

## **STATION X: MARY AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE STAND AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. - John 19:25-27

### **COMPASSION**

"Jesus, by your life and death you created a new family born of your love, compassion, and sacrifice. Help me to see you in each of my sisters and brothers. May we all know that we are one in you. Amen."

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## **STATION XI: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. -Matthew 27:45-51

### **DEATH**

"The veil between the sanctuary of the temple and the holy of holies is rent asunder from top to bottom. All that separated creation from the Creator is obliterated by the Almighty. The cherubim sheathe their swords as the gates of paradise are once and for all time flung wide. Let me never set anything between the Divine Presence and myself. May I strive to keep the awareness of my communion with God unobscured by any thing or person, especially my own ego, lest I fall prey to the deception of the deceiver as did our forebearers."

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## **STATION XII: JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. - John 19:31-34, 38

### **LOVE**

The half light belonging to neither day nor night hangs like a pall over Calvary's bleak hill. After the shaking of the earth, the jeering crowds and curious onlookers have fled for the safety of their homes, leaving you surrounded only with the loyal few, Joseph of Arimathea and the secret disciple, Nicodemus, remove the lifeless body of your dear Son from the cross and you gently enfold your maternal arms around the fruit of your womb. The prophetic words of aged Simeon uttered in the holy temple echo in your mind: "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."