

**Children's Stations of the Cross**  
**Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria**  
**April 7, 2023**

**Station 1**

**Luke 22:1-6, 47-48**

It was almost time for the Jewish Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover. <sup>2</sup>The leading priests and teachers of the law wanted to kill Jesus. But they were trying to find a quiet way to do it, because they were afraid of what the people would do.<sup>3</sup> One of Jesus' twelve apostles was named Judas Iscariot. Satan entered him, <sup>4</sup>and he went and talked with the leading priests and some of the soldiers who guarded the Temple. He talked to them about a way to hand Jesus over to them. <sup>5</sup>The priests were very happy about this. They promised to give Judas money for doing this. <sup>6</sup>He agreed. Then he waited for the best time to hand him over to them. He wanted to do it when no one was around to see it.<sup>47</sup> While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. It was led by Judas, one of the twelve apostles. He came over to Jesus to kiss him.<sup>48</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you using the kiss of friendship to hand over the Son of Man to his enemies?"

*Take a coin to remember Judas betraying Jesus.*

**Station 2**

**Matthew 26:57-58a, 59-65**

<sup>57</sup> The men who arrested Jesus led him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. The teachers of the law and the older Jewish leaders were gathered there. <sup>58</sup> Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance. <sup>59</sup> The leading priests and the high council tried to find something against Jesus so that they could kill him. They tried to find people to lie and say that Jesus had done wrong. <sup>60</sup> Many people came and told lies about him. But the council could find no real reason to kill him. Then two people came <sup>61</sup> and said, "This man<sup>[e]</sup> said, 'I can destroy the Temple of God and build it again in three days.'" <sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Don't you have anything to say about these charges against you? Are they telling the truth?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus said nothing. Again the high priest said to Jesus, "You are now under oath. I command you by the power of the living God to tell us the truth. Tell us, are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" <sup>64</sup> Jesus answered, "Yes, that's right. But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God. And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes in anger. He said, "This man has said things that insult God! We don't need any more witnesses. You all heard his insulting words."

*Take a piece of red cloth to remember the high priest Caiaphas tearing his clothes in anger.*

### **Station 3**

#### **Mark 14: 66-72**

<sup>66</sup> While Peter was still in the yard, a servant girl of the high priest came there. <sup>67</sup> She saw him warming himself by the fire. She looked closely at him and said, “You were with Jesus, that man from Nazareth.”<sup>68</sup> But Peter said this was not true. “That makes no sense,” he said. “I don’t know what you are talking about!” Then he left and went to the entrance of the yard, and a rooster crowed.<sup>[b]</sup><sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him there, she began saying again to the people standing around, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup> Again Peter said it was not true. A short time later, the people standing there said, “We know you are one of them, because you are from Galilee.” <sup>71</sup> Then Peter began to curse. He said, “I swear to God, I don’t know this man you are talking about!” <sup>72</sup> As soon as Peter said this, the rooster crowed the second time. Then he remembered what Jesus had told him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don’t know me.” Then Peter began to cry.

*Take a feather to remember Peter saying he doesn't know Jesus three times.*

### **Station 4**

#### **Luke 23:1, 6-12**

Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus away to Pilate. <sup>6</sup> Pilate asked if Jesus was from Galilee. <sup>7</sup> He learned that Jesus was under Herod’s authority. Herod was in Jerusalem at that time, so Pilate sent Jesus to him.

<sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very happy. He had heard all about him and had wanted to meet him for a long time. Herod wanted to see a miracle, so he was hoping that Jesus would do one. <sup>9</sup> He asked him many questions, but Jesus said nothing. <sup>10</sup> The leading priests and teachers of the law were standing there shouting things against Jesus. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers laughed at him. They made fun of him by dressing him in clothes like kings wear. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> In the past Pilate and Herod had always been enemies. But on that day they became friends.

*Take a piece of purple cloth to remember King Herod dressing up Jesus and making fun of him.*

### **Station 5**

#### **Matthew 27:15-24**

<sup>15</sup> Every year at Passover time the governor would free one prisoner—whichever one the people wanted him to free. <sup>16</sup> At that time there was a man in prison who was known to be very bad. His name was Barabbas.<sup>[b]</sup><sup>17</sup> When a crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, “I will free one man for you. Which one do you want me to free: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of him.<sup>19</sup> While Pilate was sitting there

in the place for judging, his wife sent a message to him. It said, “Don’t do anything with that man. He is not guilty. Last night I had a dream about him, and it troubled me very much.”<sup>20</sup> But the leading priests and older Jewish leaders told the people to ask for Barabbas to be set free and for Jesus to be killed.<sup>21</sup> Pilate said, “I have Barabbas and Jesus. Which one do you want me to set free for you?” The people answered, “Barabbas!”<sup>22</sup> Pilate asked, “So what should I do with Jesus, the one called the Messiah?” All the people said, “Kill him on a cross!”<sup>23</sup> Pilate asked, “Why do you want me to kill him? What wrong has he done?” But they shouted louder, “Kill him on a cross!”<sup>24</sup> Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do to make the people change. In fact, it looked as if there would be a riot. So he took some water and washed his hands<sup>[c]</sup> in front of them all. He said, “I am not guilty of this man’s death. You are the ones who are doing it!”<sup>24</sup> Pilate decided to give them what they wanted.

*Take a blue stone to remember Pontius Pilate washing his hands when he handed Jesus over to die.*

### **Station 6** **Luke 23:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away. At that same time there was a man from Cyrene named Simon coming into the city from the fields. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross and walk behind him.<sup>27</sup> A large crowd followed Jesus. Some of the women were sad and crying. They felt sorry for him.

*Take a piece of wood to remember Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus’s cross.*

### **Station 7** **Mark 15: 22-24, 27** **Luke 23:34**

They led Jesus to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull.”)<sup>23</sup> There they gave him some wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused to drink it.<sup>24</sup> The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then they divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get what.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.”<sup>[c]</sup>

*Take one dice to remember the soldiers who crucified Jesus.*

### **Station 8** **Luke 23:33a, 39-43**

They also nailed two criminals to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left.<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging there began to shout insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Then save yourself, and save us too!”<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal stopped him. He said, “You should fear God. All of us will die soon.”<sup>41</sup> You

and I are guilty. We deserve to die because we did wrong. But this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you begin ruling as king!”<sup>43</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

*Take a piece of rough cloth to remember the criminals who died with Jesus.*

**Station 9**  
**John 19:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus’ mother stood near his cross. Her sister was also standing there with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower he loved very much standing there. He said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the follower, “Here is your mother.” So after that, this follower took Jesus’ mother to live in his home.

*Take a heart to remember Mother Mary’s love and sorrow.*

**Station 10**  
**John 19:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Later, Jesus knew that everything had been done. To make the Scriptures come true he said, “I am thirsty.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> There was a jar full of sour wine there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus’ mouth. <sup>30</sup> When he tasted the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and died.

*Take a sponge to remember the soldier who showed compassion to Jesus before he died.*

**Station 11**  
**Mark 15:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. <sup>39</sup> The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died. The officer said, “This man really was the Son of God!”

*Take a piece of smooth glass to remember the centurion who clearly recognized Jesus as the Son of God.*

**Station 12**  
**John 19:38**

<sup>38</sup> Later, a man named Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus, but he did not tell anyone, because he was afraid of

the Jewish leaders.) Pilate said Joseph could take Jesus' body, so he came and took it away.

*Take a stone to remember the one that Joseph of Arimathea will use to seal the tomb of Jesus.*

**Station 13**  
**John 19:39-42a**

<sup>39</sup> Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had come to Jesus before and talked to him at night. He brought about 100 pounds<sup>[a]</sup> of spices—a mixture of myrrh and aloes. <sup>40</sup> These two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in pieces of linen cloth with the spices. (This is how the Jews bury people.) <sup>41</sup> In the place where Jesus was killed on the cross, there was a garden. In the garden there was a new tomb. No one had ever been buried there before. <sup>42</sup> The men put Jesus in that tomb

*Take a strip of white cloth to remember Nicodemus wrapping up the body of Jesus.*

**Station 14**  
**Luke 23:55-56**

<sup>55</sup> The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus followed Joseph. They saw the tomb. Inside they saw where he put Jesus' body. <sup>56</sup> Then they left to prepare some sweet-smelling spices to put on the body. On the Sabbath day (Saturday) they rested, as commanded in the Law of Moses.

*They would return to the tomb when Sabbath ends (which is dawn on Sunday morning).*

*Take a pinch of cloves to remember the women watching and waiting to put spices on Jesus's body.*

*The sun was setting and that Friday was coming to a close. Jesus's body was in the tomb, and his followers held each other close. It looks like the end of very sad story, doesn't it? But we know that a new beginning will come on the third day...but that's a story for this Sunday.*