

Mindful Colouring

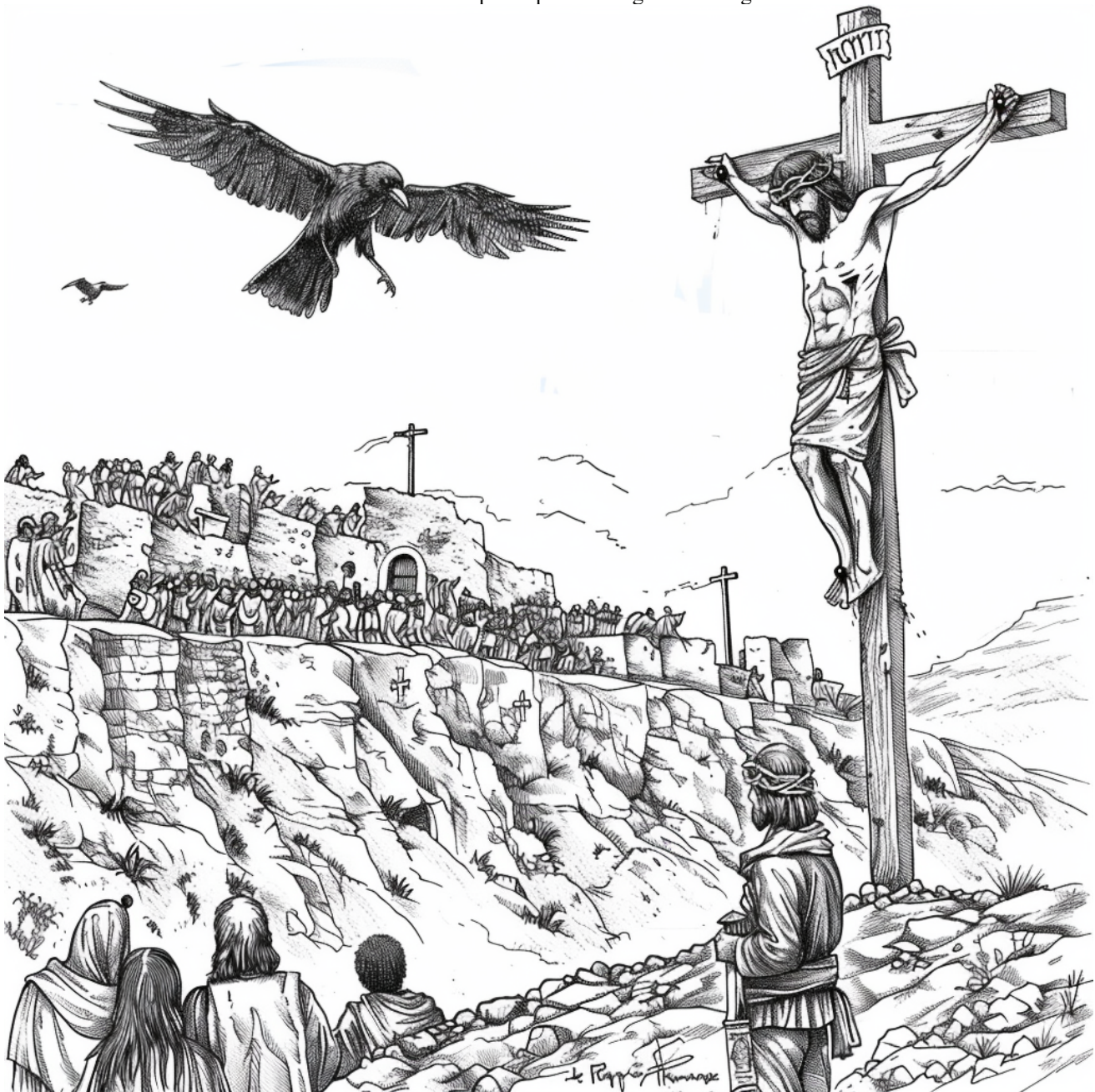
The Suffering and Death of Jesus

As we light this candle
And ring the bell
We pray that God is with us this day.

Close your eyes
Place your hand on your belly. Notice your breathe as your belly moves.
Breathe in through your nose and out
Through your mouth.
Breathe in and breathe and out
Repeat for 1 minutes.

Sign of the Cross - in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invite participants to begin colouring



Song - Chris Tomlin - At The Cross
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORvXT2ZRwUE>

Song - Lauren Daigle - Christ Alone
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ch6eXkQWU8>

Song - Matt Maher - Lord I need you
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaVPubNFAo>

Song - I am the bread of life - Steve Agrisano
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08Wk9Z_6mvQ

Scripture - Mark 14:1—15:47

Assign different readers to read the different colours below....

As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “**Are you the king of the Jews?**” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, “**Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.**” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, “**Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?**” For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply, “**Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?**” They shouted again, “**Crucify him.**” Pilate said to them, “**Why? What evil has he done?**” They only shouted the louder, “**Crucify him.**” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, “**Hail, King of the Jews!**” and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha—which is translated Place of the Skull— They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “**The King of the Jews.**” With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “**Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross.**” Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, “**He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.**” Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**” which is translated, “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**” Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “**Look, he is calling Elijah.**” One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying, “**Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.**” Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. Here all kneel and pause for a short time. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “**Truly this man was the Son of God!**”

Scripture Reflection

This passage describes the final moments of Jesus' life and death. Jesus is sentenced to death under the guise of Pax Romana, or the Roman peace, a pretext under which many were executed annually. What renders this event extraordinary, however, is what follows. Christians believe that it's not merely His suffering and death that are significant but rather that God chose to resurrect Jesus. Yet, before being brought back to life, Jesus had to endure suffering and death. His demise isn't merely a result of jealousy but stems from sin—the sin of judging others, the sin of greed and power, and the sin of murder. Each of us, at times, may act in ways that harm others and displease God. Do we recognize these moments, or do we simply follow the crowd? God calls us to combat injustice in our lives by becoming instruments of His peace. Do we welcome Jesus into our lives? Do we learn from our past mistakes? Do we transform into people not of death and suffering but of resurrection?

Silent Reflection

Silently reflect on the today's scripture passage and its meaning for us today. Reflect on the questions for reflection.

Discussion

1. What has happened to Jesus?
2. When have you been like each character in this story?
3. How is our own suffering and death like Jesus?
4. How do we recognise these moments or do we go along with the crowd?
5. What can this story teach us?
6. Why did the centurion change? Can we change?
7. How do we allow God Jesus into our lives?
8. How do we become people not of death and suffering, but of resurrection?

Prayers of the faithful

1. Let us pray for the Church and its leaders, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to embody the humility and selflessness of Jesus. May they inspire us to recognize our own moments of judgment and to seek forgiveness and renewal in our lives. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

2. We pray for peace in our world, our communities, and our hearts. May the peace of Christ, which transcends all understanding, guide our actions and help us to become instruments of God's peace, challenging injustices and spreading love. Lord, hear our prayer.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

3. Let us pray for all who suffer from the consequences of sin—whether it be through personal choices or the actions of others. May they find comfort in God's boundless mercy and hope in the promise of resurrection and new life. Lord, hear our prayer.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

4 We ask for the grace to open our hearts to Jesus, allowing His life, death, and resurrection to transform us. May we learn from our past mistakes, embrace His teachings, and grow into people characterized not by death and suffering, but by the joy and hope of the resurrection. Lord, hear our prayer. **ALL** - Lord hear our prayer.

5. Let us pray for our dearly departed, especially those we hold close in our hearts. May they, through God's loving mercy, be welcomed into the eternal joy of the heavenly kingdom, where death and mourning are no more. Lord, hear our prayer.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

5. Are there any other prayer?

Closing prayer

Loving and Merciful God, as we reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, guide us to embody His teachings in our daily lives. Grant us the courage to confront and confess our sins, the strength to resist the temptations of judgment, greed, and power, and the compassion to be instruments of Your peace. May the promise of resurrection inspire us to transform our lives and the world around us, fostering a community of love, justice, and hope. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Sign of the Cross - in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.