

Palm Sunday, April 5

Hosanna to the King

Our journey to the cross begins as Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”
(Matthew 21:8-10)

1) Look at the coloring page with the palm leaf. The people waved palm leaves to show their love and joy for Jesus. Show your love by coloring the palm leaf, cutting it out, waving it, and shouting “Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!”

2) The people wave their palm leaves and threw down their cloaks to show love for Jesus. Who do you love? Who do you find it difficult to love? How do we show love even to those we find it difficult to love?

Pray:

*Jesus, help me to faithfully follow You and to love others as you love them.
Amen.*

Monday, April 6

Jesus in the Temple

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’;
but you are making it a den of robbers.”

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry. (Matthew 21: 12-15)

1) In this scripture, Jesus is angry that people are using the temple for dishonest purposes. Then, the chief priests become angry with Jesus. What make you angry? What are some ways we can experience our anger without hurting anyone or anything? How can God help us when we feel angry?

2) Draw three faces – one happy, one sad, one angry. Play a game in which one person (probably an adult), describes a situation. Hold up one of the faces to show how that situation would make you feel.

Pray:

*Jesus, help me to understand my feelings and emotions. Help me remember to talk to you about how I am feeling and thank you for listening to me always.
Amen.*

Tuesday, April 7

Jesus is Anointed/Judas Makes A Deal

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.” (Matthew 26: 6-13)

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. (Matthew 26: 14-16)

- 1) Jesus said: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) This means that your actions reflect what you value most. Mary and Judas show us how true that is.....one (the woman) loved Jesus and the other (Judas) loved money. Their actions reflected this. Who or what do you love the most? How do your actions show that love?
- 2) Draw, color, and cut out a heart. Write “Jesus” on one side and your name on the other side. Put it under your pillow and say a prayer asking Jesus to help you treasure His love.

Pray:

Jesus, help me to remember how much you love me. Give me courage to act in ways that reflect my love for You. Amen.

Wednesday, April 8

The Servant King

“It was just before the Passover Feast.....Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” (John 13:1, 3-5)

Jesus said to His disciples: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. (John 13:14-16)

- 1) In this passage Jesus served his disciples by washing their feet, but Jesus' greatest act of service was to lay down His life so that our sins could be washed clean. Write a “thank you” note to the Jesus showing gratitude to him for loving you so much.
- 2) Who is Jesus inviting you to serve? Whose “feet” can you wash? Look at the list of “Ways I Can Help Others.” If you have an additional idea, write it in.

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for showing us how to be good servants. Help me to serve others faithfully and lovingly. Amen.

Thursday, April 9
Maundy Thursday

Jesus Prayed In The Garden

“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:36-39)

After Jesus had prayed, Judas appeared in the garden with a crowd, armed with swords and clubs, and Jesus was arrested.

- 1) When Jesus was upset, he prayed to God. There are lots of different ways to pray. Use the Five Finger Prayer to pray for each of the things listed. When you finish, trace your handprint and cut it out. Put it on the refrigerator or by your bed as a reminder to say a prayer every day.
- 2) Think of a time when you had to make a difficult decision. Did you talk to God about it and ask for His help? Who else can you talk to when you need help making decisions?

Pray:

Jesus, you know that sometimes life is hard. Help me remember to turn to You when I face difficult decisions or when I am upset. Amen.

Friday, April 10
Good Friday

The Cross

“As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.” (Matthew 27:32-38)

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”[s] (Matthew 27:50-51; 54)

- 1) Jesus died on the cross so that our sins might be forgiven and so that you can have a restored relationship with your holy, Heavenly Father. Think about the sins that you have committed and now want to turn away from. When you are ready, put a bandage on the cross (or draw an “X”) to symbolize that we all make mistakes and sin.
- 2) Now, draw a heart around the bandage or around the cross to remember that, through Jesus’ love, our sins are forgiven. Receive God’s forgiveness. Hear Jesus say to you: “Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace”
- 3) As Jesus was hanging on the cross He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34) Sometimes we need to forgive other people when they have sinned against us. Think of someone who has hurt you and who you need to forgive. As you choose to forgive that person, pray the prayer of forgiveness included in your packet.

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross so that my sins can be forgiven. Help me to forgive others. Amen.

Saturday, April 11

In the tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. (Matthew 27:57-60)

- 1) It is hard to imagine how sad Jesus' disciples must have been after Jesus died. What is something that makes you sad? How do you cope with feelings of sadness and grief?
- 2) The scripture says that Jesus' body was wrapped in clean linen cloth. Find a soft piece of cloth -it could be an old t-shirt or a blanket. Rub it between your hands and, remembering that Jesus' death was his ultimate gift of love to us, sing "Jesus Loves Me" together.

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for loving me so much. When I am sad, help me remember Your love and to find joy in each new day. Amen.

Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday

Jesus is Alive

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”” (John 20:1-2)

Peter and John looked inside the tomb and found that Jesus had gone but the strips of linen that had been wrapped around His body were still there. The disciples left but Mary stayed by the tomb weeping. Jesus appeared to Mary and said: “Mary.” After Jesus had spoken with her, Mary went to the disciples and said: “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:18)

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:19-20)

Over 500 people saw the risen Jesus over the next 40 days before He went back to be with His Father in heaven.

- 1) Death could not hold Jesus. He is alive! Jesus' resurrection proves that He is who He said He is; the Son of God who came to be our Savior. As you enjoy an Easter treat, thank your Heavenly Father for His goodness in sending Jesus for you.
- 2) Often, butterflies are used to represent the transformation of Jesus who went from death to life just as a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. Color the butterfly coloring page. Hang it up at home to remind you of the Easter promise or add it to an Easter cross.

Pray:

Triumphant Jesus! Today we celebrate your resurrection and the gift of new life. Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Amen!