

The Stations of the Cross

Family Faith Program and Youth Ministry



Journeying Together with Jesus: Seek and Listen, Reflect, and Pray

Church of St. Francis Xavier

Friday, February 23, 2024

6:30 pm

Welcome

Opening Song

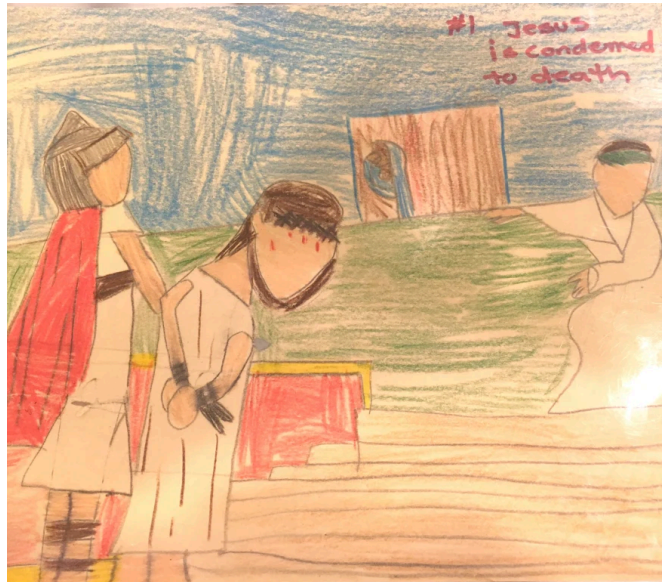
O Sacred Head, Surrounded (Cantors: Anika and Adriana Braganza)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Dear Jesus, today, we join our community in prayer as we retrace the stations of your final journey of love. We pray that you guide us in our mission to spread love and kindness in the world. We want to show empathy and compassion to those around us, knowing that every act of kindness brings us closer to you. Let the Cross remind us of the struggles of children in need and all who suffer worldwide. We hold them in our hearts today and always.

All: Amen.

1st Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death



An art painting by a child depicts Pilate dressed in a white robe and laurel leaf crown sitting on a bench (right side of the painting) with Jesus flanked by a Roman soldier with his hands tied behind him (left side of the painting.) Jesus is wearing a white robe and has a crown of thorns on his head. Predominant colors are: red, blue, brown, green and white.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death, and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Jesus was accused of many crimes he didn't commit. Today, millions of children are condemned to death by malnutrition and starvation. Lord, help us to see You, condemned once again, in these children – our brothers and sisters.

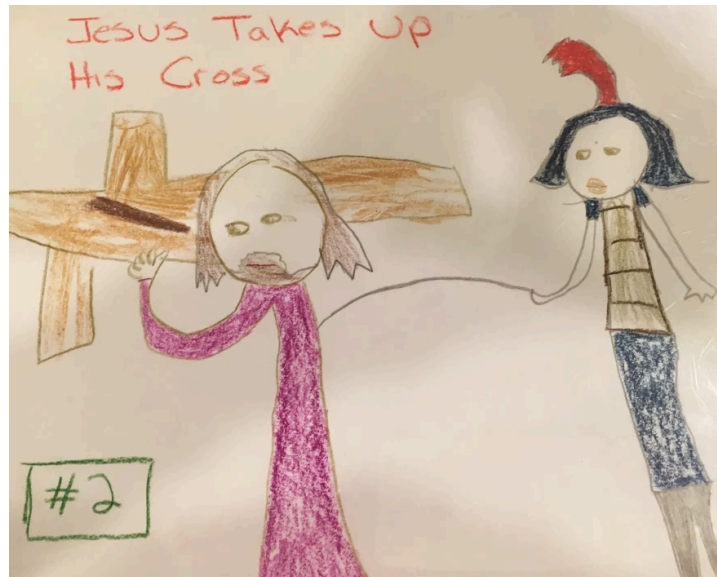
All: God, help us to be grateful for the gift of food. May we use the energy our food gives us to serve others. Help us during this Lenten season to give up some food or treat so that others may be less hungry.

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2nd Station: Jesus is Made to Carry His Cross



The image, created by a child, shows Jesus (left side of the painting) dressed in a purple garment taking up his cross with a Roman soldier on his back holding a whip in his right hand. Predominant colors: purple, brown, black and red.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death, and Resurrection you have set us free..

Leader: The cross was big and heavy. It was hard for Jesus to carry it. We Christians identify the cross as a symbol of suffering. We all have trials and afflictions. Sometimes, we are so wrapped up in our own trials that we fail to recognize the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

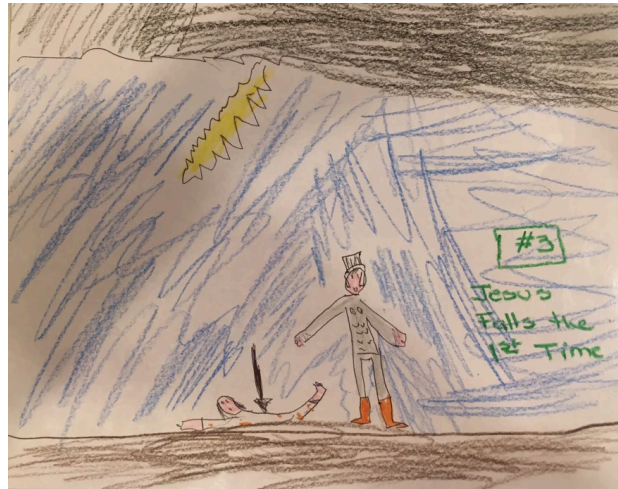
All: Dear Jesus, help us be aware of the crosses of others. Assist us in becoming more mindful of the difficulties faced by others. Teach us to see our friends and classmates as brothers and sisters in need of our care and compassion. Inspire us to selflessly help others.

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3rd Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time



A drawing of a child showing Jesus on the ground with the Cross on his back in the shape of an arrow pointing to him. A soldier stands next to Jesus. There is a lightning strike from the sky in the midst of a storm. Predominant colors are blue, green, black, yellow and brown.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Jesus was already badly wounded when he fell the first time. It must have hurt very much. Jesus got up and kept on going. When Jesus falls, we might think of children suffering - children waiting for us to help them up.

All: Dear Jesus, help me to see the children around me who need a friend, who need help with schoolwork, who want to play with others but are always left out. Make me strong so that I can always be a friend to them.

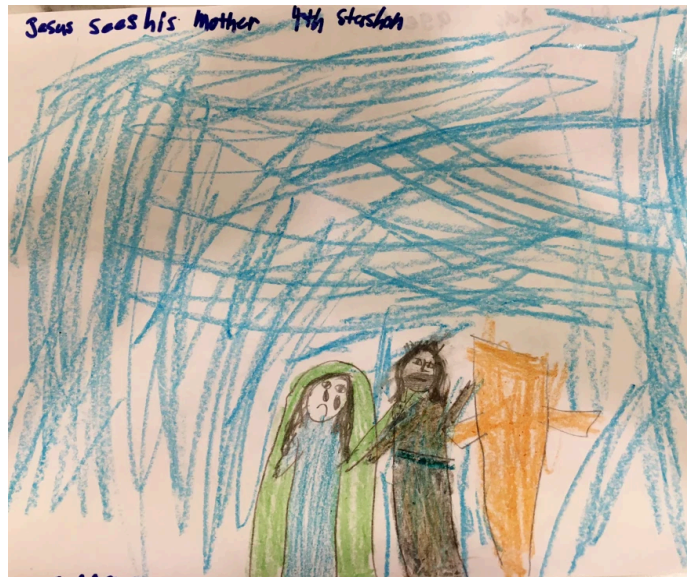
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4th Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



This drawing of a child shows the Cross, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and Jesus standing side-by-side. Mary is on the left, Jesus is in the middle, and the Cross is on the right. Wearing a blue garment and green veil, Mary is weeping black tears. There are multiple blue lines in all directions in the background of the painting, which could indicate a storm. Green, blue, black, yellow, and brown are the predominant colors.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you..

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Jesus knew that his mother was sad to see him suffering so much. But he was so happy she came to him. Mary loved Jesus very much. Many children today, especially refugees, have no mother or father.

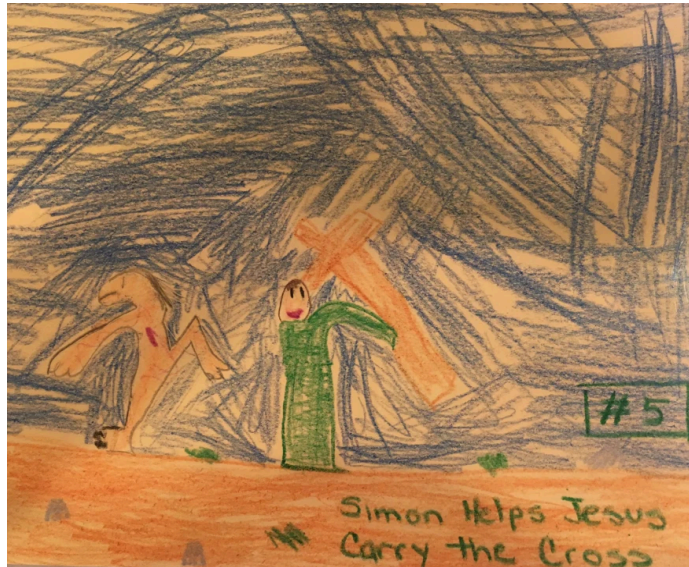
All: Dear Mary, teach us to love our mother, father, sisters, and brothers. Let us never forget how much they care for us. Today, we carry our crosses to remind us of all the children around the world who do not have a family to care for them. How can we show them that they are not alone?

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5th Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



Simon is depicted wearing a green garment as he helps Jesus carry the Cross in this interesting drawing created by a child. Jesus stands beside Simon on the left side of the drawing. Sand is covering the path, and rain is falling. The most predominant colors are green, light brown, blue, and red.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Simon didn't come to help Jesus but to see what was happening. Then, he was ordered by the soldiers to carry the cross because Jesus was having such a hard time. When Jesus was so tired that he could go no further, Simon lifted up the cross and helped Jesus on His way.

All: Dear Jesus, you let Simon help you carry your cross to teach us that we all need help sometimes. Let us always be thankful for those who help us when we are sad and need help.

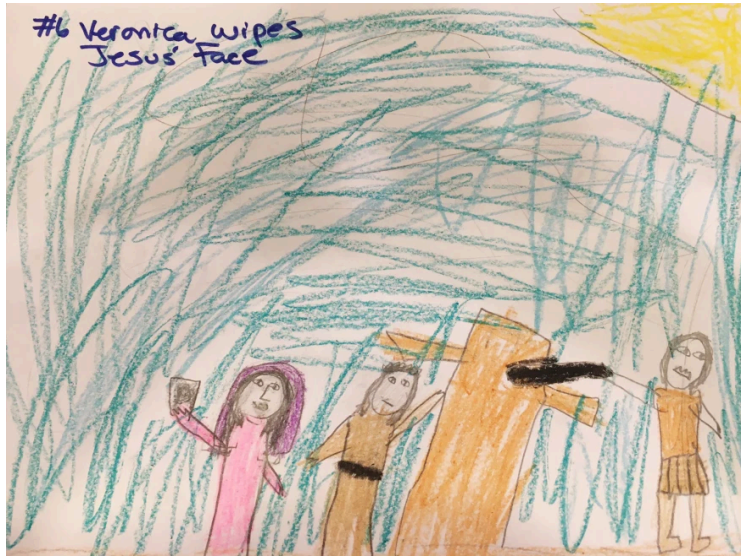
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6th Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



A child artist depicts Veronica, Jesus, the Cross, and a Roman soldier in this drawing. In a pink gown and pink veil, Veronica raises a cloth bearing the face of Jesus. The sun is shining in the upper right corner despite it appearing to be raining. Jesus' garment, the cross, and the soldier's garment are all light brown. When Jesus and Veronica face forward, the soldier looks to his left, as he's in a hurry to reach Calvary.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Veronica, seeking only to provide a moment of comfort, wipes the face of Jesus. Removing the grime, she reveals the true face of Christ. Underneath our differences, we all carry the image of God in which we were created. It is only through ignoring the image of God present in others that discrimination, intolerance, and racism persist.

All: Dear Jesus, help me to be like Veronica, who steps forward from the crowd and offers her veil to Jesus, a bold statement against injustice and an emblematic example of compassion in action.

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7th Station: Jesus falls for the Second Time



Drawing created by a child depicts Jesus wearing a white garment as he falls on his knees with the cross. Behind the cross, there is a figure holding the cross and another figure dressed in red holding a whip with his left hand in a motion to hit Jesus. An orange floor is the backdrop for this scene, while a green floor is on the right with two lines of people: eight on the first line and six on the second. Their clothes are different colors: purple, red, yellow, green, blue, brown. Each figure has a pale face without eyes, a nose, or lips. The sky is dark blue.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death, and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Jesus fell again because he was so weak and tired from all his wounds. He still didn't give up. He got back up and continued on. God, we are reminded of Jesus falling when we see children unable to care for themselves.

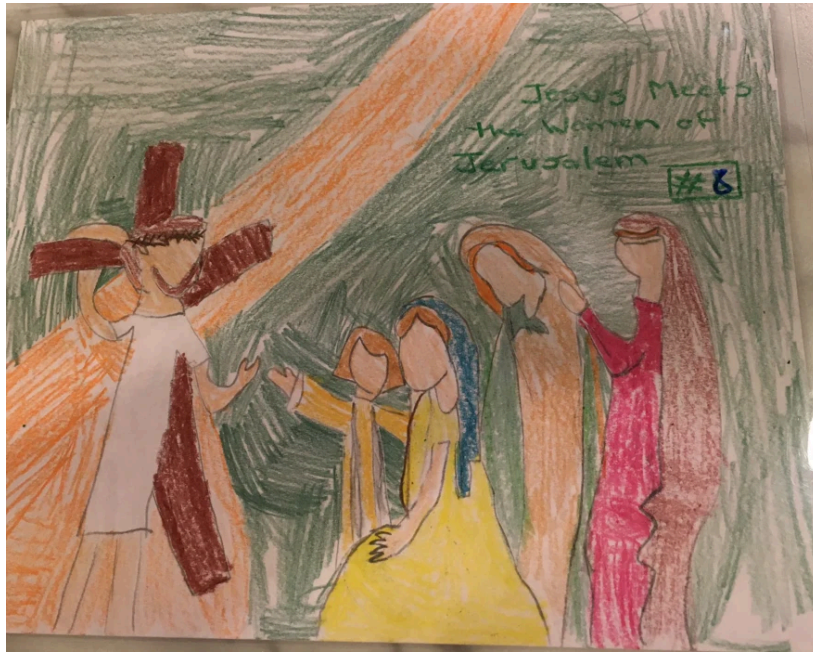
All: Dear Jesus, even though we are different in many ways from each other, we all want to be loved. Teach us to see you in all children and to be ready to help those who are sick and need assistance.

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8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



A child artist draws Jesus holding the cross in his right hand and speaking to four female figures: a girl and three adults. The girl, who is dressed in yellow without a veil, is almost touching Jesus' hand with her extended arm. Besides her, a woman in a yellow gown and a blue veil genuflects. Behind her, another woman bows with a brown garment and veil, while behind another woman appears in a pink garment and a brown veil. There is a distinct path of sand surrounded by greenery.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: A lot of people were against Jesus, but a lot of people followed him. They were his faithful friends. Jesus stops to tell the women not to worry about Him, but rather about their children and the future of their society.

All: Dear Jesus, you taught the women to care about their children. Help us to always care for the children of the world who live in conditions of poverty and war.

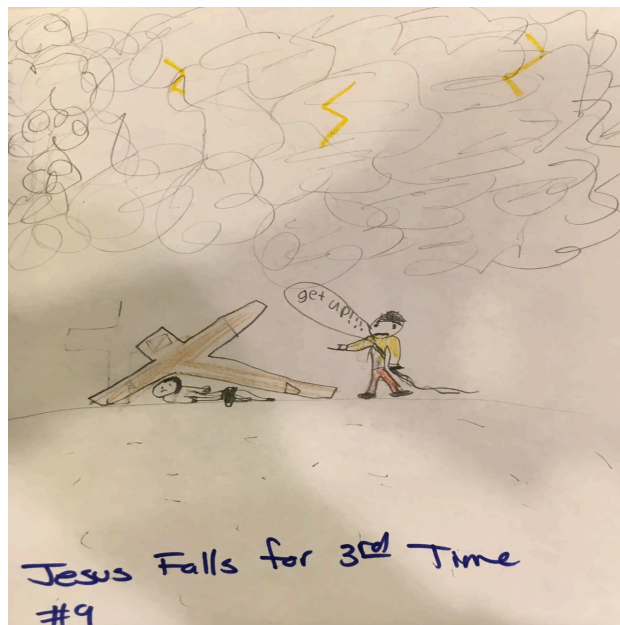
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9th Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time



The artwork created by a child artist depicts Jesus lying on the ground with a heavy wooden cross on top of him. The Roman soldier standing behind him is shown yelling, "get up!!!" The sky and ground are portrayed in a soft beige color, with clouds sketched in pencil and three bolts of lightning striking down from the heavens, adding to the dramatic and intense atmosphere of the scene.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: It's unbelievable that Jesus fell again and the soldiers didn't help him. They only yelled louder for him to get up and continue on. Jesus didn't get mad at them; he forgave them. Jesus falls again. How many children fall in places suffering from violence and war?

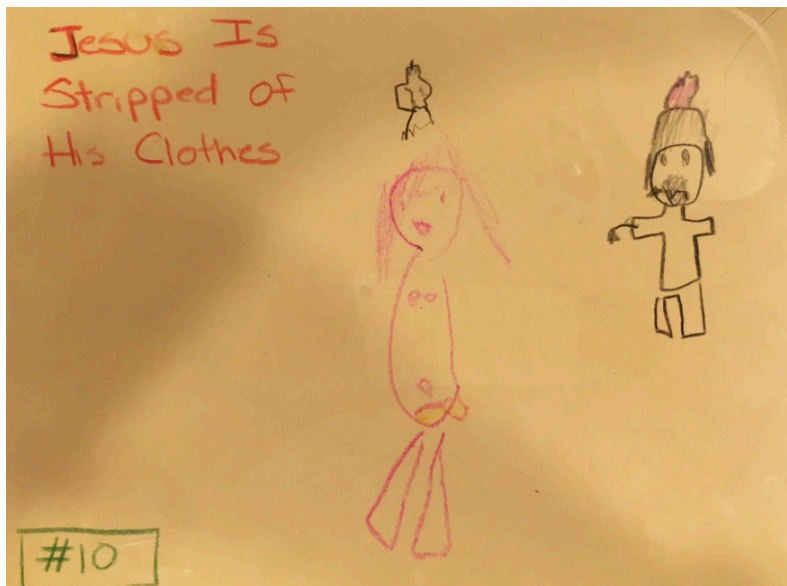
All: Dear Jesus, we pray for brothers and sisters both near and far who, without our help, have no one to care for them.

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10th Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



The artwork, created by a child, depicts Jesus standing naked with the Holy Spirit as a dove hovering above his head. Positioned in the bottom right of the scene is a Roman soldier who appears to be gazing at Jesus. Heaven and earth are indistinct as they share the same yellowish tone.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

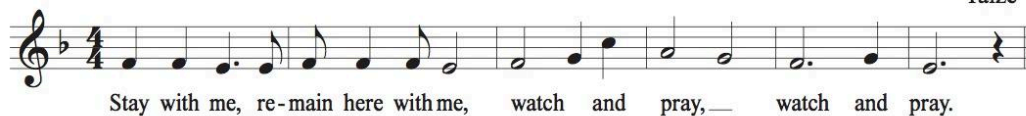
All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free..

Leader: To be without clothes in front of everyone is humiliating. Everything human is taken away from Jesus, even His clothes. Today, there are many children who have nothing – no clothes, no school, and no hope.

All: Dear Jesus, when I look in my closet at home, I feel sad because I have so much when my poorer brothers and sisters have so little. Help me to appreciate all that I have, and to give away to the poor the things I do not need.

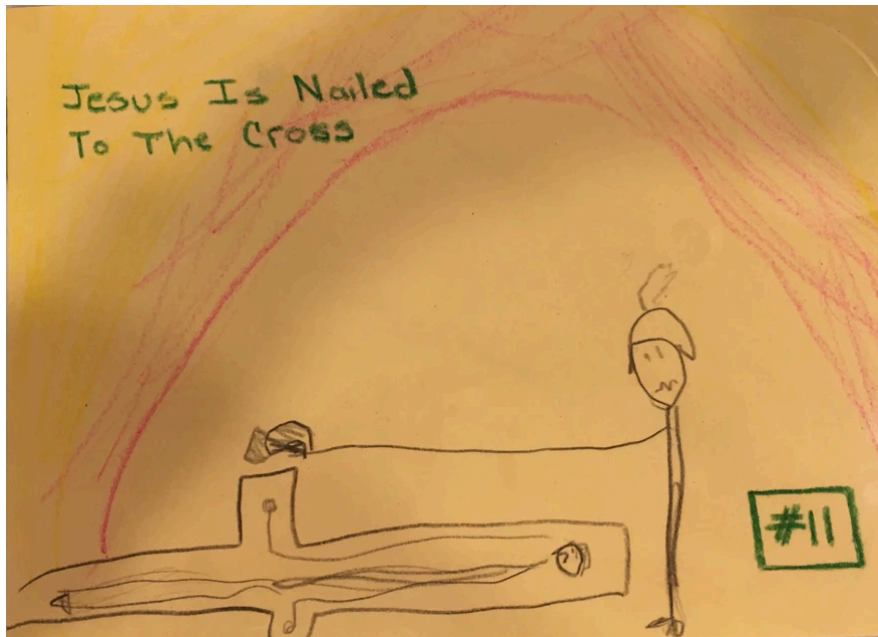
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11th Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



A child created this drawing. It depicts the Cross on the floor with Jesus on it. A Roman soldier stands at the head of the Cross and extends his right arm with a hammer to nail Jesus' right hand onto the Cross. The Roman soldier appears troubled, while the facial expression of Jesus conveys sadness.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Jesus was physically suffering. In this suffering, let us think of all the children who suffer because they believe in Jesus but can't worship openly in their country.

All: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the gift of faith. Thank you for the freedom we have in our country to pray without fear. Help us never be ashamed to be called your sons and daughters and to show our faith to the world.

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12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

(ALL KNEEL)



A child created this drawing to represent the death of Jesus. The center of the drawing portrays Jesus on the Cross with a sad expression, laying his head to the right. This depiction occupies the entirety of the artwork. The background is yellowish, with red drops of blood falling from Jesus' hands. On the top of the Cross is the inscription INRI, which means "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Jesus died as a result of the mission to which he stayed faithful – the mission of proclaiming and making present the Reign of God. Even in his final moments, Jesus taught us to love God and neighbor. Abba, forgive them because they do not know what they are doing.

All: Jesus' brutal death enacts the solidarity of the gracious and merciful God with all who die, especially victims of injustice, opening hope for resurrection amid the horror. Even if most of us do not have to endure the unjust, violent death that Jesus suffered, his walking into the valley of the shadow of death means that our death can be a dying with Christ, a dying in communion with Christ.

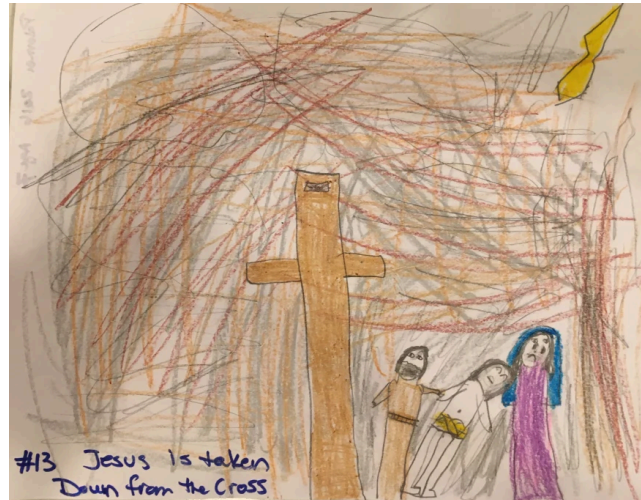
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13th Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross



This artwork, created by a child, portrays Jesus after he was taken down from the cross. Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus, is depicted on the right side, dressed in a pink gown and blue veil. On the left side is John, who is wearing a brown garment. Jesus is in between John and Mary. Jesus' head is resting on Mary's right shoulder. The background of the drawing shows a heavy wind, represented by lines in different directions. In the upper right corner, there is a yellow lightning storm.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus his own burial cave because Jesus didn't have a place to be buried. Joseph was another one of Jesus' friends who took a risk to help him. Joseph of Arimathea's solidarity with Jesus reflects God's presence and solidarity with others, especially those who are suffering.

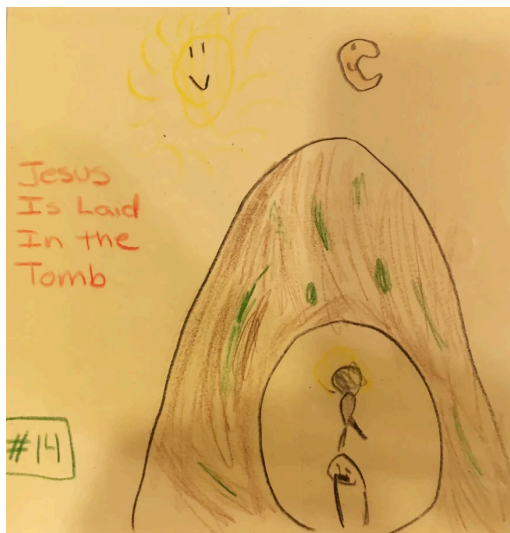
All: Solidarity is a powerful force. God was with Jesus in his suffering; God shows Godself in Joseph of Arimathea, Mary, the women of Jerusalem, Veronica, and Simon the Cyrene. God is with us in our sufferings. The crucified and risen Jesus is with us, especially in our suffering.

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14th Station: Jesus is placed in the Tomb



The artwork created by a young artist portrays Jesus inside a tomb with a figure coming out the tomb with a sad expression. The tomb is depicted as a hole in a mountain, painted in brown with green spots to signify the greenery on the hill. In the sky above the mountain, the sun is on the left, and the quarter moon is on the right, both with expressions of joy and hope, as if they are eagerly anticipating the Resurrection.

Leader: We honor you, Jesus, and we thank you.

All: For by your life, ministry, death and Resurrection you have set us free.

Leader: Even when things look very difficult and sad, there is always hope that God can bring new life. It seems so final as Jesus is laid to rest in the tomb. We don't want the rock placed in front. We feel like crying. Yet every day, children cry out for our help, our prayers. We cannot let that rock stop us from following Jesus and his way of love for all.

All: Dear Jesus, help us to follow your path and care for our brothers and sisters here and far away. Help us continue working on the mission to which you stayed faithful – proclaiming and making present the Reign of God.

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Closing Prayer

Leader: God, help us see Jesus alive in our brothers and sisters in need. Help us to remember that in times of immense suffering, there's room for acts of love and humanity. Our actions matter – big or small, they can leave lasting impressions, and they are part of collaborating with Jesus' passion in life, building the Kingdom of God here and now, a Kingdom of peace and justice.

All: Amen

Closing Song

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast (Cantors: Anika and Adriana Braganza)

