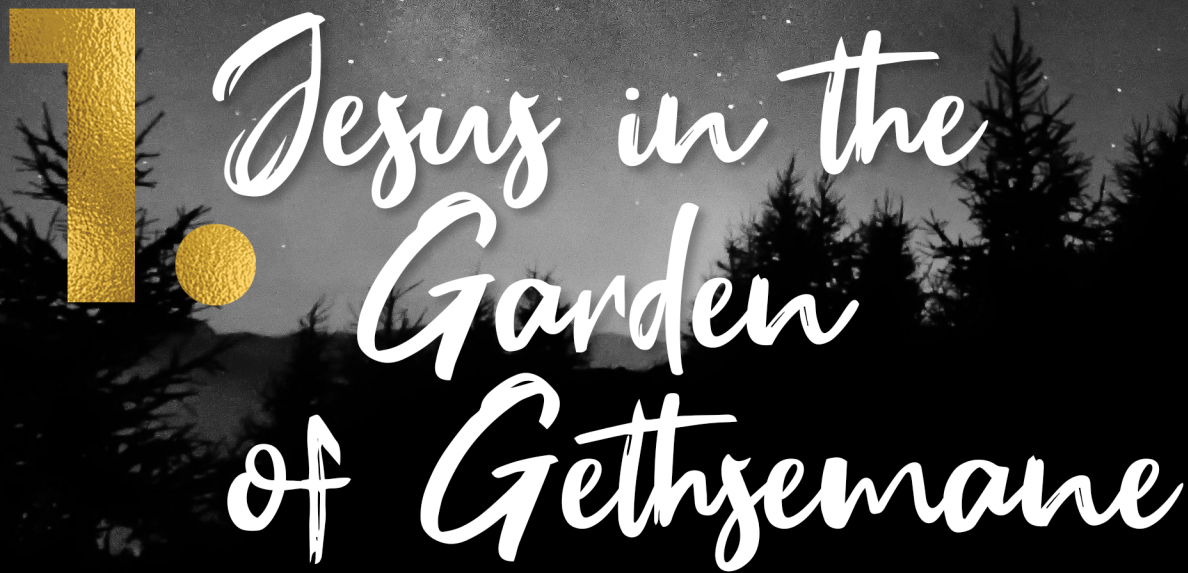





Good Friday

PRAAYER
STATIONS



1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- Matthew 26:36-41

- A.** As we enter into the experience of the cross, pray that we would keep watch with Jesus over our hearts. Ask him to reveal our need for him. Ask him to reveal sin, and to know our need for forgiveness.
- 

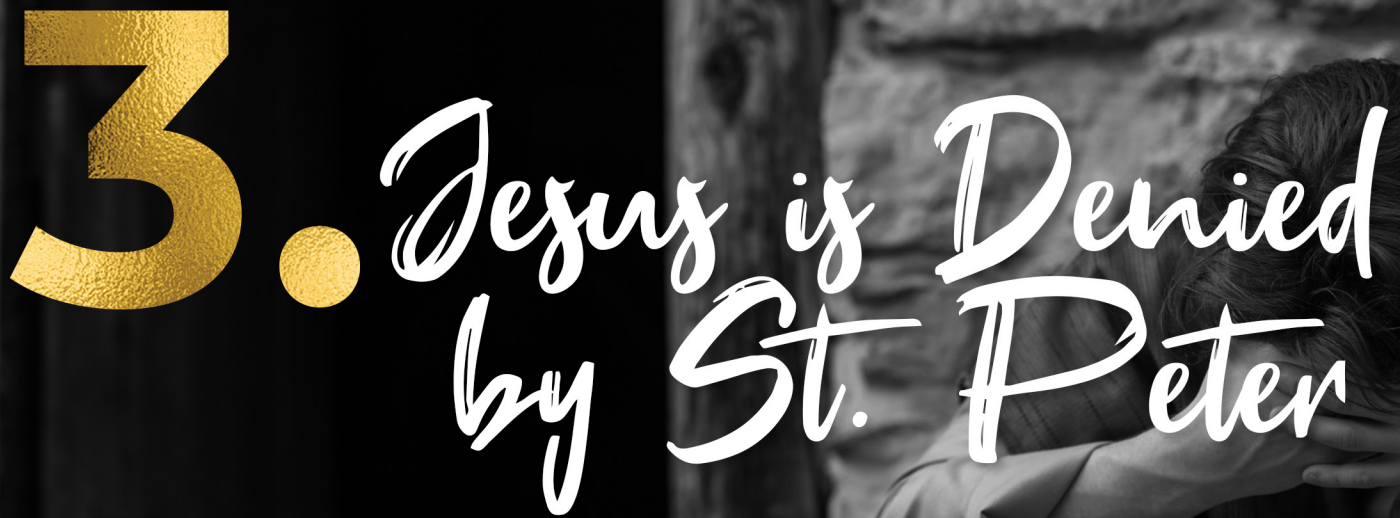
2 Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.
- Mark 14:43-46

- A. Even though Judas betrayed him, Jesus still washed his feet. In your seeking to accept God's grace, will you let his love wash over you right now? What is in the way of you receiving his love? Take a moment to breathe in his unconditional love in the midst of our betrayal.
- B. Pray several times, "Abba, I/we belong to you."

CHILDREN

- A. Have you ever been hurt by a close friend? What did you feel? Jesus knows that feeling also. Take time to thank Jesus that he knows you and loves you.



3. Jesus is Denied by St. Peter

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. - Matthew 26:69-75

- A. Pray: "God we have betrayed you with our lips and our lives. Help us weep over our sins."
- B. Peter's sin was relational. Is there anyone you may need to confess to and ask for forgiveness?
- C. Take time to confess to God.

4. Jesus is Scourged at the Pillar & Crowned with Thorns

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. - John 19:1-3

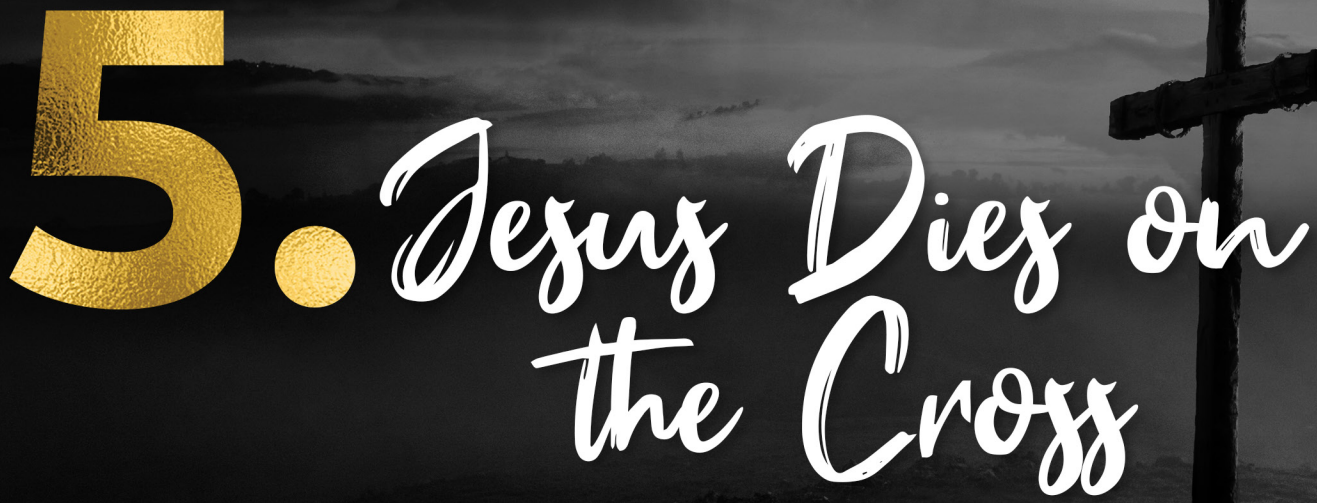
When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"... So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. - John 19:6, 15-17

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." - Luke 23:33-34

- A. God is faithful to forgive us when we acknowledge our sin. His forgiveness flows as freely as the shouts from the crowd.
- B. If you are comfortable, speak this truth to others around you, "In Christ, you have been forgiven."

CHILDREN

- A. Take your hands and make them into tight fists and squeeze! This is what our hearts are like without God's forgiveness. Now open them. This is what our hearts are like when we receive God's forgiveness. Is there anything you need forgiveness for? Ask God and know that he will forgive you.



5. Jesus Dies on the Cross

As you reflect on the cross, imagine you are there. Notice the dark rush of a storm moving in. Listen to the silent hush fall over the crowd. Listen to Jesus cry out and breathe his last.

Read this aloud: *It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. - Luke 23:44-46*

A. Spend a few moments in silence. Let the devastation of the cross impact you. Come to an awareness that the cost of forgiveness was the death of the eternal Son of God.

CHILDREN

A. Do you ever get afraid of the dark? I do! Close your eyes and put your hands over them. Jesus went through the darkness of the cross so we could have his light. Open your eyes! Jesus is the light of the world and wants us to be his light. How can you shine his light to others?

6. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. - Matthew 27:57-60

- A. It says that Joseph was wealthy. He made space for Jesus's body in his own tomb. God used Joseph and his resources to participate in his plan. How is God wanting to use you and your resources (time, gifts, finances, self) to participate in his plan?
- B. Living, dying and rising. That is the rhythm of life for the Christian. Why is it hard to make room for the dying part? To place parts of our lives and hearts in a tomb? What in your life is God inviting you to die to? Can you let that be put to death now? Ask for God's help.

7. The Tomb is Empty

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then they remembered his words.
- Luke 24:1-8

- A. The empty tomb is for all. In the midst of this season's uncertainty people need hope. Take some time and pray for our country, city and others around us, that they might find the hope of resurrection.
- B. In the face of death, uncertainty, and powers beyond their control, Jesus rises from the dead and instills hope in his early followers.

Fill in the blank: "The resurrection gives me hope because _____."

