

STATION 9

Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

REFLECT

"While speaking to the good thief, I imagine Jesus' hand outstretched beneath the brilliant sun radiating oranges, reds, and yellows. It takes great strength to find beauty in the midst of such darkness and pain. What more can he do other than offer another hope and light on their journey? Jesus' ministry on earth was about bringing the Kingdom of God into the here and now. He continues his ministry in his last moments by offering hope to the good thief. He assures him that they will be together beyond the pain, beyond the ceasing of their breath. The Kingdom of God is near—so close he can almost reach out and touch it." -Artist Lauren Wright Pittman

PRAY

May I always strive to find, acknowledge, reflect, and create beauty in this world.

Amen.

