

STATION VII: SIMON OF CYRENE ASSISTS JESUS

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross: it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. – Mark 15:21

HELP

“When we take up the burdens of another, we can do this knowing that Christ walks with us. When we carry the burdens of another, we can see that the burden of another is eased. We can take up the cross knowing that God is near. In this is redemption.” – Scott Gunn

STATION VIII: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” – Luke 23:27-31

WITNESS

The road into Jerusalem is bustling on this sultry midmorning as the crowds’ jostle into the city to buy provisions for the evening’s solemn meal. An official procession of Roman soldiers, temple police, religious officials, and curious onlookers makes its way in the opposite direction. Within this procession are three men on their way to be crucified on a rocky outcropping outside the city gate. Caught in the cross-traffic are a good number of followers of one of the men condemned to death. Among the followers is a band of women clutching their children, scanning the procession for their leader....

STATION IX: SOLDIERS NAIL JESUS TO THE CROSS

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide 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.” – Mark 15:22-26

SURRENDER

I hear, O Jesus, the sound of the hammer blows as they drive the crude iron nails into the soft flesh between your wrist bones and then into the ligaments of the rough timber cross. As the point of the nails pass through to the bare rock beneath the wood, the metallic sound reverberates as if it could split the very earth to its molten core, as indeed it pierces your mother, Mary, to the core of her being. The soldier’s task is swiftly done, as with his ruddy woolen mantel John tries to shield Mary from the horror.