

Passion Flower

St. Patrick is famous for connecting nature to theology with his comparison of clover to the Trinity. Did you know that early Spanish missionaries also used a plant to explain Christianity? You may have seen the passion flower before, or eaten its fruit in smoothies. The [passion flower](#) got its name from the Passion of Christ. In Spanish, it was called "la flor de las cinco llagas" or "flower of five wounds."

-The ten large, light purple petals represent the faithful disciples (those who neither betrayed nor denied Jesus)

-The wispy, hair like filaments represent the crown of thorns.

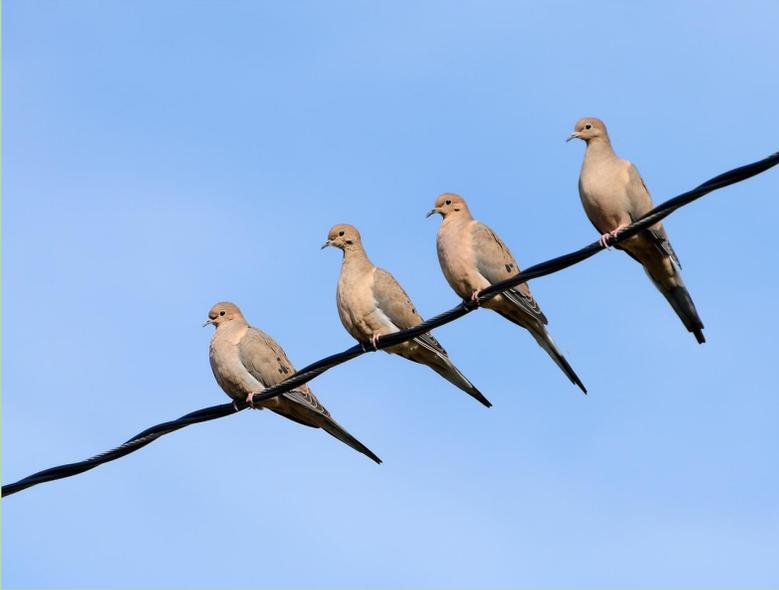
-The central circle of the flower represents the pillar of the scourging.

-The five yellow anthers (they look like a stalk with a yellow oval at the end) represent the five wounds of Christ. Although, if you look closely at this picture, there are six on this one. I don't know why.

-The three stigma at the very center of the flower represent the nails holding Jesus to the cross.



I notice. . . .



[Photo of mourning doves by Lewis Ulrey](#)

This week, Mr. O'Connor shared a beautiful Bible passage with me. Isaiah 38:14 says "Like a swallow I utter shrill cries; I moan like a dove. My eyes grow weak, gazing heavenward: O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!"

The verse is part of King Hezekiah's hymn of thanksgiving after he recovered from an illness. Mr. O'Connor and I both noticed that the author uses soft-spoken birds to illustrate how our prayers sound to God. He doesn't use the analogy of a screeching hawk, or an annoying grackle. He uses the analogy of birds that sound pleasant, even endearing. The next time you worry that your prayers sound whiney or repetitive, remember this passage.

Click [here](#) to hear a mourning dove call

Click [here](#) to hear a barn swallow call

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins as in art with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language. The quality of the crane lies, I think, in this higher gamut, as yet beyond the reach of words.

-Aldo Leopold, "Marshland Elegy", A Sand County Almanac.

Outdoor Adventures

Yesterday I noticed ants crawling on the yaupon holly. They crawled over the leaves and berries quickly, but spent a lot of time with their head over the tiny white flowers. I wondered if they were pollinating the flowers, so I did some research. Turns out, ants collect nectar for food, but they do not significantly help plants with pollination.



Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Exploring nature and beauty from home. Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have, and stay tuned for daily "10 minute nature breaks" to help you through your distance learning adventures!

Nolan Outdoor Learning Headquarters

In the office immediately to the left of the teacher boxes in room D22.

Please come by anytime! Let's chat about how we can work outdoor learning into your lesson plans!

ebreclaw@nchstx.org