

**WELCOME TO OUR PRAYER GARDEN.** This is a place of quiet retreat, open to the community during daylight hours every day of the year. In any season, come to re-collect yourself, re-connect with God's creation, restore a sense of calm in your busy life, and allow God to speak into your soul. **PLEASE RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF THIS PLACE.**

THE "**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**" is an ancient spiritual devotion: Early Christians in 2<sup>nd</sup>-century Jerusalem walked the "way of the cross" through the holy city, pausing to pray at 14 key spots where Jesus struggled through his last hours. The practice spread through the Mideast and Europe during the Middle Ages, and now is observed by Christians world-wide.

"**STATIONS OF RESURRECTION**" is a new spiritual devotion. Fourteen signposts of Easter are associated with parallel signposts of the Passion. As you walk the path, note their interplay: How death leads to life, how suffering gives birth to healing, how sorrow and grief can be surprised by joy. The Bible readings and prayers in this folder can be your guide.

**MAY GOD'S SPIRIT** touch your spirit in this holy place, where saints are baptized and saints' ashes await Jesus' return.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



### 1. ANGUISHED

*Jesus prays for strength in the garden – Matthew 26*

<sup>36</sup> 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." <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> 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? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

*Suffering Lord, when I'm faced with difficult situations or decisions, give me strength to do your will. Amen.*



### 2. BETRAYED

*Jesus is surprised with a deceitful kiss – Mark 14*

<sup>43</sup> ... Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. <sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> So when he came, he went up to [Jesus] at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? <sup>49</sup> Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup> All of them deserted him and fled.

*Suffering Lord, please let my words and actions never dishonor you. Amen.*



### 3. CLOSED MINDS

*Jesus is tried by prejudiced opponents – Luke 22*

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought [Jesus] to their council.

*Suffering Lord, thank you for taking our place in the judgment hall. Amen.*



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## 4. ABANDONED

*Jesus is deserted by his friend – Matthew 26*

<sup>74</sup> Then [Peter] began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

*Suffering Lord, empower us to be witnesses for you, and not to be afraid to claim you as our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

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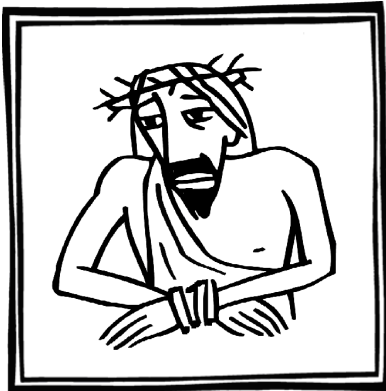
## 5. BANISHED

*Jesus is convicted by false accusation – Mark 15*

<sup>1</sup> As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

*Suffering Lord, be with us when we feel overwhelmed by events, even if we are falsely accused. We love you for your great sacrifices for our sakes. Help us cope when we feel alone. Amen.*

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## 6. ABUSED

*Jesus is mocked, beaten and wounded – John 19*

<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

*Suffering Lord, I am ashamed that you took such undeserved abuse and punishment for me. Help me to always remember your great love and suffering, and to worship you always as my Lord and my God. Amen.*

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## 7. BURDENED

*Jesus bears his cross alone – John 19*

<sup>16</sup> Then [Pilate] handed [Jesus] over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

*Suffering Lord, thank you for the assurance that you understand my pain. You gaze upon me with mercy and grace when I am feeling alone, overwhelmed and burdened. Help me to more fully comprehend and appreciate the sacrifice that you made for me! Amen.*

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## 8. HELPED

*A stranger shares Jesus' load, the cross – Mark 15*

<sup>20</sup> After mocking [Jesus], they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. <sup>21</sup> They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup> Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

*Suffering Lord, help us to recognize and assist others when there is need. Amen.*

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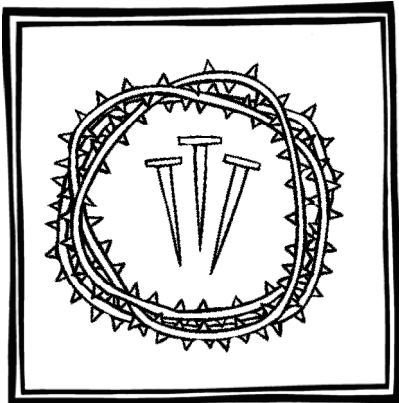
## 9. CONSOLED

*Compassionate friends care for Jesus – Luke 23*

<sup>27</sup> A great number of the people followed [Jesus on the way of the cross], and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

*Suffering Lord, inspire compassionate, caring hearts within us. Amen.*

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## 10. NAILED TO THE TREE

*Jesus is willing to die for us – Luke 23*

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

*Suffering Lord, you loved even your enemies and executioners so much that you gave your life for them. Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

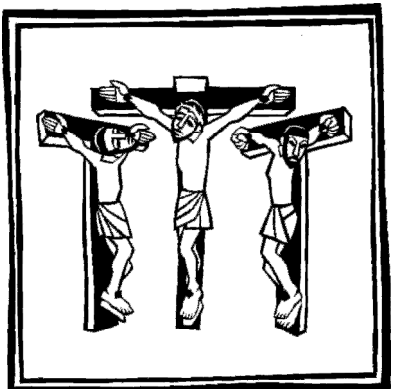
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## 11. FORGIVING THE PAST

*Jesus promises hope to a penitent wrongdoer – Luke 23*

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> [Jesus] replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*Suffering Lord, give us the grace to be able to forgive others as you have forgiven us. Amen.*





## 12. CARING FOR LOVED ONES

*Jesus entrusts his mother to John's family – John 19*

<sup>25</sup> ... Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*Suffering Lord, let your example inspire us to care and support our loved ones. Amen.*



## 13. DESCENDING TO THE DEAD

*Jesus dies still clinging to hope – Luke 23*

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

*Suffering Lord, our greatest hope lies only in you. We give you deepest thanks. Amen.*



## 14. FINISHED

*Friends receive and bury Jesus' dead body – Matthew 27*

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

*Suffering Lord, help us to endure when things seem hopeless. Amen.*



**SERVANTS  
OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SERVANTS OF CHRIST CHURCH** is a family of faith-seeking people, neighbors of yours who are captured by a message of freedom that comes from God. We are on mission together in this community because of what we have seen and heard.

**WE WELCOME YOU** to our prayer garden, to the Sanctuary inside our church (whenever we are open), and to our many events each week that honor God and serve people.

**WORSHIP:** Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. / Prayer Group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

**CONTACT US:** Our website: [www.servantsofchrist.org](http://www.servantsofchrist.org) / Our e-mail: [pastor@servantsofchrist.org](mailto:pastor@servantsofchrist.org)

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