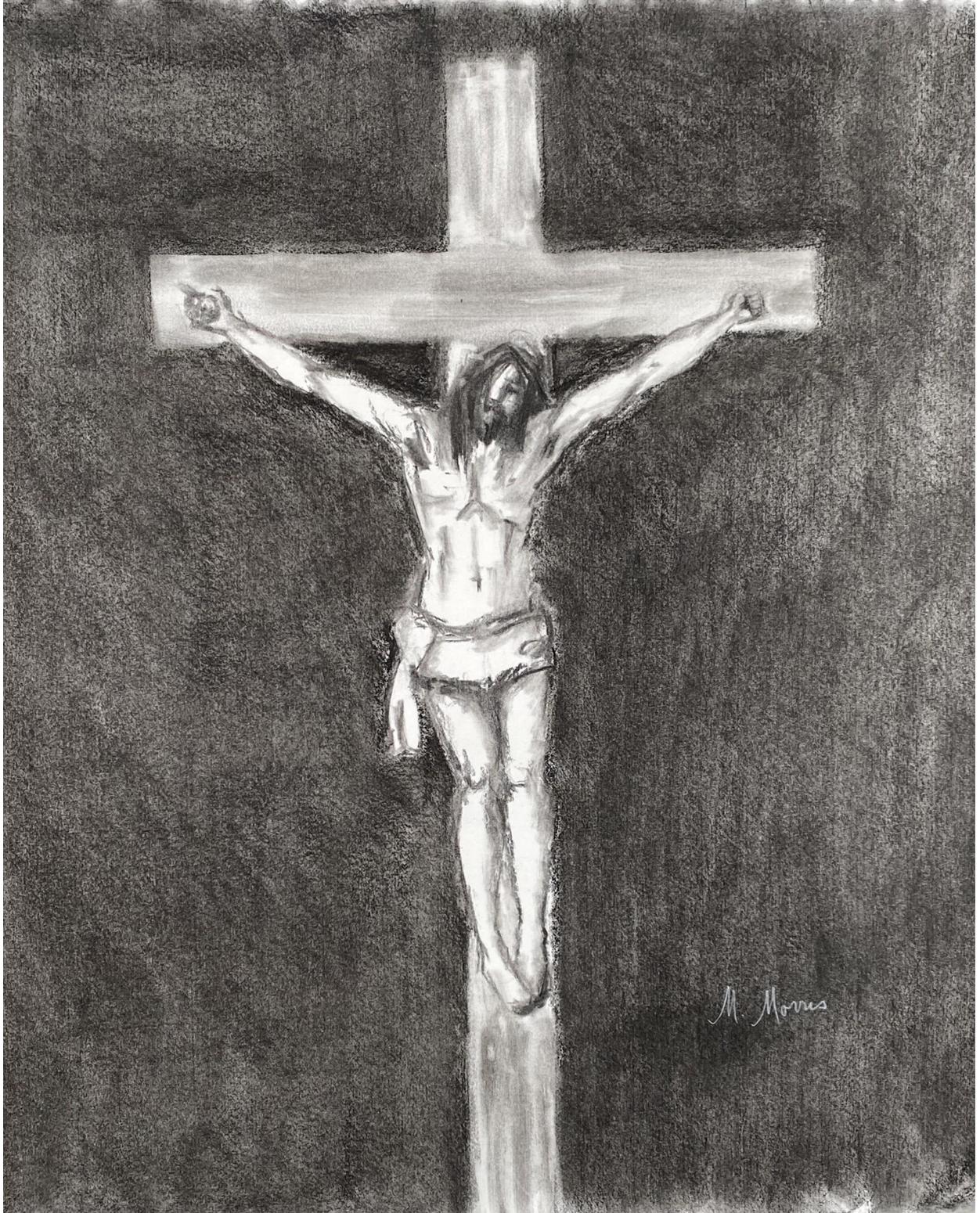


Art and Soul Ministries

The Death of Jesus



Three Hours of Darkness by Michelle Morris

Art Reflection

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.

To enter into prayer with the practice of Visio Divina with this piece of art, begin by taking a moment of silence with eyes closed to still yourself and invite God’s presence. Gaze at the painting and reflect on the questions below. Journaling your answers is helpful to go deeper in the meditation and as you reflect.

Take a long slow look at the artwork.

- What stirs in you when you look at this artwork?
- Use your imagination and enter the scene. Who are you and what are you doing?
- What are you feeling as you contemplate this scene?
- Close your eyes and replay the scene in your mind. What stands out to you?
- How is God calling you to respond to Him from what you have heard in this meditation?

Take some time after this meditation to sit quietly before God and reflect on anything that feels important. Thank him for sending his son to die for your sin.

Artists Reflections

As I meditated on the passage in Luke, I was struck by the darkness. I felt a work on the death of Jesus required the darkness of the hour. And so I chose to use vine charcoal. Vine charcoal is a fragile medium formed by burning grape vines in a kiln without air. This felt significant as I worked because God breathed us into life and Jesus had breathed His last into death. I also considered Jesus being the Vine and we the branches (John 15:5). Using the ashes of a grapevine to portray the scene seemed to complete the concept of death and darkness.

After reflecting on the simplicity of using nothing more than charred grape vine to depict Christ’s death on the cross, I felt I was standing on holy ground. I felt no struggle in creating the figure or

need for perfection but instead left it rough. I intentionally framed it with a black mat and frame which further imbues the piece with the feeling of darkness.

How do you experience the darkness that surrounds Christ on the cross?

After reading about the artist's experience with the vine charcoal, does this change how you view the piece?

What does this image reveal to you about the passion of Jesus?