

# HOLY WEEK

## Holy Week

MATTHEW 21:1-11

### REFLECTION

THINK ABOUT HOW PALM SUNDAY WAS BOTH HAPPY AND SAD.

- > Jesus entered Jerusalem as the king promised by the prophets
- > Hosanna was an appeal to God to save, but it could also be used as praise
- > Jesus' Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem was a dangerous political act

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday. On Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem like a king. On Monday, the leaders of the temple conspired against Jesus. On Tuesday, Jesus taught in the temple and on the Mount of Olives. On Wednesday, the leaders plotted to kill Jesus and Judas betrayed Jesus to them. On Thursday, Jesus ate his last supper with his disciples, and was betrayed, arrested and denied. On Friday, Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate, crucified and buried. On Saturday, a guard was placed at the tomb.

### Questions to ask your parents

What happened on Palm Sunday?

What is Holy Week?

### Homework or Missed Class? Read the passages on the left and answer the questions below

In your study Bible, turn to page 1641 and read Matthew 21:1-11.

What was the mood of the crowd that welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem?

Who did the crowd think that Jesus was?

Why did Jesus' entry into Jerusalem cause turmoil?

Was Jesus a king?

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

## Maundy Thursday

MATTHEW 26:17-30

MARK 14:12-25

LUKE 22:7-23

JOHN 13:1-17

Maundy Thursday is also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday, Sheer Thursday and Thursday of Mysteries. It is the Christian holy day, falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles as described in the Canonical gospels.

Jesus celebrated His last meal with the disciples. In the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) this is the night of the Passover meal. In John's gospel, Jesus takes the role of a servant and washes his disciples feet and gives them a new commandment. A true act of humbleness and leadership.

Maundy is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples that night: to love with humility by serving one another.

### Questions to ask your parents

What do they remember about their first communion?

What is one family meal tradition that your parents thought was so important in their childhood that they continue it with you today? (Maybe a special holiday meal or an everyday practice)

### Homework or Missed Class? Read the passages on the left and answer the questions below

What is the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples?

How will you live out the new commandment?

Why did Jesus use food and this mealtime to deliver this important message to the disciples?

How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them that one of them would betray him? How would you feel if you were one of the disciples? Would you think that Jesus was talking about you? Would you try to stop the betrayer?

Why was Jesus washing the disciples feet so important?

- > Jesus shared this meal with his disciples even though many would soon deny and betray him.
- > This meal is a new covenant between God and all people, not just the Jews.

### REFLECTION

At the Transfiguration, God told the disciples to listen to Jesus. Since you are also disciples, you have also received the instruction to listen. Stick a sticky note on your bathroom mirror that says, "Listen!" Each evening, write one way you listened for Jesus in your life that day.

## GOOD FRIDAY

### Good Friday

MATTHEW 27

#### REFLECTION

HOW DOES IT  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
THAT WHILE  
DYING JESUS  
ASKED GOD TO  
FORGIVE THOSE  
WHO WERE  
KILLING HIM?

- > **Jesus entered Jerusalem as the king promised by the prophets**
- > **Hosanna was an appeal to God to save, but it could also be used as praise**
- > **Jesus' Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem was a dangerous political act**

Right in the middle of human suffering and death is the last place you would expect to find God, and yet God is there, in Jesus—miraculously loving and forgiving. Jesus passed through suffering and death on behalf of all of us who suffer and die. The death and resurrection of Jesus makes the impossible possible. Because we were baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, we will have life forever.

#### Questions to ask your parents

What is good about Good Friday?

How can death be about life?

#### Homework or Missed Class? Read the passages on the left and answer the questions below

In your study Bible, read Matthew 27 on pages 1654-1658.

If Jesus is all about turning up in places of suffering, where do you think Jesus is today?

Who was Pontius Pilate? [see margin note on page 1654]

What is the darkness at the crucifixion a symbol of? [see margin note on page 1657]

What is the tearing of the temple curtain a sign of? [see margin note on page 1657]

Who recognized that Jesus was God's Son?

Who buried Jesus in his own tomb?

# EASTER

## Holy Week

### MATTHEW 28

#### REFLECTION

WHAT DOES IT  
MEAN TO LIVE  
AS EASTER  
PEOPLE?

- > Jesus told his disciples ahead of time about his resurrection, but when it happened it was still a huge surprise
- > Jesus was fully God and fully human
- > It seems impossible that someone fully God would die on a cross. It seems impossible that someone fully human could rise from the dead. Jesus makes the impossible possible

*The disciples went into hiding when Jesus was killed because they were afraid that followers of Jesus might also be killed. They didn't understand what Jesus had told them about his resurrection until he appeared to them. The resurrection meant that everything Jesus had told them was true. God's love is stronger than death. Those who believe in Jesus will live forever. Those who believe the promises of Jesus worship and serve him now.*

#### Questions to ask your parents

What is your favorite Easter memory?

How do we celebrate Easter as a family?

#### Homework or Missed Class? Read the passages on the left and answer the questions below

In your study Bible, read Matthew 28 on page 1658

The disciples went into hiding when Jesus was killed; what do you think they were feeling and worrying about?

Who were the first people to see Jesus? How did they respond?

What did Jesus want his disciples to do?

What was Jesus' final promise?