

Station 4: Jesus is nailed to the cross - Mark 15: 25 – 26, 31 – 34, 37

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ...³¹ The chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Prayer Inspired by Nan Merrill's translation of Psalm 22:

O my Beloved, why have you forsaken me? O my Beloved, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, and find no rest.

Yet, You are the One who took me from the womb; You kept me safe upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from my birth, and ever since my mother bore me, You have been my strength. Come close to me now.

To You, O Beloved, I lift up my voice...for you promise to remain with those whose love is steadfast. The hungry shall eat and be satisfied. All shall remember and turn to Love's Way. Those who seek you shall sing praises! For Your Heart is our dwelling place forever. Amen.

Merrill, Nan C. Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness. The Continuum International Publishing Group, Inc. 2008.

Reflection:

In the labyrinth space, you will find a large wooden cross. We invite you into a spiritual practice called “venerating the cross.”

Approach the cross, and take a moment to pray, using the scripture passage and prayer above. Then approach the cross as a sacred object. This is a symbol of not only Jesus’ pain, but also our own. It is also a symbol of the ways people throughout the world experience violence, persecution, and oppression.

But it is also a symbol of promise. A promise that God is always near in times of pain, distress, hardship, and suffering. That God is with us in all things, and that God is with the poor, the persecuted, and oppressed. In all things God is working towards love.

Feel free to perhaps kneel, or sit, or stand, and touch the wood of the cross. Let this physical symbol of God’s solidarity in pain be imprinted on you. And consider this question: “Where do you find God in moments of distress?”