

Stations of the Cross

Lent 2023

images and reflections by All Saints 8th Graders

I

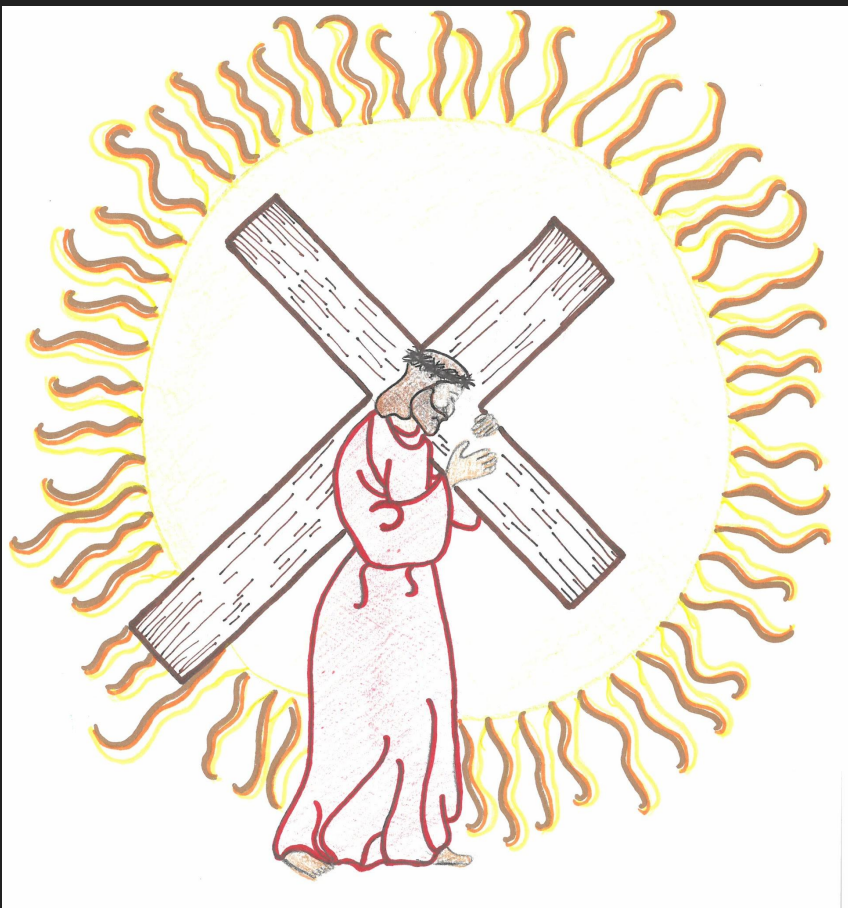
The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus was sentenced to death by Jewish leaders, the Sanhedrin. Groups of people were very threatened by Jesus' teachings and because he was subversive and radical.

There will be times in our everyday lives where we will have to face some kind of adversity or opposition, where we will have to stand up for what is right just like Jesus did throughout his entire life. Even if others might not agree, in our everyday lives, may we work to make sacrifices for what is truly right, just like Jesus.

credits: Finley Dalton (text) & Merrin Murphy (illustration)





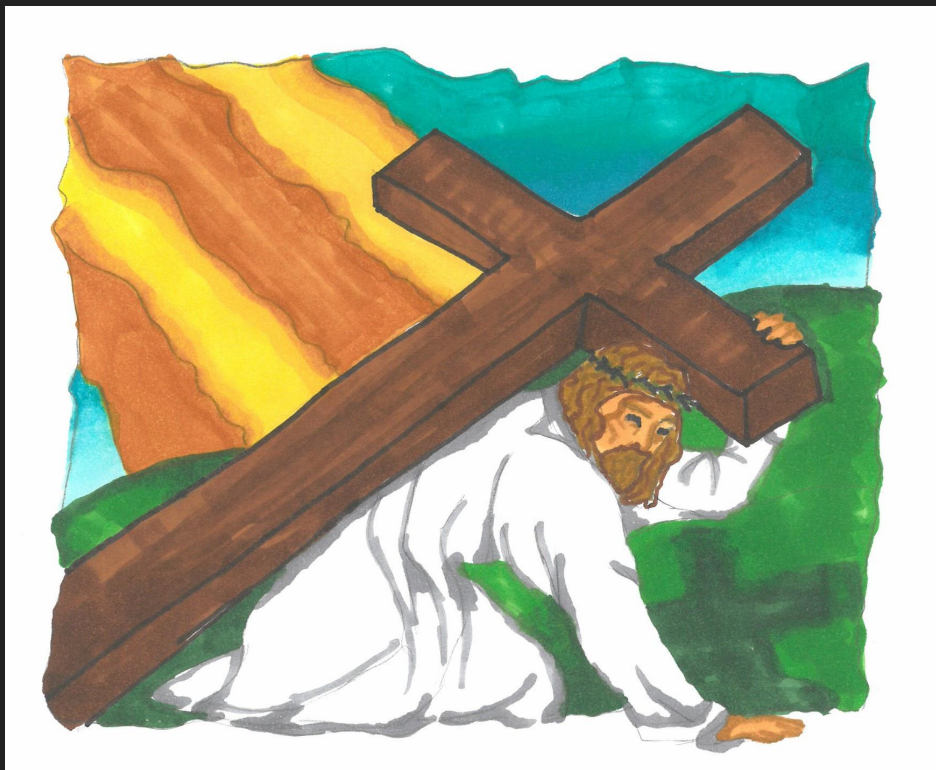
II

The Second Station: Jesus is made to carry his cross

In our lives, we all bear the burden of carrying our own crosses. These burdens are what make us human. When Jesus is given his cross to bear, he is reminded of the weight his people carry every day. With this in mind, he accepts his obligation to save us. With every step Jesus takes, he enters the fullness of being human. As he receives his cross, we are called upon to live in Jesus' footsteps and walk towards joy and freedom.

Oh Lord, help us call upon the strength inside ourselves to carry our crosses. Allow us to see the way to forgiveness and respite. Instill in us the integrity it takes to accept you and your glory. Amen.

credits: Nila Swinford



III

The Third Station: Jesus falls for the first time

When Jesus falls the first time we see that he is vulnerable and suffering under the weight of the cross. It's possible to imagine that he is feeling exhausted, humiliated and in pain. His fall reminds us that Jesus is human because his suffering is both real and difficult. In our daily lives, we experience setbacks and failures often. Some of these experiences knock us down and we think about quitting or giving up, but like Jesus, we look inside and find the strength to go on even though it seems impossible.

Oh God, when we are doing difficult things, they seem hard enough. But sometimes they become even harder, our suffering seems too much bear, and when we fall things seem even worse. Please God help us to rise up and continue on our journey knowing that your love and support will guide us.

credits: Carmen Zonca



IV

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother Mary

In this moment, Jesus stops to meet his mother while the cross still rests over his back. The sacrifice Jesus makes at this moment is the sacrifice of his time. Even under the burden of his heavy load, he greets his Mother. Mary also puts her own pain aside to give comfort to her Son.

We can sacrifice for others, even if it costs us pain. We bear a lighter load, and we are still sons and daughters of God trying to do the best we can as good humans. Jesus gave everything so we could have the promise of eternal life.

credits: Autumn Eddy (illustration) & Sam Martin (Text)

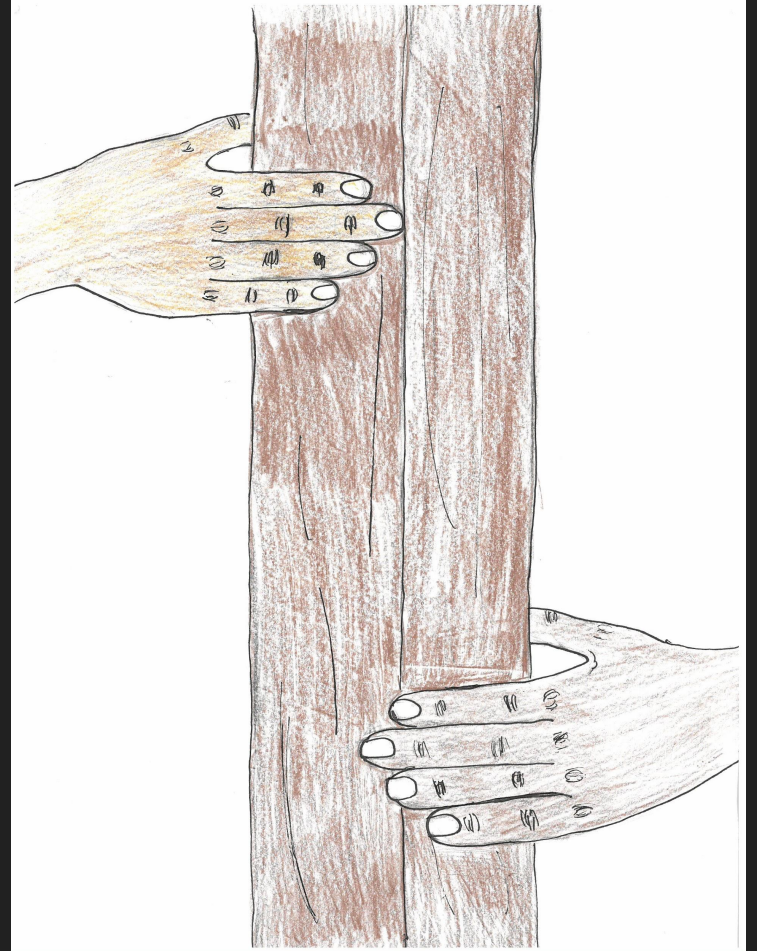
V

The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

Jesus is struggling to carry the cross. The soldiers are becoming impatient. As Jesus is growing weaker, the soldiers grab a man out of the crowd to help carry the cross. His name was Simon of Cyrene. He had come to Jerusalem to worship during the Passover. As people were watching and weeping, Jesus slowly continued his journey on the Via Dolorosa, behind him, a stranger carrying his cross.

Do not be afraid to ask for help. People are willing to lighten your load and give you a break. It is nothing to be ashamed of. Oh God and loving Father, help us to know we can ask for help when we need it, and that it doesn't show lack of strength or character, but the opposite. Amen.

credits: Charlotte Faulkner (text) & Margot Stuart (illustration)





VI

The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Veronica was just a face in the crowd, but when she noticed the blood, sweat and tears coming down Jesus' face, she needed to help him. She stepped out of the crowd and used her veil to wipe his face. She faced persecution from the soldiers, but she did it anyway. According to legend, an imprint of Jesus' pained face was left on her veil.

During this Lenten season, help us be like Veronica and allow ourselves to turn away from temptation and help others in need.

credits: Claire Comstock (illustration) & Jack Harrington (text)

VII

The Seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time

As Simon walks with Jesus through the crowd, the weight of the cross becomes too heavy to bear, and Jesus falls for the second time. Although Simon was there with him, it is still too much to bear. As the cross weighs down on him, it presses the crown of thorns deeper into his head. Through the pain, Jesus will get up and continue, even though he is suffering.

Lord, when sin and temptation become too heavy for us, guide us through times of hardship. Let us pray for all whose hearts have fallen. May we always find the strength to keep trying.

credits: Ben Ayers, Leah Dickason (text) & Isla Hoffelt (illustration)



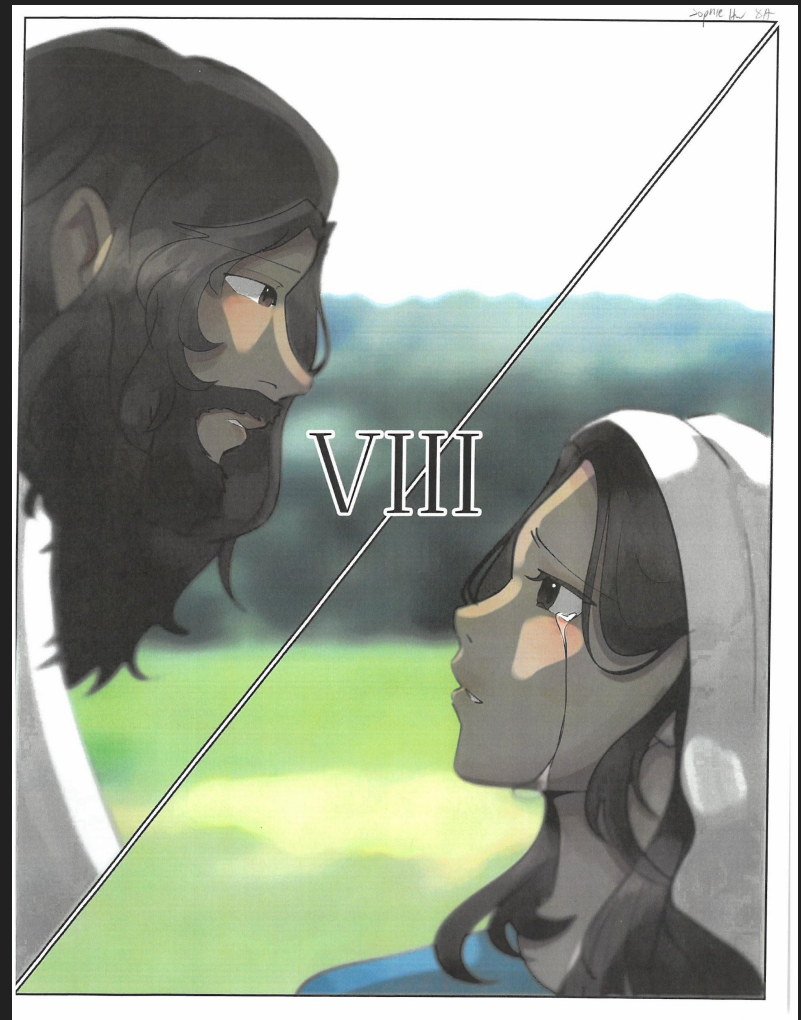
VIII

The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

As Jesus carries his cross, he is stopped by weeping women. Jesus tells them not to cry for him, but to cry for their children. Through this, he sends the message that no matter the situation, we must always remain kind and think of others. In our lives, when we think of acting selfishly or doing something for personal gain, we can remember how Jesus acted with the weeping women. It can remind us to be selfless and put the needs of others before our own.

Dear God, please help us to be compassionate and selfless. No matter how big or how small, help us make sacrifices for others and take care of the people around us. You show us the meaning of kindness and love. Please help us put your teachings into practice.

credits: Sophie Hu (illustration) & Veda Score(text)





IX

The Ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time

After being weakened by the burden of the cross, Jesus falls for the third time. He has carried the cross a long distance and is weak almost to the point of death. Though he has fallen, he knows that his journey is almost at its end and so he must persevere. We must remain faithful to God even when we think things won't get better. We all carry weights, like illness, the death of people we love, or loneliness. As humans, we all shoulder burdens.

Lord, help us to remember everything Jesus went through and how he died on the cross for us. May we recognize the burdens carried by those around us and help them lift the weight.

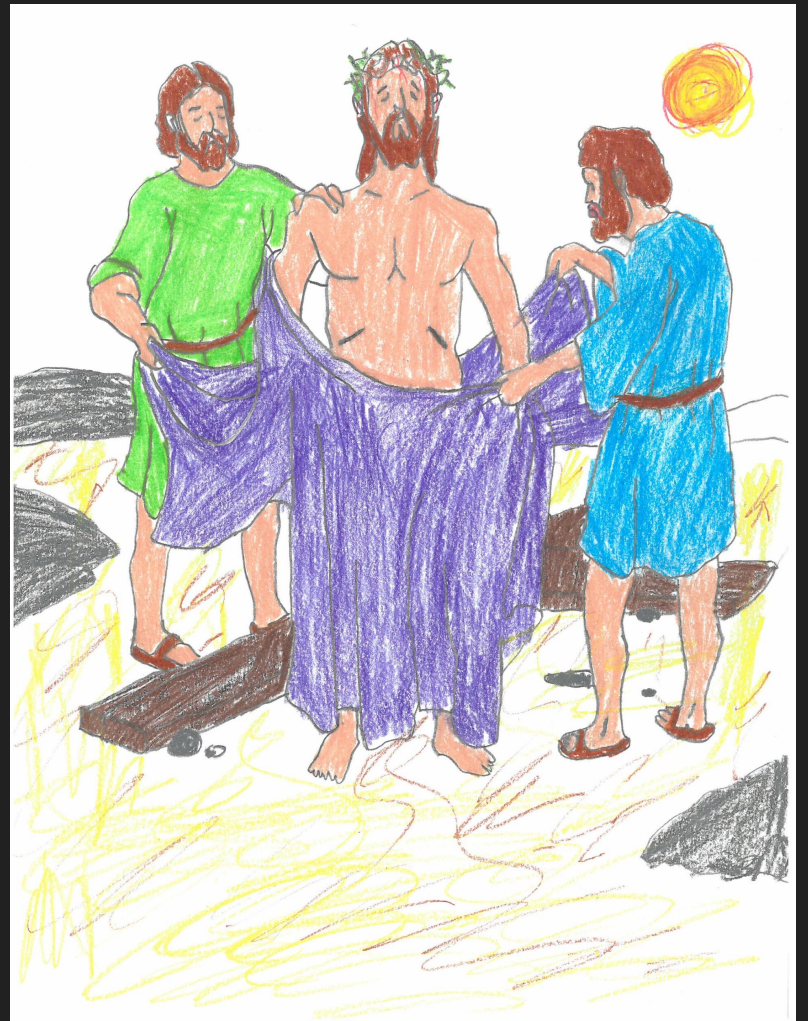
credits: Freddie Ferguson(illustration) & Ella Towle (text)

X

The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

After being beaten mercilessly and forced to carry his cross through the streets, Jesus came to the spot where he was to be crucified. Noticing that Jesus wore a nice robe, it was taken from him and gambled over by Roman soldiers. He is stripped of not only his clothing, but his dignity, as he is almost naked in front of a crowd of people, some jeering and yelling at him.

In this moment, Jesus reminds us not to dwell on what others may think of you and to stay humble, to know your worth. Lord, help us to learn humility through acts of service and prayer.



XI

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Jesus is stretched out and nailed to the cross. He endures great pain to show us how much he loves us.

Sometimes we think that things can't get any worse. We are often unprepared to deal with too much sorrow in our lives. We have to be ready for anything. Jesus, through his parables and his example, shows us that we can deal with things more effectively when we are mentally and physically prepared. Help us to be ready when you call.

credits: Norah Bodnar (illustration)



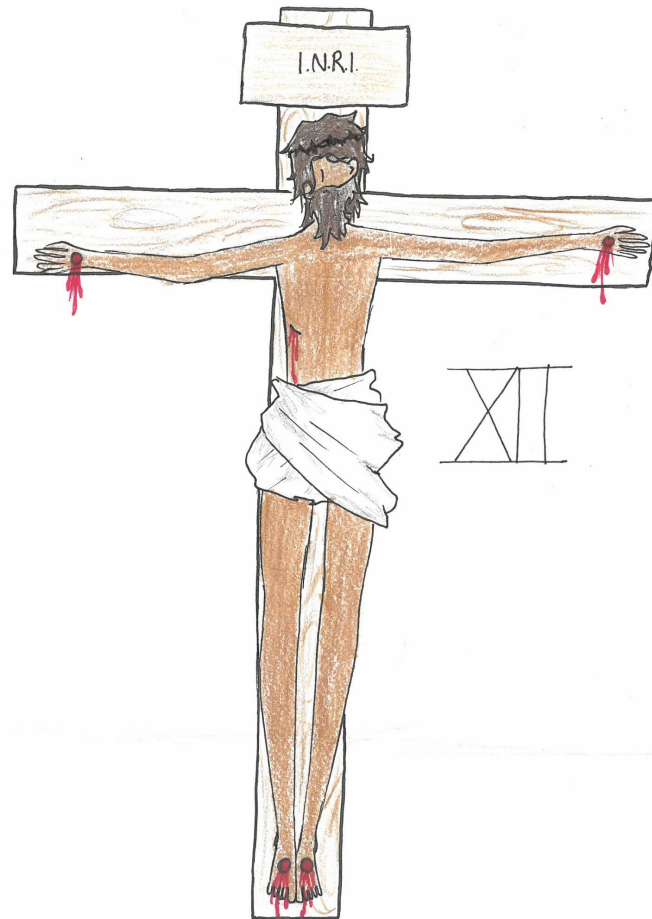
XII

The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Throughout his life, Jesus taught us how we should treat others and how to make the right decisions. He lived and died for us. He endured many trials and tribulations without complaint so that we might become better people.

There is a saying, "I asked Jesus how much he loved me. He reached out his arms and said, 'This much,' and then he died." Jesus' ultimate gift to us was his life. Even on the cross, he stretched out his arms and hands in love. Sometimes we stretch out our arms to receive rather than to give. Jesus gave the extreme gift of love. Help us remember, Jesus, to follow your example and extend our hands and hearts out to others that we may give of ourselves.

credits: Medora Sack (illustration)



XIII

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross

After Jesus died on the cross around midday in Jerusalem, he was taken down off the cross by his faithful followers. His followers cleaned his body and carried him to a tomb. Mary and the rest of Jesus' faithful followers with great care laid him in the tomb, put a cloth over his body, and said their final goodbyes. They sealed the tomb closed and Roman guards watched the tomb. After being tortured and suffering a terrible death, Jesus is at peace. We have had to say goodbye to people we have lost in our lives the way Jesus's followers had to say goodbye to Jesus. His followers mourn his death and remember him the same way we grieve in our loss.

Lord, please help all those that have lost friends and relatives recently, please help comfort those that are mourning and help them move on but still remember those they love to help them feel the warmth of your love and the presence of you.



credits: Gavin Hanley (text) Connor Sicut (illustration)

XIV

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Burying people who have died is taught to us by Jesus as one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. When Jesus' friends laid him in the tomb, they honored his teachings. This gave Jesus honor and dignity in his death. It showed Jesus' holiness and also showed how much his friends cared for him.

When the tomb is sealed, it seems like Jesus will be gone forever. Death has triumphed over life. But Jesus promised he would rise again on the third day, and not even being sealed in a tomb can stop him.

credits: Gavin Hanley (illustration)

