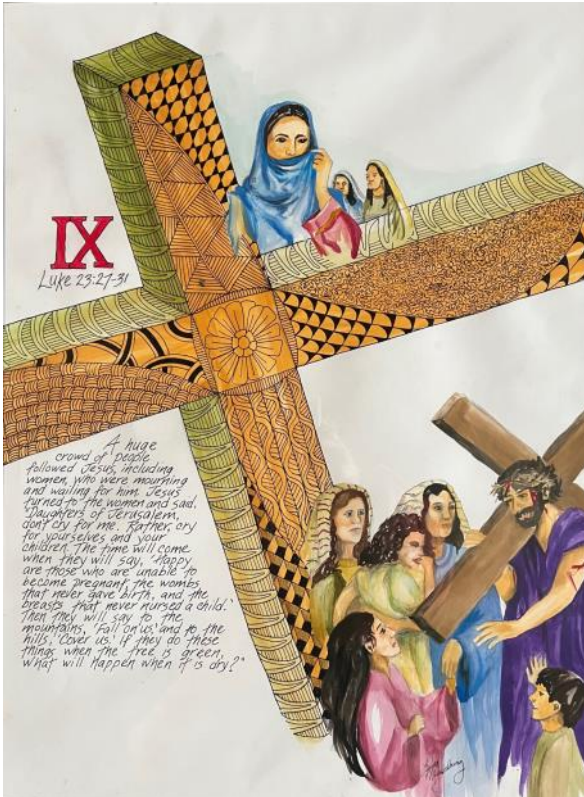
---

---

# Day 9

**Luke 23:27-31**

Despair



Despair comes when we suspect tomorrow will either be the same as today or worse. Jesus's words predict something worse. When have you grieved or had dread for the future?

---

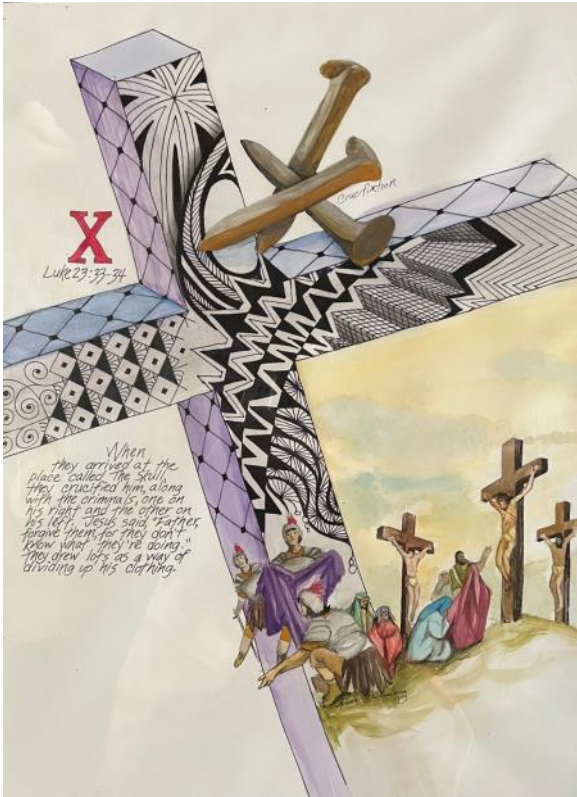
---

---

# Day 10

## Luke 23:33-34

### Crucifixion



Some of Jesus's last words are of forgiveness and reconciliation to those killing Him. What might our last words or thoughts be?

---

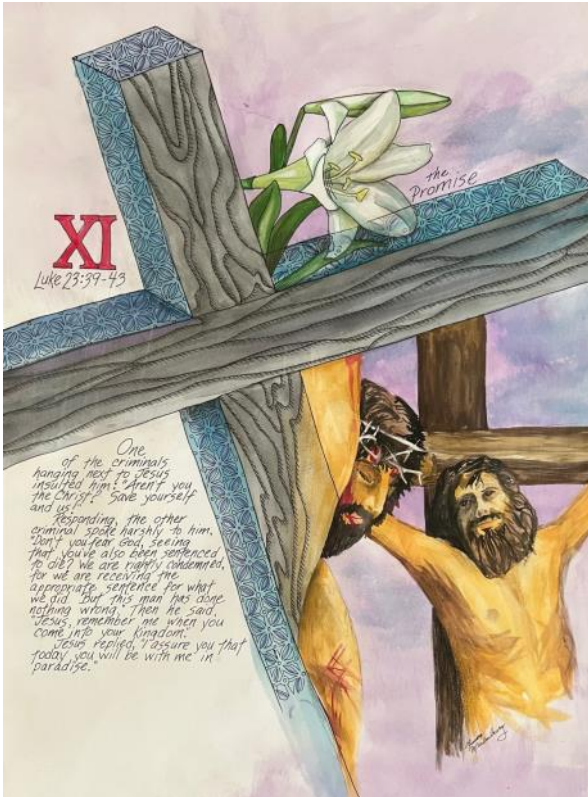
---

---

# Day 11

## Luke 23:39-43

### The Promise



It is never too late to be reconciled to God through the work of Jesus and to experience assurance of our promise of the Kingdom through the work of the Spirit. Have you accepted the gift of the promise of eternal life? What do you picture when you imagine paradise?

---

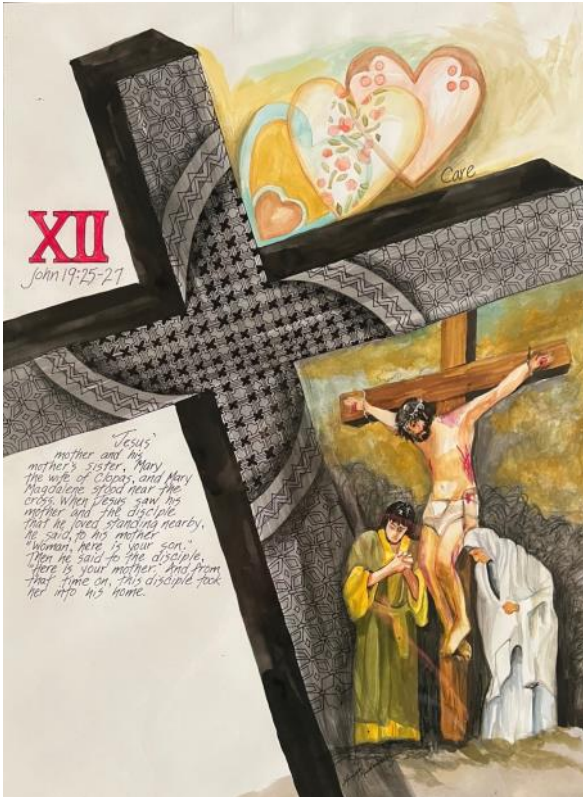
---

---

# Day 12

**John 19:25-27**

Care



It is a holy and harrowing experience to be there for someone's last breath. Write down the names of those you love who have died. Take time to pray and grieve for them. What relationships changed in your life in the face of shared grief?

---

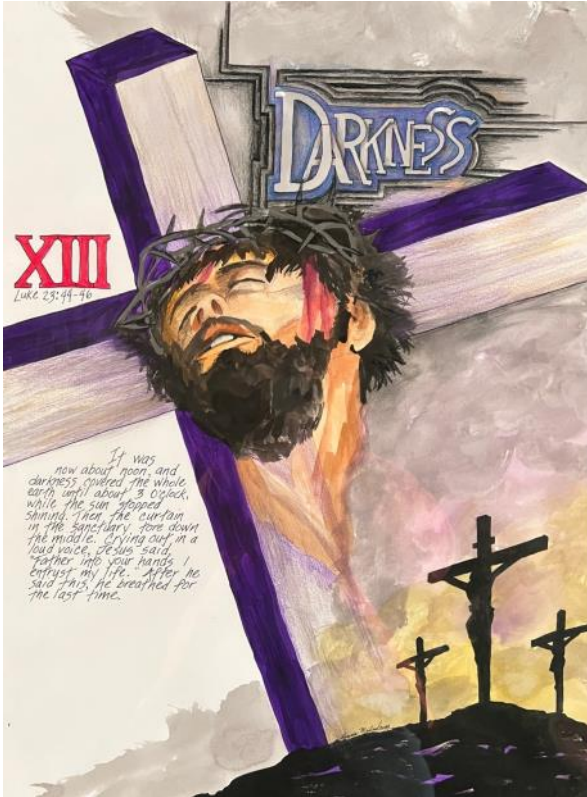
---

---

# Day 13

**Luke 23:44-46**

Darkness



Often the barriers between us and God are made by our own hands. Or by someone else's hands whose work we just accept. What barriers in your life does God want to tear away for a fuller relationship with Him?

---

---

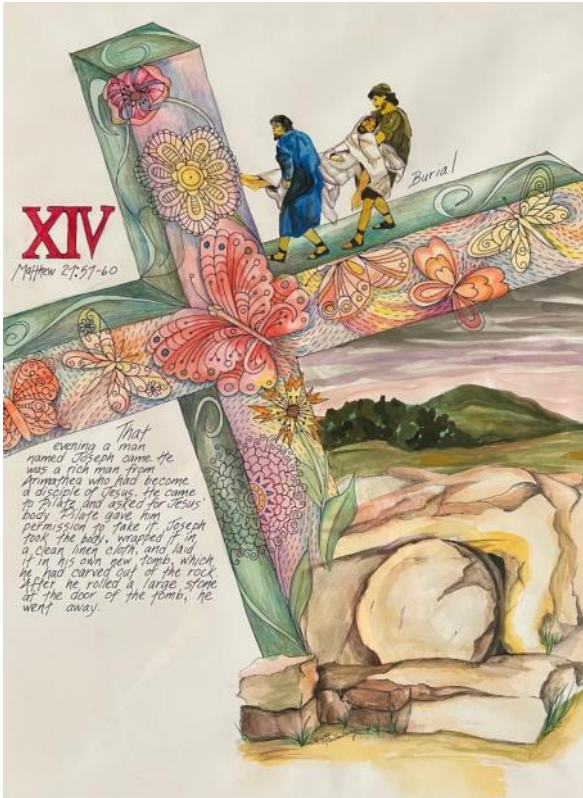
---

# Day 14

## Matthew 27:57-60

### Burial

S



Sometimes we have no idea what is needed and what we could offer. Joseph offers the best of what he does have and some thing that is desperately needed in the moment. What unexpected gifts and resources do you have to offer to meet some one's most desperate needs?

---

---

---



What is something new you discovered about through the Scripture you read?

---

---

---

What is something new you discovered about yourself?

---

---

---

What new feelings or insights have you discovered about Easter?

---

---

---



Our time together in Lent will truly be a training ground in Spiritual Discipline. We'll look at scripture, talk about the why, and briefly touch on the how. Then we will have a time in each service to try the discipline, when possible, for a brief time. When it is not possible to engage the discipline directly, there will be space for prayer, meditation, communion, and service.

Join us  
**Sunday Worship**  
8:30 & 10:30 AM



**BROADWAY**  
United Methodist

100 BLOCK | COUNCIL BLUFFS

BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**Rev. Alexis Johnson, pastor**

11 S. First Street

Council Bluffs Iowa 51503

723-322-7741