



### **Scripture: Mark 11: 9-10**

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Jesus and His disciples make their entrance into Jerusalem. Two of His disciples went ahead of the rest and brought a donkey for Jesus to ride. Jesus is greeted by crowds waving palm branches and exclaiming, “Hosanna to the son of David!”

**Scripture:** Mark 11:1-11

**Activity: Palms and team game**

**Need:** Green construction paper, pencil, scissors, glue, Popsicle sticks, three t-shirts

Have each person in your family trace their hand four or five times on the green paper. Using the scissors, cut out the hands. Apply glue to the sticks and arrange the hands so they resemble a palm leaf. Once the leaves are finished, set up a start and finish line. Since the coats were laid so Jesus’s feet would not touch the ground, use the t-shirts to try to get your whole family and your palms from the start line to the finish line. Once you step on a shirt, lay another in front. Then, once you step on that one, reach back for the other and, again, place it in front. Keep this going all the way across the finish line!

**Alternative game for older kids**

**Need:** a blanket

Put your whole family on a blanket. Fold the blanket in half, while everyone is still standing on the blanket. Then fold it into fourths, all still standing on the blanket. Keep doing this until you fall off. How many times did you fold it? Can you try again and try to fold it more times?

**Prayer:** Faithful God, we give you praise this day! The people gathered to surround Jesus with shouts of praise, yet here we are at home to keep our neighbors safe by social distancing. We join our “Hosanna!” with people all over the world you are praising you this day. Be with us as we walk with Jesus during this coming week. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.

Some ideas and actives taken from [messychurchusa.org](http://messychurchusa.org)



**Scripture: Mark 11:15-19**

He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written,  
‘My house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all the nations’?  
But you have made it a den of robbers.”

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## MONDAY

Jesus and His disciples go to Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus is frustrated with how people are treating this worship space. He turns over tables and declares, “My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.”

**Scripture:** Mark 11:15-19

**Activity: Your House of Prayer**

**Need:** Paper, pencils, tape.

Create your own “house of prayer” by writing down reminders to pray. It can be specific prayers or just to pray in general, but write your thoughts on the paper and tape them up around the house. Mirrors, the refrigerator, the television, and doors are all good reminder places we will see frequently.

**Prayer:** God of all times, as we walk with Jesus as he walks toward to cross of Good Friday, be present with us in all of the twists and turns of this Holy Week story. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.



**Scripture: Mark 13:28-29**

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he<sup>[e]</sup> is near, at the very gates.

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## TUESDAY

In this day, we look at the story when Jesus and His disciples come across a fig tree as they walked through the streets of Jerusalem. Jesus used the fig tree to give a lesson about staying persistent when it seems that everything is falling apart. The leaves on the fig tree are beginning to sprout and Jesus tells his followers that it is a sign that the seasons are changing. Jesus then instructs them that when things are changing, they are to stay alert and pray for strength. Our world has changed through the Covid-19 pandemic but we can hear the voice of Jesus telling us to stay alert and to pray for strength.

**Scripture:** Mark 11:15-19

**Activity:** Pay Attention and Pray

**Need:** Pencils, paper.

Take a moment to reflect on what may be causing you anxiety today. Draw a picture or write it down on your paper. As a family, take turns sharing what it is you are feeling. Then as a family pray for strength during this time of uncertainty. Reach out to your friends via social media, a phone call, or write a letter to someone in a nursing home or senior housing. Let them know that you are also praying for them.

**Prayer:** Merciful God, during this time of uncertainty, we remember how Jesus told his disciples to stay alert and to pray for strength. Give us strength and courage this day. Thank you that you are with us in our anxiety and will never leave us alone. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.



**Scripture: Mark 14:10-11**

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup> When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

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## WEDNESDAY

Today we look at the story of one of Jesus's disciples, Judas, who goes to the religious leaders of the time who are disturbed by the teachings of Jesus and want to silence him by arresting him. Judas asks the religious leaders what they would give him if he helps them follow through with their plan to arrest Jesus. The men count out thirty silver coins and hand them to Judas. From that point on, Judas is looking for a time when he can help the leaders arrest Jesus.

**Scripture:** Mark 14:10-11

**Activity: Collecting Silver**

**Need:** Thirty pieces of silver.

Collect thirty pieces of silver. You can donate them to a group or charity that your family chooses.

The silver can include nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, or any other coins of the same color.

**Prayer:** Forgiving God, there are times in our lives when we turn away from you and do not love others as Jesus teaches us to love. We ask for your forgiveness. Give us the courage to follow the teaching of Jesus to love one another. We thank you for your mercy. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.

# MAUNDY THURSDAY



## Scripture: Mark 14:22-23

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

On this Holy Thursday, Jesus and his disciples sat down together to celebrate the Passover.

This was a special meal meant to remind everyone of how God saved the Israelites and brought them out of Egypt. Before they ate the meal, Jesus knelt down and washed his disciples' feet. This was something that a servant would normally do and the disciples were shocked! But Jesus told them that they were to love one another like this, by serving one another. We call this day "Maundy" Thursday because "Maundy" means "mandate" – Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another the way Jesus loved them. At the end of the meal, frequently called "The Last Supper", Jesus took bread and wine, which was tradition at the end of a Jewish meal, and he blessed them and told his followers to remember him whenever they gathered together. Later that Thursday night, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and taken to the house of one of the high priests where they begin to make a case against Him to use in a trial.

### Scripture: Mark 14:12-31

### Activity: Cup Decorating

**Need:** Paper cup, stickers, markers, any other decorations

Decorate your paper cup any way you'd like. What are different symbols that you could put on your cup for Maundy Thursday? As you eat supper tonight remember how Jesus ate a meal with his disciples. Take time to talk about each person is an important part of your family. How do you show love for each other just as Jesus showed his love for all of us on that night before he died.

**Prayer:** God of mercy, as we prepare this meal, we remember how Jesus told us to remember him whenever we break bread and share a cup with one another. We thank you for Jesus and for his love for us and we remember his teaching us to love one another. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN



**Scripture: Mark 15: 38-39**

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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## GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is, by far, the most somber and arduous day of the Holy Week. On this day, Jesus Christ was wrongfully accused in illegal trials and sentenced to death via crucifixion. He was nailed to a wooden cross and suffered for many hours before His death. Friday evening, Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb.

**Scripture: Mark 15:33-41**

This is the portion of Mark that talks about Jesus death. The entire account of Jesus journey toward the cross starts late Thursday night and early Friday morning in the Garden of Gethsemane. Begin reading Mark 14:32 and read through Jesus' death at Mark 15:41.

**Activity: Cross Art**

**Need:** Paper, painter's tape, paint, paint brushes

Place the painter's tape, in the shape of the cross, at the center of the piece of paper. Then, pick out your favorite colors to paint with. Paint the entire piece of paper (including over the top of the tape) and wait for it to dry. When it has dried, carefully pull the painter's tape off to reveal a beautiful white cross among your artwork.

**Prayer:** Be with us this day, O God, as we remember that Jesus died upon a cross many years ago. We are sad yet we know that you are with us no matter how we feel. Thank you that your love for us is stronger than death. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.



**Scripture: Mark 15: 46**

Then Joseph (of Arimathea) bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

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## SATURDAY

This day in the Holy Week is the day Jesus lay in the tomb. While many of his disciples had fled the scene, some of the women who followed Jesus stayed behind. They buried Jesus in a borrowed tomb on Friday before the Sabbath began. The tomb was then sealed tightly and guarded by Roman soldiers. On Saturday we remember how Jesus' disciples must have felt, thinking that everything was over, knowing that Jesus was dead.

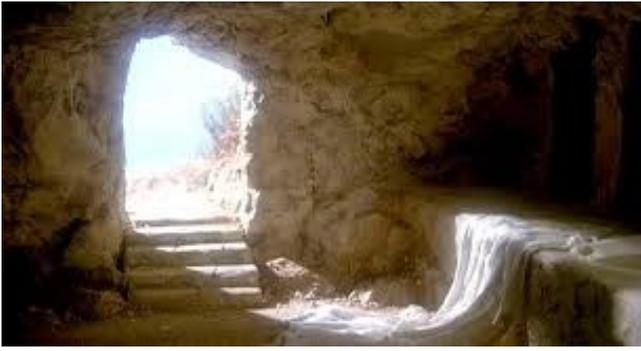
**Scripture: Mark 15:42-47**

**Activity: Moment of Silence**

**Need:** Just yourself.

Take a moment out of your day as an individual or as a family and just be silent. Use this time to reflect on what happened to Jesus and the miracle that is to come. You can also use this time to pray if you'd like.

**Prayer:** We rest in your love, O God as we keep silence this day. We wait for the coming of the dawn of Easter light. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN



**Scripture: Mark 16:6**

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”

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## EASTER SUNDAY

The Bible says that early on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus’ body for burial. When the women got to the tomb, they discovered that the tomb was empty! The large boulder that covered the entrance to the tomb had been rolled away and Jesus was gone. An angel appeared to the women and told them they need not be afraid. Jesus had risen! The women went back to the other disciples to tell them all they had seen.

**Scripture: Luke 24: 1-6**

*“Very early in the morning on the first day of week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn’t know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn’t here, but has been raised. He is ALIVE!’ “*

**Activity: Secret Message**

**Need:** Paper, white crayons, watercolors

Use the white crayon to draw and write secret pictures and messages that have to do with Easter Sunday. Hand the paper to another member of your family and have them paint the paper with watercolor to reveal the secrets underneath! Ideas include the words “He is risen,” a hill with three crosses, an empty tomb, Easter flowers...

**Prayer:** God of life, we have experienced many different emotions this past week and today we are jumping up and down in joyful exuberance. Jesus is alive! What a surprise to remember that in the midst of dark times, you surprise us with new life. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! In the name of the risen Jesus we pray. AMEN.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!**