



JOURNEY WITH JESUS

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SADDLEBACK CHURCH

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Dear Friend,

We are excited for you to experience Journey with Jesus, an interactive art installation and outdoor trail at Saddleback Church, Rancho Capistrano.

At the Retreat Ministry we have come to value both the beauty and reflective nature of art and the ways that God can use it to speak to our hearts. Likewise, we hope that this will be a rich resource for you in your own times with the Lord.

Our desire as a ministry is that this walk would help you to further cultivate a life that is marked by abiding and fully living in Christ.

John 15:4 (NASB)

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”

Peace to you as you continue on this journey with him,

Saddleback Spiritual Maturity Team

CONTENTS

<i>Letter from Spiritual Maturity Team</i>	3
<i>What is Journey with Jesus?</i>	7
<i>Taking the Journey</i>	7
I. Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet	8
II. The Last Supper	10
III. Jesus In the Garden of Gethsemane	12
IV. Jesus Is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested	14
V. Jesus Is Condemned by the Sanhedrin	16
VI. Jesus Is Denied by Peter	18
VII. Jesus Is Judged by Pontius Pilate	20
VIII. Jesus Is Scourged at the Pillar and Crowned with Thorns	22
IX. Jesus Bears the Cross	24
X. Jesus Is Helped by Simon to Carry the Cross	26
XI. Jesus Is Crucified	28
XII. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief	30
XIII. Jesus Dies on the Cross	32
XIV. Jesus Is Placed In the Tomb	34
XV. Resurrection	36
<i>About the Artist</i>	38
<i>Ways to Grow at Saddleback</i>	38

1 Peter 2:23-25

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

WHAT IS JOURNEY WITH JESUS?

For many years, Christians have taken time to remember Christ's work on the cross—dying for and redeeming us. Throughout history, writers, musicians, and artists have created their own representations of Christ's journey to the cross. In light of that tradition, these 15 hand-casted mosaics have been created to provide a beautiful place to pray, celebrate, reflect—to remember what God has done for us in Jesus' death and resurrection.

You are invited to step into this story, a story that really happened over two thousand years ago, and to Journey with Jesus.

TAKING THE JOURNEY

As you walk through the 15 stages depicting Jesus' journey to the cross, consider both Christ's experiences throughout the Passion Week, as well as your own journey of faith. Take a moment to slow down, take a deep breath, and allow yourself to be caught up in the story. What was it like to choose the path Jesus chose? What might he have felt, seen, heard, and experienced as he journeyed to the cross? How do you relate to his journey? What is hard to comprehend? As you imagine what it would be like to walk the way of the cross, pay attention to God's promptings and invitations.



I. WOMAN ANOINTS JESUS' FEET

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



PRAYER

Father,

What an extravagant, yet intimate act of worship that was. May my worship flow freely each day in celebration of all Jesus has done for me.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





II. THE LAST SUPPER

Luke 22:14–23

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.



PRAYER

Father,

Jesus' final meal was filled with both joy and grief. This special meal with his closest friends symbolized the suffering that he would soon endure. Let my heart live out of the reality that because of the cross I also have been welcomed to Jesus' table.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



III. JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:36–39

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”



PRAYER

Father,

What an agonizing moment it was for Jesus when he said “yes” to the cross. Help me to say “yes” to your will, even when it costs all I have.

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen.*





IV. JESUS IS BETRAYED BY JUDAS AND ARRESTED

Mark 14:43–46

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.



PRAYER

Father,

This betrayal by a close friend is shocking and heartbreaking. However, if I'm honest, I have betrayed Jesus as well through my own sin. Thank you for the grace extended me by the cross, which I am in need of daily.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





V. JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN

Luke 22:66-71

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."



PRAYER

Father,

What an intense moment this was, as Jesus was condemned and shamed by the leaders of his community. However, his identity could not be shaken. Help me to stand firm in my identity as your child, no matter what others say.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





VI. JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER

Matthew 26:69–75

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.



PRAYER

Father,

How easy it is to deny the truth
when faced with persecution. Give me
the strength by your Spirit to stand
with Jesus in the truth, even when it
feels risky.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





VII. JESUS IS JUDGED BY PONTIUS PILATE

Mark 15:1-5

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.



PRAYER

Father,

Jesus did not respond to his accusers. I can't imagine how humbling that would be to face false accusations and to remain silent. Give me eyes to see what you see rather than what the world sees.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





VIII. JESUS IS SCOURGED AT THE PILLAR AND CROWNED WITH THORNS

Mark 15:16–20

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



PRAYER

Father,

Such humiliation and pain is difficult to picture. May I recall that Jesus, who suffered greatly in life, meets me in my own humiliation and pain.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





IX. JESUS BEARS THE CROSS

John 19:16-17

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).



PRAYER

Father,

How heavy that cross must have been for Jesus. I am called to take up my own cross and follow Jesus. Help me to remember I do not do this alone, but am accompanied and strengthened by Jesus who knows the way.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





X. JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON TO CARRY THE CROSS

Luke 23:26

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.



PRAYER

Father,

Simon carried a burden that was not his, just as Jesus chose to carry the weighty sins of the world on the cross. By your Spirit may I help others with their burdens.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





XI. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Luke 23:33–34

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”



PRAYER

Father,

Your Son was put on display and shamed
by those he came to save. Yet, he still
chose to forgive those same people.
Help me to become the kind of person
who chooses forgiveness.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





XII. JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE GOOD THIEF

Luke 23:39–43 (NIV)

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”



PRAYER

Father,

In many ways I am just like the good thief, rightly condemned for the wrongs I have done. May pride never stop me from throwing myself upon the mercy of Jesus.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





XIII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.



PRAYER

Father,

What was it like to watch your only Son die a painful and horrible death? At times it is difficult to imagine that Christ's death could bring about my salvation.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*



XIV. JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

Matthew 27:57–60

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.



PRAYER

Father,

What a hopeless moment. All seemed lost. All seemed dark. Yet, the story was not over. When darkness seems to consume my life, may I remember the sure hope found in you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*





XV. RESURRECTION

John 20:11–18

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.



PRAYER

Father,

What an unbelievable moment for Mary to witness—the resurrection of Jesus! “Thank you” will never capture the gratitude I feel when I think of Christ’s death and resurrection. Help me to share the truth of the life I have been gifted and to proclaim that He is Risen!

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen.*



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lance Jost is known for vivid, lifelike imagery in paintings and sculptures. He is truly a California artist, known for his astute sense of tradition and constant quest for innovation and craftsmanship in art, specializing in architectural sculpture. In *Journey with Jesus*, Jost used a variety of materials, including tiles, natural elements and cast glass, to create the visually striking mosaics. For more information on Lance and his artwork visit: www.lancejostdesigns.com.

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