

Step by Step with Jesus:

A Journey Toward More Abundant Life for All

Opening Our Lives

Invocation

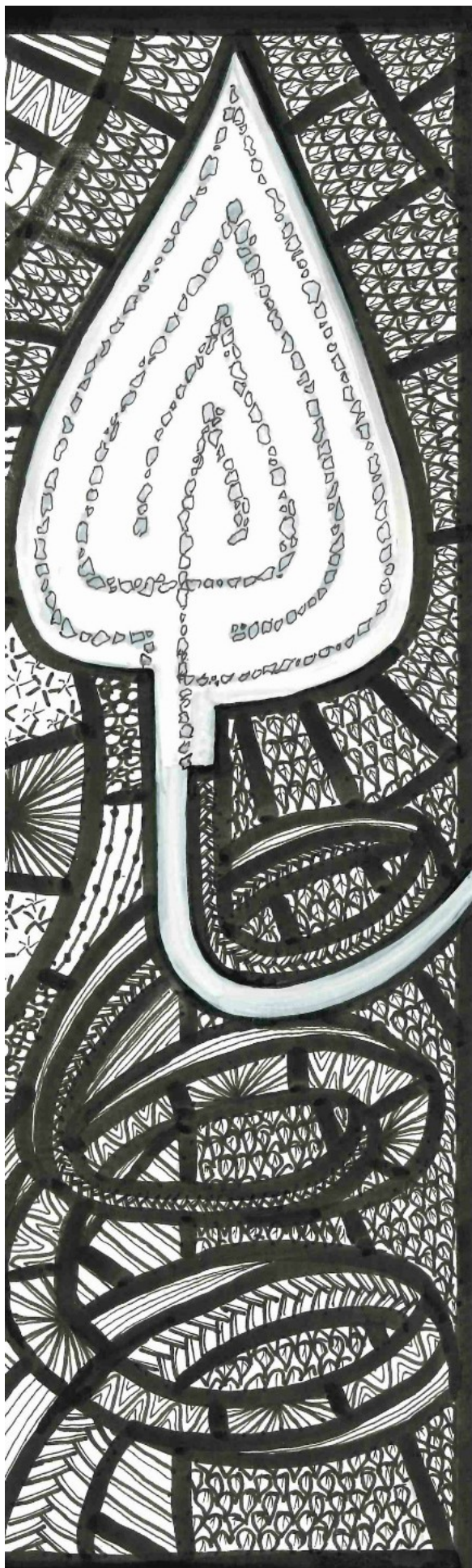
Jesus Christ, we remember how short your time on earth was. We remember how your whole life was about teaching us about God. Be with us now and show us how to have life and have it more abundantly. Show us how to share that abundance with all who hunger. Walk with us during this Lenten Journey and help us to be changed and to bring change in the world.

Confession

You know us, Lord. When we hear that all the world can be fed we cry, YES! When we hear that the poor can be pulled out of poverty we cry YES! But when we are asked if we will eat only two meals a day to make that happen – we are silent. This is the tough part, Lord. We really need your help. Show us how to live true to your teachings. Help us to live simply. Help us to live generously.

Gospel John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it



for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Prayer

Leader: Creator God, our very lives are gifts from you. Help us to live creatively so that we can share the bounties that you have given us.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.

Leader: Jesus the Christ, help us to live generously with every person who hungers – whether for food or for company or for peace.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.

Leader: Holy Spirit, give us new life. Stir up in us the gift of life we received in baptism. Give us enthusiasm and energy to share that life with the world.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.



A time to be still

You are invited into a time of silence.

Bring color to what was black and white.

Walk with Jesus through the Labyrinth of your life.

Consider how you might live abundantly with God's help.

(When "walking" a paper labyrinth, trace the way to the middle, pause in prayer, and then trace the way out.)

A blessing

May God bless our lives.

May we live creatively.

May we live simply.

May we live generously.

May we live knowing you are with us.