



RESILIENCE

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INSPIRED BY PSALM 22

GOOD FRIDAY

Often, psalms such as this shock us with their honesty and brutality. We may hear these lamentful words read aloud in worship and think, “That doesn’t sound very sacred.”

But during Holy Week we remember that these words became a breathless prayer in Jesus’ final hours. We remember that God chose to surrender to death in order to rise above it. We remember that brutal honesty can be the most sacred expression of faith.

In this image, I aimed to capture the rawness of the poetry in Psalm 22. To embody the sense of complete surrender of the psalmist, I made this a self portrait of sorts. A lion roars, swords swipe, a bull charges, worms invade, enemies encroach, pot shards invade the air—this scene is graphic and horrifying. And yet, the figure stands firm, resilient in the face of death.

Perhaps this is the posture of Holy Week—we stand firm in the face of death, knowing that, like the fig tree, fruit will come.