

Scriptural Stations of the Cross

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Electronic version

Preface

The following Stations of the Cross are based on those celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991, distinct from the traditional Via Crucis. These are a sola scriptura re-conception of that traditionally celebrated devotional.

If you desire to celebrate a web based devotional of that traditional series there are many now available. I first produced one in 1994 using digitally developed imagery.

A devotional liturgy is available online from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/stations-of-the-cross/scriptural-stations-of-the-cross.cfm>

Introduction

The following pages are a meditation on the journey to the cross. While typically attended to on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, the way of the cross is worthy of consideration any and every day.

For those unfamiliar with the devotional, there is no resurrection station as that would be Easter Sunday and a subsequent devotional. This devotional is to lead you into the consequence of leading a genuinely sacrificial life, of the price paid.

What is presented are the relevant scriptures and simple imagery for a time that seems to warrant simplicity. No other commentary is provided herein.

First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and severely troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me.”

He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.”

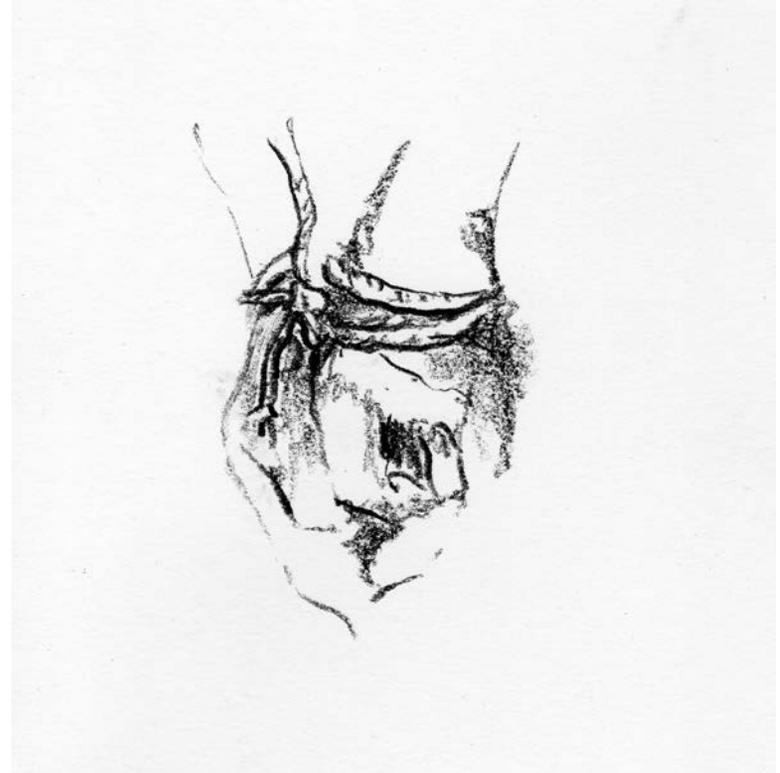
He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What, couldn’t you watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray, that you don’t enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

--Matthew 26:36-41



Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came—and with him a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now he who betrayed him had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I will kiss, that is he. Seize him, and lead him away safely.” When he had come, immediately he came to him, and said, “Rabbi! Rabbi!” and kissed him. They laid their hands on him, and seized him. --Mark 14:43-46



Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

As soon as it was day, the assembly of the elders of the people were gathered together, both chief priests and scribes, and they led him away into their council, saying, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you won't believe, and if I ask, you will in no way answer me or let me go. From now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He said to them, "You say it, because I am."

They said, "Why do we need any more witness? For we ourselves have heard from his own mouth!" --Luke 22: 66-71



Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Now Peter was sitting outside in the court, and a maid came to him, saying, “You were also with Jesus, the Galilean!”

But he denied it before them all, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”

When he had gone out onto the porch, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again he denied it with an oath, “I don’t know the man.”

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, for your speech makes you known.”

Then he began to curse and to swear, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately the rooster crowed. Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Then he went out and wept bitterly. -- Matthew 26: 69-75



Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Immediately in the morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation, bound Jesus, carried him away, and delivered him up to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered, “So you say.”

The chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they testify against you!”

But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate marveled.

Pilate, wishing to please the multitude, released Barabbas to them, and handed over Jesus, when he had flogged him, to be crucified.

-- Mark 15: 1-5, 15



Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

So Pilate then took Jesus, and flogged him. The soldiers twisted thorns into a crown, and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple garment. They kept saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they kept slapping him. -- John 19: 1-3



Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross

When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, saying, “Crucify! Crucify!”

Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves, and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him.”

They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”

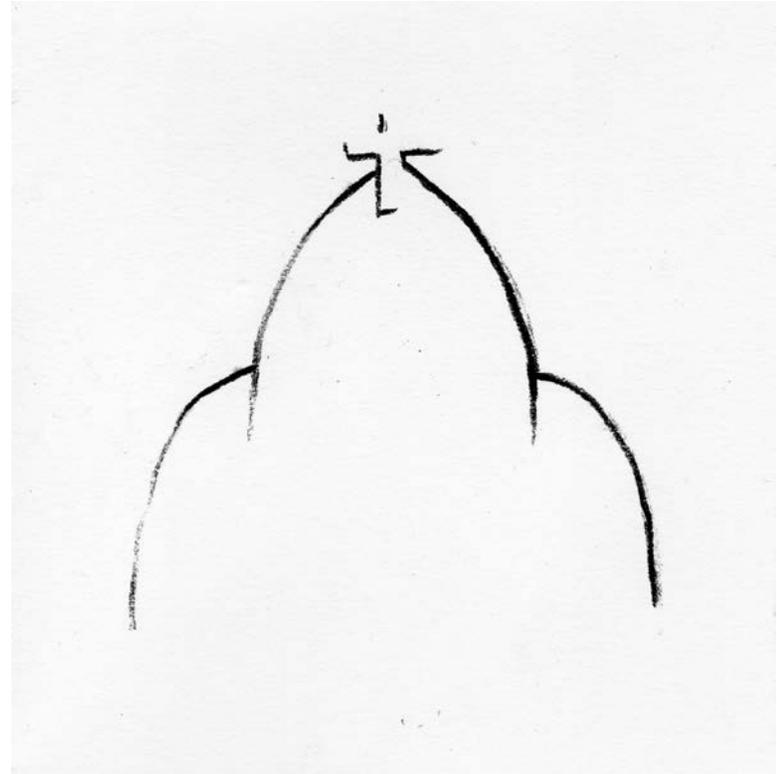
So then he delivered him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. He went out, bearing his cross, to the place called “The Place of a Skull”, which is called in Hebrew, “Golgotha”...

-- John 19: 6, 15-17



Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

They compelled one passing by, coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to go with them, that he might bear his cross. -- Mark 15: 21

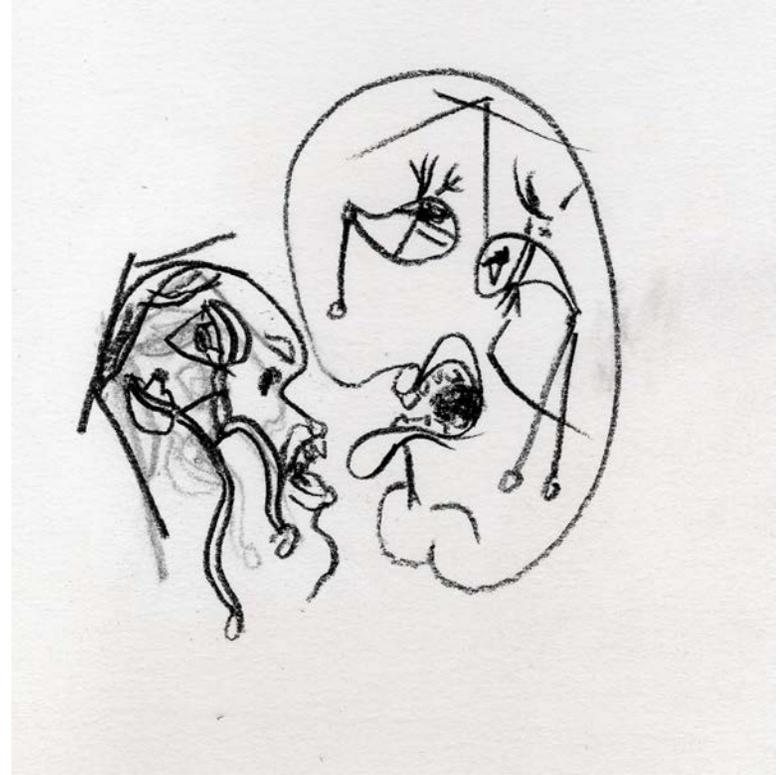


Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

A great multitude of the people followed him, including women who also mourned and lamented him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to tell the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and tell the hills, ‘Cover us.’*¹ For if they do these things in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?

-- Luke 23: 27-31

¹ here citing Hosea 10:8



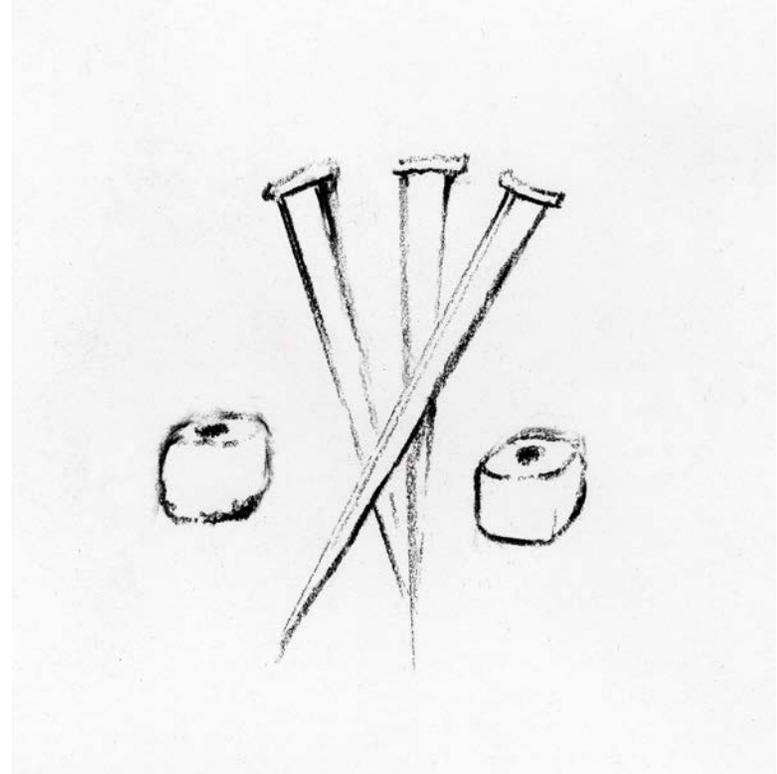
Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified

When they came to the place that is called “The Skull”, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots.

-- Luke 23: 33-34

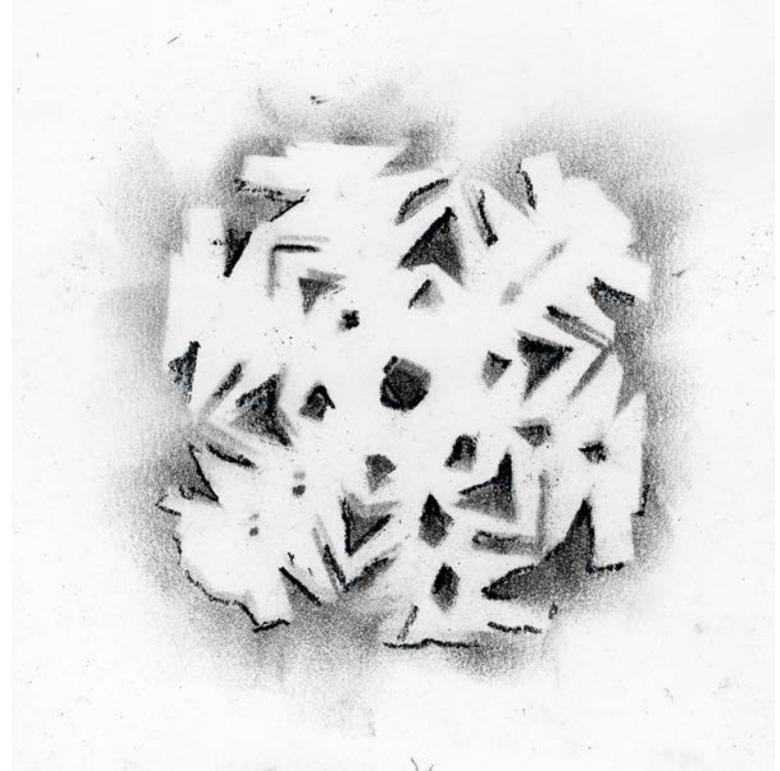


Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

One of the criminals who was hanged insulted him, saying, “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!”

But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Don’t you even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” He said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

Jesus said to him, “Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” -- Luke 23: 39-43



Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

But standing by Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour, the disciple took her to his own home. -- John 19: 25-27



Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

It was now about the sixth hour,² and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.³ The sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” Having said this, he breathed his last.

--Luke 23: 44-46

² Time was counted from sunrise, so the sixth hour was about noon.

³ 23:44 23:44 3:00 p.m.



Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

When evening had come, a rich man from Arimathaea named Joseph, who himself was also Jesus' disciple, came. This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given up. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

--Matthew 27: 57-60

