

*The Stations Of
The Cross*

“I Was There”

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Stn 5. *Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross*

Mark 15:21 (NRSV)

²¹ 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.



Reflection:

That guy ----Simon was it?
He helped carry the cross
for Jesus.

In fact he took it off him.

This guy
wasn't even one of us!
Why didn't we dash forward?

Why didn't we
put ourselves in his place?

Why didn't we
lend Jesus our strength?
Simon didn't even know him,
and yet his willingness
became part of Jesus' story.

My inactivity
remains part of mine

Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would be the first in line to ease your burden.
Forgive me my unwillingness to be involved.**

Stn 6. *Veronica Wipes the Face Of Jesus*

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 (NRSV)

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'



Reflection:

She was so gentle, so loving.
He could have been a child,
a beloved child
with dirt on his face.

When I saw her
wipe the face of Jesus
I could not help
but remember those words.

“You did it to me”

But I didn't!

I could see your distress,
the dust, the sweat, the blood,
and I did nothing.

When in wiping your face
I would have been wiping the
face of God.

Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would wipe your face and kiss your bloodied brow.
Forgive me my neglect of your need.**

Stn 7. *Jesus Falls For The Second Time*

Isaiah 53:7 (NRSV)

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.



Reflection:

For some reason,
I cannot not help
but think
what it must look like to him.

The road
coming up to strike him
and he cannot do a thing.

The cross
is driving him into the ground.

This is so hard to watch.

Why are they doing this?

What have you done wrong?

Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would cry out because of your silence
in spite of your silence.
Forgive me my helpless silence**

Stn 8. *Jesus Meets The Women Of Jerusalem*

Luke 23:27,28 (NRSV)

²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.



Reflection:

You know just to be there
and see the crush of humanity,
it was incredible,
the different cultures and creeds!
The different reasons for being there.
I heard weeping. I heard laughing.
I heard people asking questions
I could see
so many different emotions.
Some didn't know
what the heck was happening.
Some as usual
wanted to be in the frontline.
Others were horrified
trying to come to terms
with the sight before them.
Then he spoke.
We should indeed cry for ourselves
and what we allow to happen

Response:

I was there,

but if I had my time again my Lord, I would agree.

**We should have been weeping
for what we were allowing to happen
Forgive me my apathy**

Stn 9. *Jesus Falls For The Third Time*

Isaiah 53:3-4 (NRSV)

³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.



Reflection:

What fools we are!
We talked and thought,
as though God was doing this!
As though for some
transgression or other
God would do this to anyone,
let alone to this one.
We were the ones who were
guilty, all of us there.
As I stood there I realised
“He is doing this for me”
We are still
the one’s who crucify.
We are still the one’s
who have got it wrong.

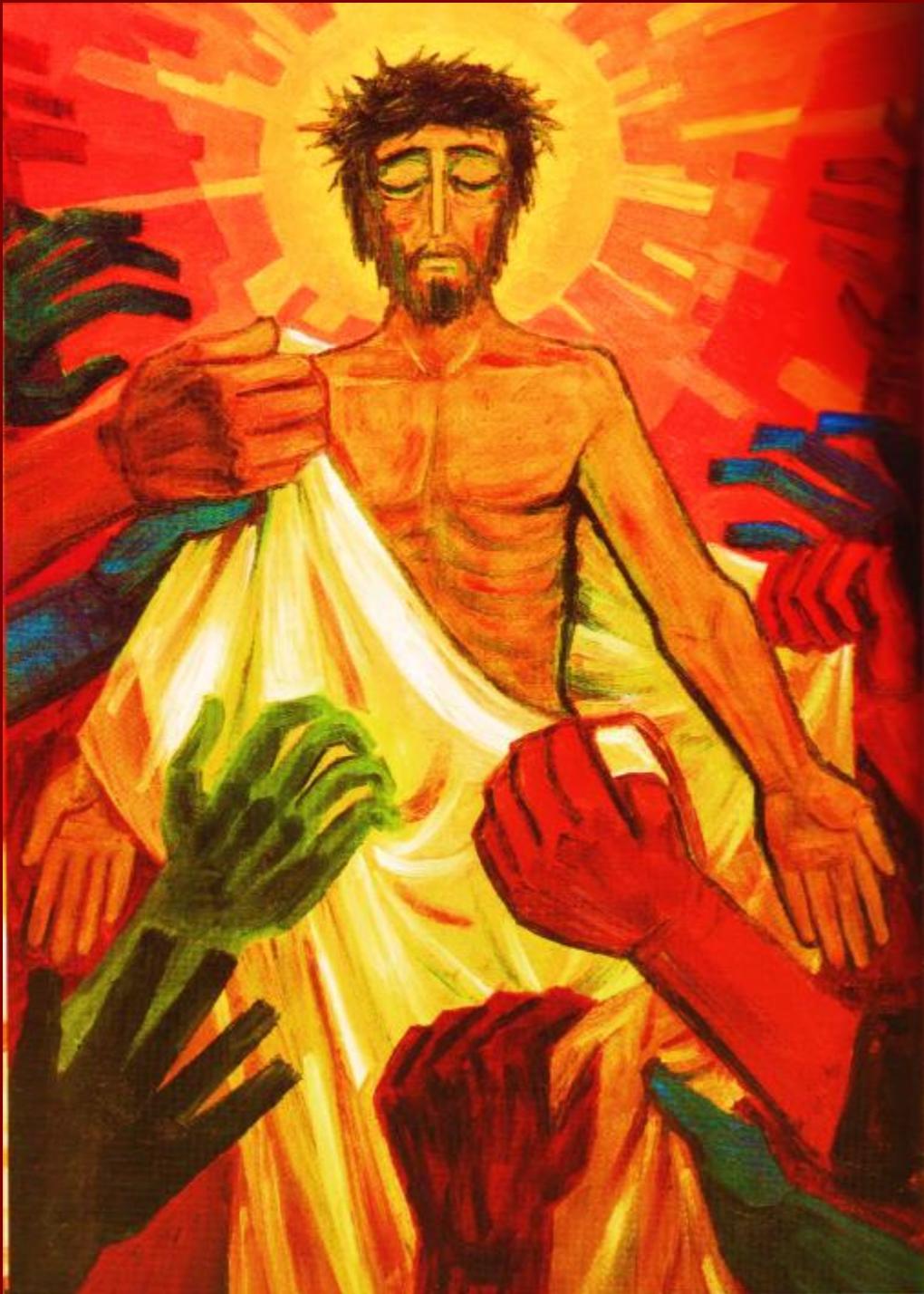
Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord, I would know.
I do know you did it for me.
Forgive me my ignorance**

Stn 10. *Jesus Is Stripped Of His Clothes*

Mark 15:22-24 (NRSV)

²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.



Reflection:

Look at you!
Standing there, so vulnerable,
yet, so seemingly calm.
So beaten, and yet so strong.

Stripped now of clothing,
But not of who, or whose,
you are.

Stripped of disciples,
alone, but resolved.

I can hardly bear to look,
yet cannot turn away.

O what have we done?

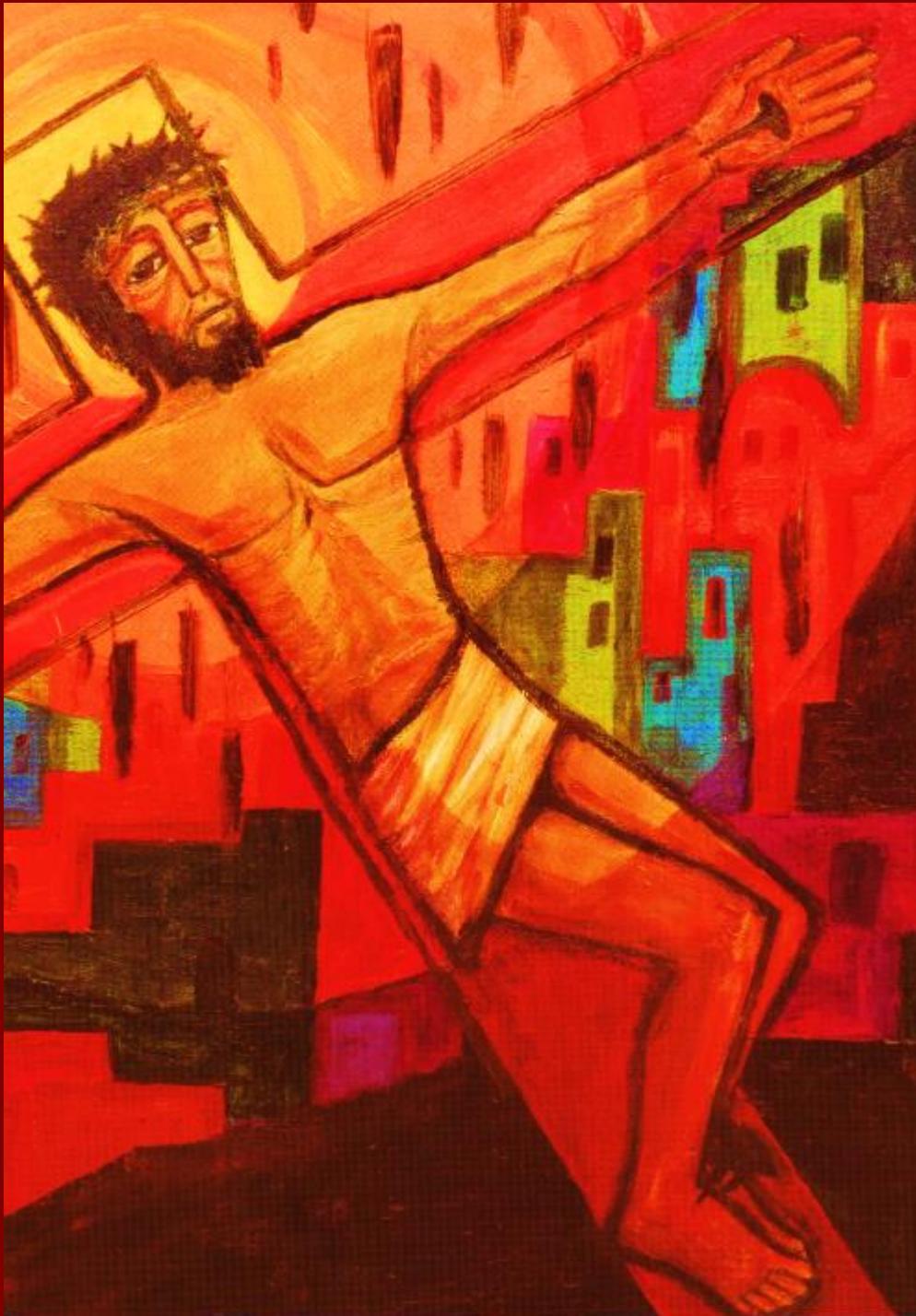
Response:

I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would not be able to stand immobile.
I would need to stand beside you,
lend you my coat.
Forgive me my inhumanity.

Stn 11. *Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross*

Luke 23:35,49 (NRSV)

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.



Reflection:

At this time, on that
dreadful day,
you had already been
nailed to the cross.

We all looked on
from a distance.

I could see you were dying,
and even from a distance
I was filled with pain.

You see I knew it was me
you were saving,
it was all of us.

I could not believe such love.

We still look on
from a distance,
of time, of space, of culture.

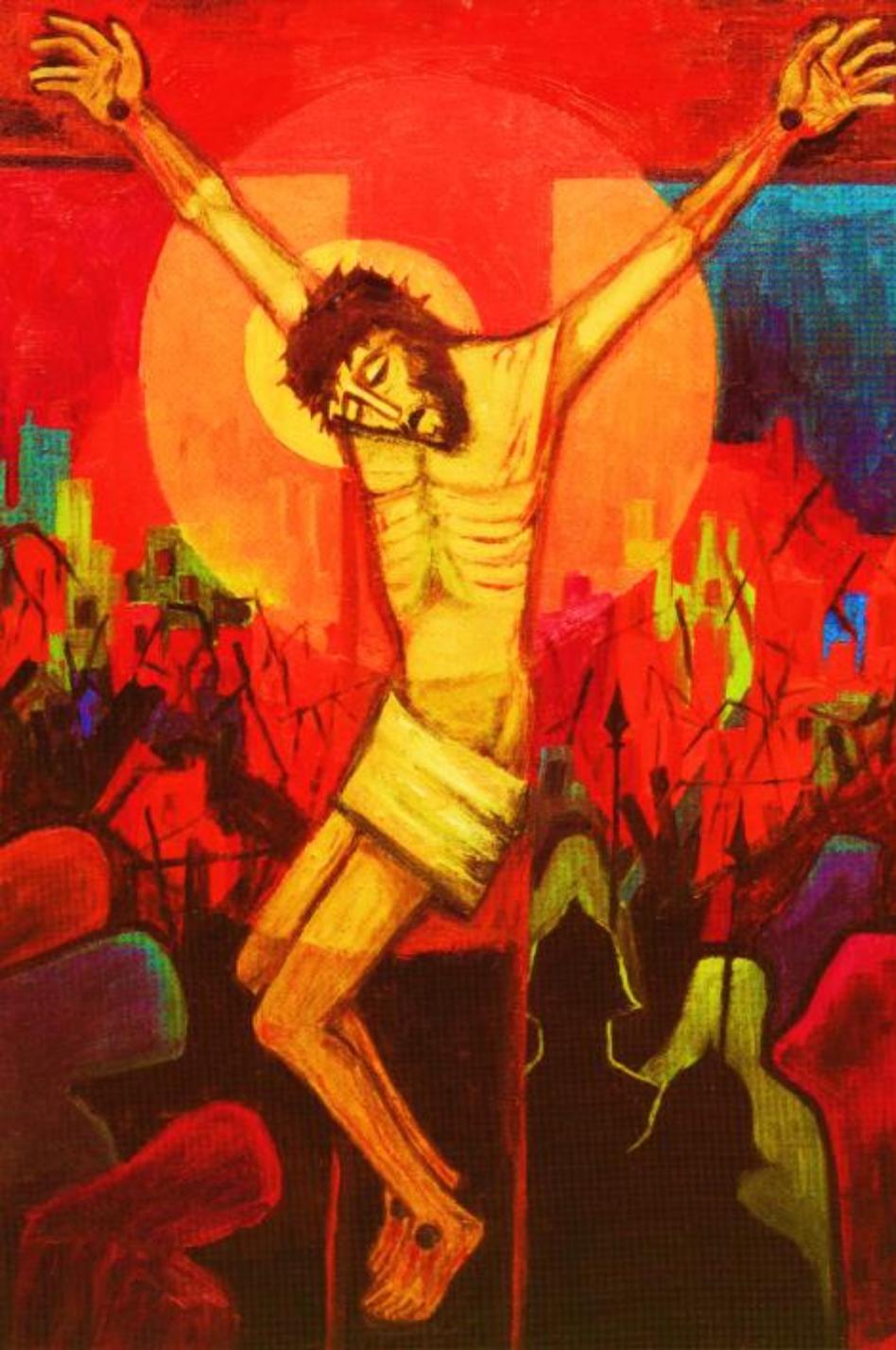
Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would not stand at a distance.
I would be with you in your dying.
Forgive me my abandonment.**

Stn 12. *Jesus Dies On The Cross*

Luke 23:44-46 (NRSV)

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.



Reflection:

It was noon.
You would have thought
it was night.

Just before Jesus died
he cried out.

I was amazed,
by the strength of his voice.

Into God's hands
he placed his spirit.
God's hands not ours!

All that he was,
all he had ever been,
placed into God's hands.

Safe now from us,
and the pain we had caused.

All he has ever done
was show us love,
and now he was gone.

Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would weep at the foot of your cross .
Forgive me my lack of compassion.**

Stn 13. *Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross*

Mark 15:42-46 (NRSV)

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.



Reflection

Look how they gently take
his body down.
Ready to place
into the arms of his mother.
Once again
he is wrapped in cloths,
As he was as a baby.
He is dead,
but for his mother
he will never die.
And just as for Mary,
he will remain
in all our memories.

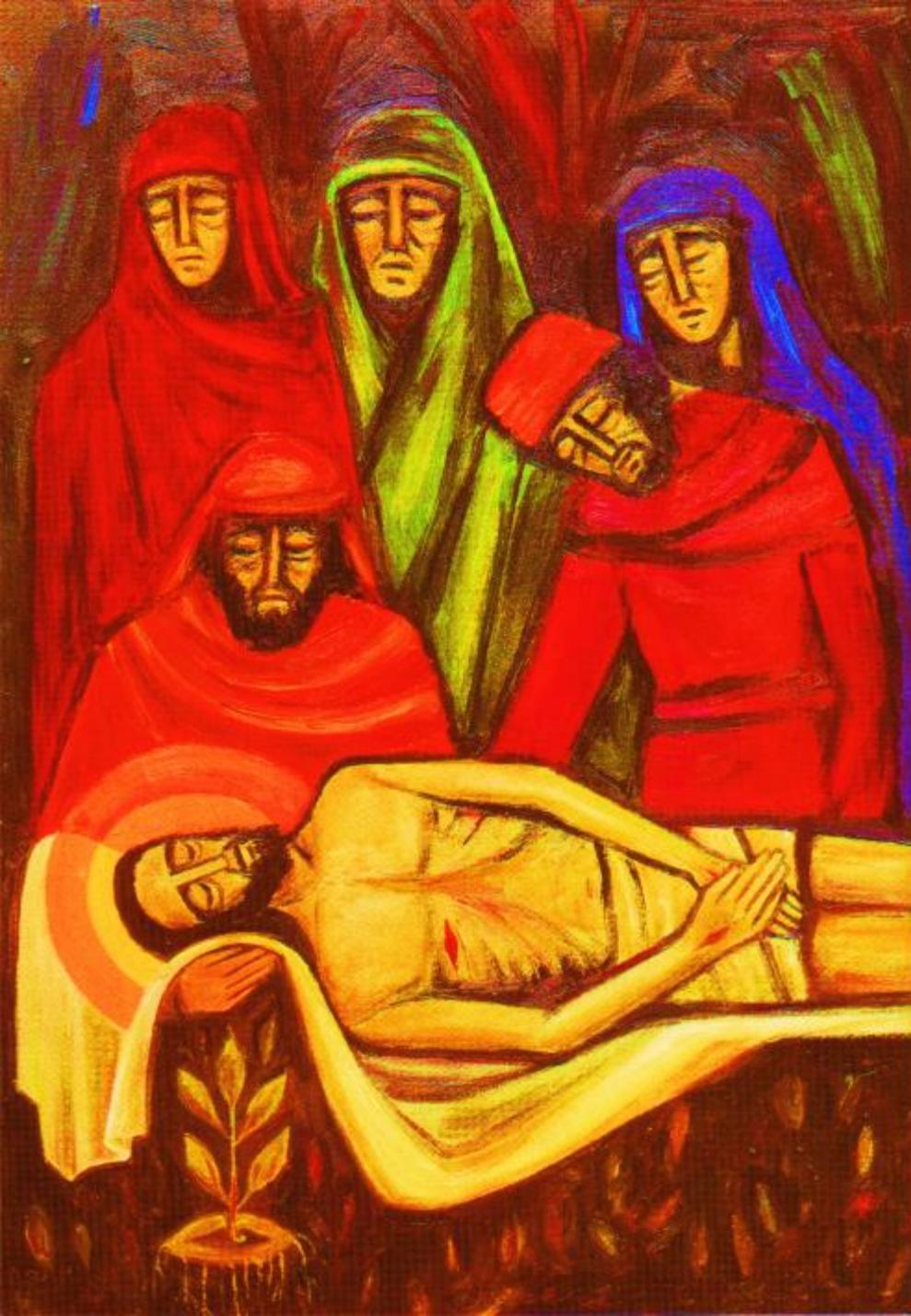
Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would offer cloths to wrap you in
and help lift you down .
Forgive me my absence.**

Stn 14. *Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb*

Mark 15:46-47 (NRSV)

⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.



Reflection:

The tomb is sealed now,
He is safe,
Safe,
from prying eyes,
safe,
from the blows, the nails,
the thorns.

I felt myself sighing.
It was over for him,
it was over for me.
I didn't have to watch
him suffer anymore.
I felt relief
as well as grief
and wished for the morning.

Response:

**I was there,
but if I had my time again my Lord,
I would not sigh in relief,
I would get ready.
I am waiting.
I am waiting for the dawn.**