

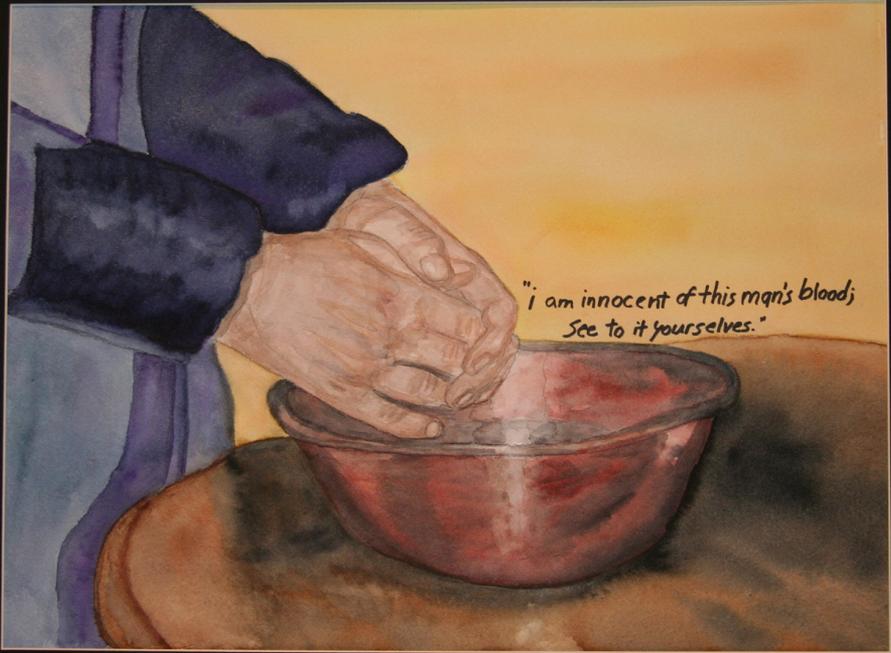
# Stations of the Cross



*This is a series of reflections based on the experiences of Christ during His final hours and leading up to the crucifixion on Calvary on Good Friday. There is a long history of using these stations as a means of devotion. This experience is meant to help us engage in Christ's journey and sacrifice.*



## *Station 1: Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die*



*Read Matthew 27:11-14, 24, 26b  
Jesus stands silent in the face of his accusers.*

### *Reflection:*

*Jesus, I see in your silence the quiet strength that reveals a peace and a resolve. O Lord, help me deal with the unfairness of life without becoming critical of others. Help me to be sensitive to the pain and feelings of others. Give me the courage to do what is right without being swayed by the demands of others.*

## *Station 2: Jesus Accepts His Cross*



*Read Matthew 27:27-31, John 19: 17*

*Jesus takes on the pain, humiliation, and disgrace that belongs to us.*

### *Reflection:*

*You accepted your cross without self-pity. O Lord, forgive me for forgetting that in my weakness, I must learn to trust you more. And that in that trust, my weakness becomes your strength. Forgive my attitudes of self-pity that make me more repulsive than loving. I do not ask for any cross to bear. But when those crosses come, and I know they must, give me the strength to bear them as one who follows your example.*

### *Station 3: Simon Helps Carry the Cross*



*Read Mark 15:21; Matthew 16:24-26  
Simon models the path of discipleship*

#### *Reflection:*

*O Lord, forgive me for becoming so preoccupied with myself that I have become deaf and blind to the grief and suffering of those around me. Forgive me for my indifference. Constantly remind me that I cannot love you without loving others as well. Help me always remember that to be a follower of yours means that I share in the burden of others. Lord, show me someone whose cross I may help carry.*

## *Station 4: Jesus Speaks to the Women*



*Read Luke 23:27-31*

*A caution against a lack of true repentance.*

*Reflection:*

*O Lord, forgive my unwillingness to repent, to confess all that I am before you. Help me go beyond the repentance mouthed in words of false piety, to sweep away all the facades of who I try so hard to be before others, and recall who I really am inside. Help me once again stand before God with a bare and open heart. Help me not just to repent in words, but to put that repentance into action in everything I am and do. O Lord, give me the gift of tears to weep for my own failures, for my sins, for the pain I bring to others, and to live the fruits of repentance.*

## *Station 5: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments*

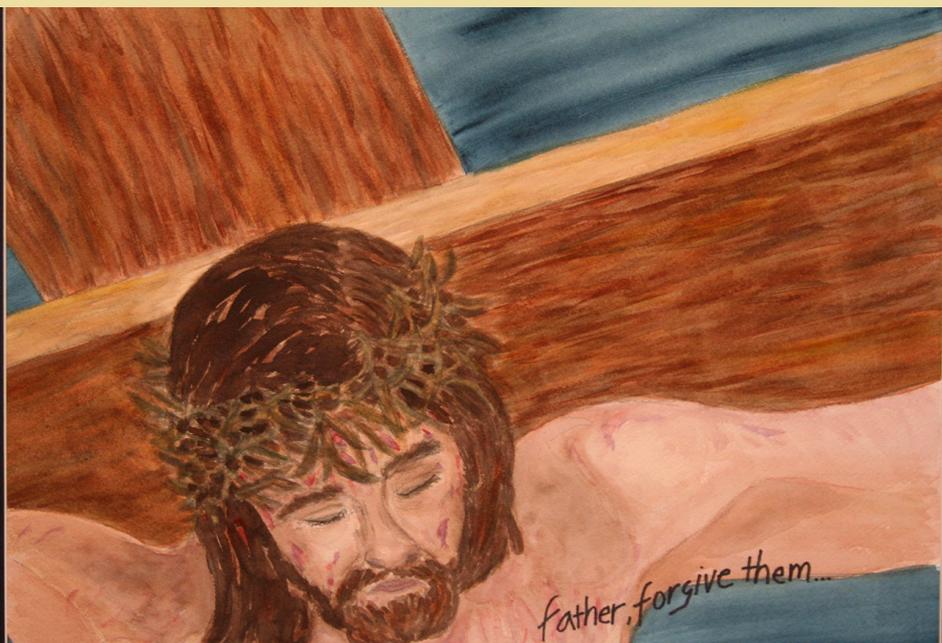


*Read John 19:23-24  
When we fail to honor*

### *Reflection:*

*Would I have done anything differently, if I were there?  
Forgive me for the times when I selfishly grasped after  
something good that came from You, and tried to use it only to  
satisfy my own purposes. Forgive me for the times when I have  
stripped You and others of the honor and dignity due to You,  
because my actions and words brought dishonor and confusion  
to Your good Name.*

## *Station 6: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*



*Read Mark 15:23-32*  
*The impact of the cross*

### *Reflection:*

*Lord, do not let me take for granted what happened to You on the cross. Do not let me forget that it really happened, in a real place, at a real time. It was there that You, the Lord of Glory, suffered and died for the sins of the world...for my own sins. I yearn to experience the truth of Your death, Jesus, more profoundly. Gracious Lord, how can I ever thank You for dying on the cross for me? I confess that I take Your death for granted, forgetting what You did for me and neglecting its significance. Forgive me, Lord. May the reality of Your sacrifice press itself upon my mind and flood my heart.*

## *Station 7: Jesus Cares for His Mother*

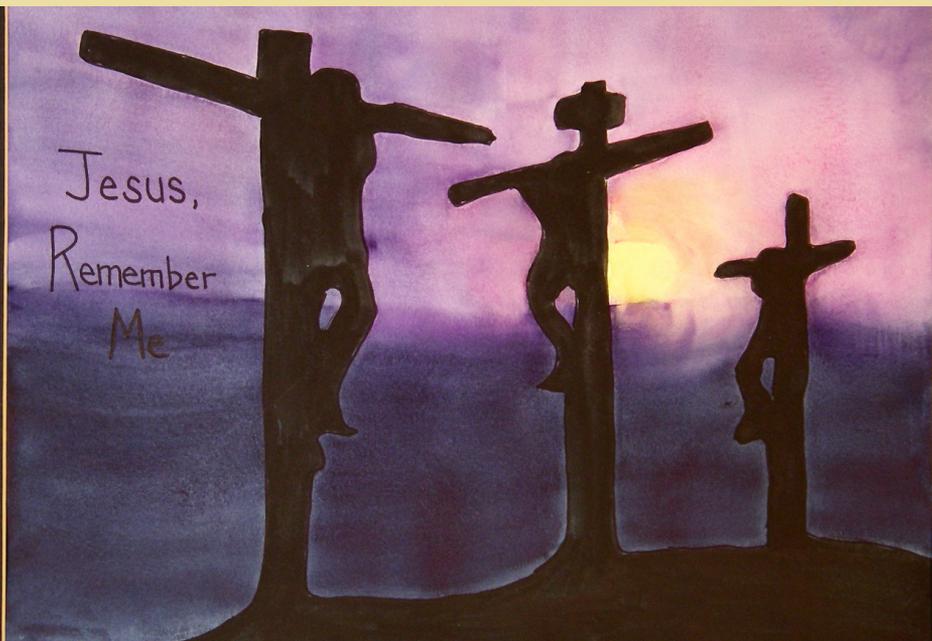


*Read John 19:25-27  
The mystery of love*

### *Reflection:*

*When I think of Your mother, Lord, I remember that You weren't just the Son of God bearing the sins of the world. You were also the son of Mary, the son whom she loved. Mary gives us a touching reminder of Your humanity, Lord. Because You were truly human, because You truly suffered, You indeed bore the sins of the world, and mine as well. All praise be to You, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

## *Station 8: Jesus Dies on the Cross*



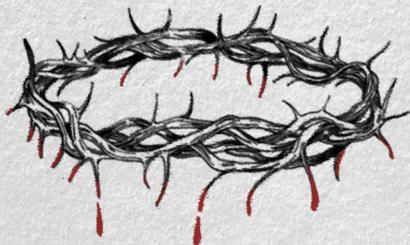
*Read Matthew 27:45-54*  
*The power of the cross*

### *Reflection:*

*Merciful Lord, thank You for being The Righteous One. Thank You for Your perfect life and Your sacrificial death. Thank You for taking my sin upon Yourself, and giving me Your righteousness in return. Like the centurion, I look upon Your cross today with wonder. But I'm not only struck by your complete innocence, I'm astounded by Your willingness to suffer and die for me, the Righteous One for the unrighteous. All praise be to You, glorious, gracious, giving Lord! We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. By Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world!*

they will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him.

*Three days later he will rise*

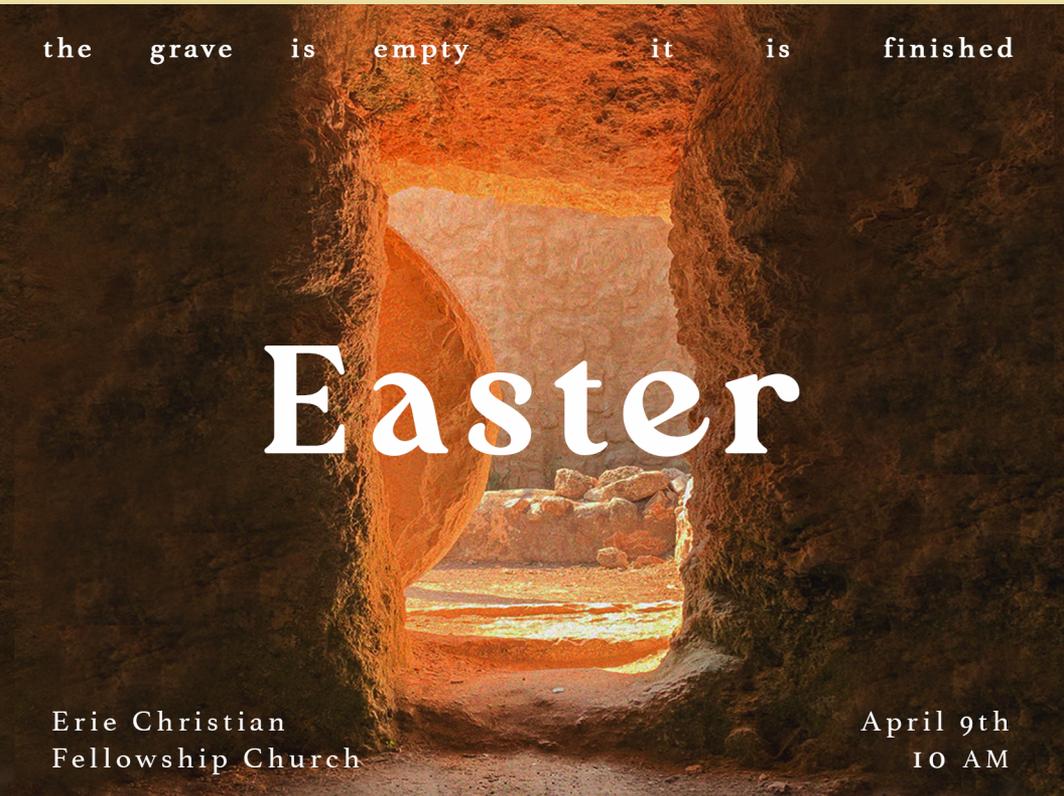


# GOOD FRIDAY

*multichurch service*

ERIE FIRST ASSEMBLY | APRIL 7TH | 6:30PM

the grave is empty it is finished



# Easter

Erie Christian  
Fellowship Church

April 9th  
10 AM