

CHURCH SPRINGFIELD

Based on Easter Devotions by Lifeway 2020

## THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP HIM.

RFAD LUKF 19:28-40; MARK 11:1-10

Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. As He came to the Mount of Olives outside of a town called Bethany, He gave a very special task to two of His disciples. Jesus told them to go into the village and find a young donkey that had never been ridden. The disciples were to untie the donkey and bring it back to Jesus. He told the men that if anyone asked what they were doing, they should say that the Lord needs it.

The disciples did what Jesus told them to and found the donkey. While they were untying the donkey, the donkey's owners asked what they were doing. The disciples answered as Jesus had told them and said that the Lord needed it. Then the disciples laid their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. As Jesus rode along the road, many people spread out their robes on the road in front of Him. Other people spread leafy branches cut from trees. They were honoring Jesus the same way they would honor a king. They joyfully praised God. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd were upset by what was happening. They told Jesus to tell His followers to stop shouting. Jesus replied, "Even if they stopped shouting, the stones would cry out!"

DEVOITONAL: The crowd praised Jesus. They were so excited! One day they would understand more about who Jesus was and the mission He was given. On this day, they praised what they did know about Him: He was a miracle worker. He brought the dead to life. He was the promised Messiah. They praised Him for what they did understand, and that praise was good. We don't always understand everything about who Jesus is and the work He is doing in our lives. In those moments, we can praise Jesus for what we do understand about Him. What can you praise Jesus for today?

God, We praise You for what we do understand about who You are, and we praise You for being greater than we can fully understand. Amen.



## JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES' FEET

## PEOPLE CAN OBEY JESUS AS A RESPONSE TO HIS LOVE.

#### **READ JOHN 13:1-7**

It was just before the Passover meal. Jesus knew that it was almost time for Him to leave this world and be reunited with God His Father. Jesus loved His disciples and wanted to show them how much He loved them. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was going to betray Him. He got up from the table and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet and then dry them with the towel wrapped around His waist. Simon Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus said that if He didn't wash his feet, Peter would have no part with Him. Peter asked that his hands and head also be washed! Jesus told Peter that someone who has bathed doesn't need to wash anything except his feet.

Jesus knew who would betray Him and told Peter that he was clean, but not all of the disciples were clean. When He finished, He asked the disciples if they knew what He had done for them. He told them that He did that for them, and they should follow His example.

DEVOITONAL: What does the word servant mean to you? Does it make you think of someone who is lower than you, or someone who has to do everything you command? Do you immediately think of Jesus when you hear it?

A servant is someone who serves others with love and humility. Jesus was a servant. He did not consider Himself better than others. He wanted to show His disciples He loved them by washing their feet. He wanted to give His disciples (and us) a clear example of serving others.

Who can you serve today? Is there someone from school, church, in your community, or in your family that you can serve? It doesn't have to be something big or expensive or in person - a note or a smile can brighten someone's day. Make it a point to follow Jesus' example and serve others with love today.

Dear God, Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to be the ultimate Servant. Thank You for the example He set. Help me to serve others with humility and love. Amen JESUS ANSWERED HIM,
"WHAT I AM DOING YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND NOW, BUT AFTERWARD
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND."



## JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN

JESUS PRAYED TO GOD.

READ MATTHEW 26:36-56

Jesus and His disciples celebrated the special feast called the Passover. After the Passover feast, the disciples went out to a garden with Jesus. Jesus said that each of them would leave Him. Peter promised that he would never leave, but Jesus said, "Before you hear the rooster crow, you will deny me three times!"

Jesus prayed in the garden, but His disciples kept falling asleep. Soon, Judas arrived with soldiers who arrested Jesus! Jesus was taken to unfair trials. He was beaten and mocked.

DEVOITONAL: After Passover, Jesus went to a garden to talk with God. He knew what was about to happen. Jesus knew He was going to suffer and die on the cross for our sin. Before going to the cross, Jesus spent time talking with God the Father and preparing for what came next. Jesus trusted God's plan and obeyed His will.

Where do you go when things feel hard or scary? Where do you look when you need answers to things you don't understand? Jesus teaches us that God wants us to look to Him. When we pray, we can be honest with God. We can tell God what scares us or worries us. We can confess and repent from our sin. We can ask for His help. God wants us to spend time in prayer with Him, trusting Him no matter what.

Father, Thank You that we can spend time with You in prayer. Please help us to trust Your plans and to obey You in all things. Thank You for loving us. Amen.



MY FATHER, IF THIS CANNOT PASS UNLESS I DRINK IT,

YOUR WILL BE DONE.

## JESUS' TRIAL AND DEATH

## TESUS DIED TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR MY SINS.

#### READ MATTHEW 26-27:50

While Jesus and the disciples were praying in the garden, Judas arrived with an armed crowd, who arrested Jesus. They took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest and to Pilate, the Roman governor. The crowd wanted Jesus to be crucified. Pilate's soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a robe on Him, a crown made of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They spit on Him, beat Him, and led Him to Golgotha, where they crucified Him.

It became dark as night in the middle of the day. Jesus cried out to God, "Why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out again; then, He died.

DEVOITONAL: Think about how much your parents love you. What if one day you accidentally broke something expensive in a store and had to pay for it? You probably would not be able to. Out of their responsibility and great love for you, your parents would choose to make that payment on your behalf, even though it was your fault.

This is similar to Jesus choosing to die on the cross for us. He knew He would suffer and still He paid the price for our sins. He loves us more than our parents ever could. Jesus is God the Son. He is the only One who could ever save us from our sins. Jesus wanted us to be completely forgiven.

Dear Jesus, Thank You for giving Your life for me on the cross. Thank You for loving me that much. Amen.



## PETER DENIED JESUS

## GOD WILL FORGIVE ME IF I ASK HIM.

READ JOHN 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19

Two disciples followed Jesus as the soldiers took Him to the high priest. One disciple knew the high priest and went inside. He spoke to a servant who allowed Peter inside the courtyard. The servant girl asked if Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter lied. He said, "No, I'm not."

Peter joined the other people standing around a fire. They asked him, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" Peter lied again, saying, "I am not!" One man who had seen Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested asked, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" As soon as Peter denied knowing Jesus a third time, the rooster crowed.

Later, after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, Jesus met with Peter. Jesus showed Peter that He still loved him.

DEVOITONAL: Think of the last time a friend said or did something hurtful to you. Even remembering a moment like that can bring back sad feelings. It's hard to show love to those who have hurt us, even if they didn't mean to do it.

Sometimes when I think of how I've denied knowing Jesus in my life, I feel like He couldn't possibly love me. The Bible tells us that just like Jesus loved and forgave Peter, He loves and forgives us, too! Even when we make mistakes or disobey, Jesus is there to forgive us, calling us to repent and turn back to Him, and covering our sin with His impossible love.

Dear God, Thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for Your love for me that covers all my sin. You are a great God, and You are bigger than my mistakes. Help me to follow Your truth. Amen



JESUS SAID TO HIM, "TRULY, I TELL YOU, THIS VERY NIGHT, BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS, YOU WILL DENY ME THREE TIMES."

# JESUS' BURIAL

# JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD

### READ MATTHEW 27:57-66

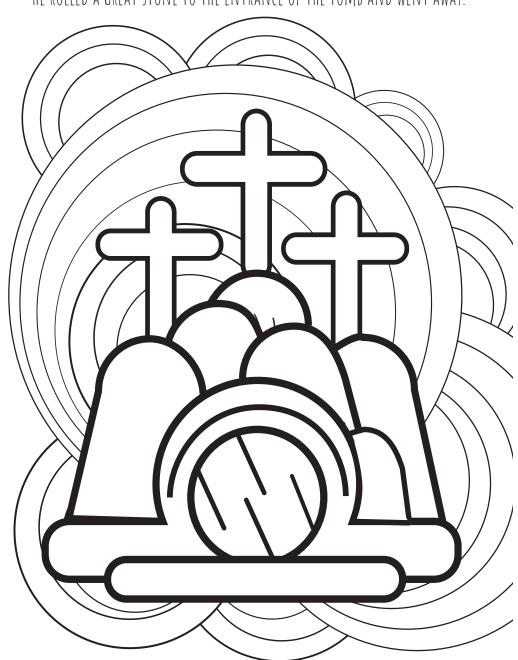
Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took the body and placed it in a new tomb. He rolled a large rock in front. The chief priests asked Pilate to put guards at the tomb.

DEVOITONAL: Has your friend ever had to move? Have you? Moving away from friends can make you feel sad and lonely. After Jesus died, His friends were very sad. They probably thought they would never see Him again.

But we know from the Bible that Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He rose from the dead! Jesus' friends didn't have to be sad anymore, because He was with them. God raised Him from the dead.

When you feel sad and lonely, remember God is with you. He bring you new friends. God will always be there for you, too.

Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank You for bringing Him to life again. Help me to remember that when I am sad, You are always with me. Amen. AND JOSEPH TOOK THE BODY AND WRAPPED IT IN A CLEAN LINEN SHROUD AND LAID IT IN HIS OWN NEW TOMB, WHICH HE HAD CUT IN THE ROCK. AND HE ROLLED A GREAT STONE TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE TOMB AND WENT AWAY.



# **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.

#### READ MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to view the tomb where Jesus had been buried. Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook because an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled back the heavy stone from the entrance of the tomb. The angel, who looked like lightning and was wearing a robe of purest white, sat on the stone. The guards standing at the tomb were so afraid that they were like dead men and could not even move! The angel told the women not to be afraid. He knew they were looking for Jesus. The angel told them the best news ever. He said that Jesus was alive, just as He had promised. The angel told the women to go quickly to the disciples to tell them the good news. "Tell them Jesus has been raised from the dead!"

The women left quickly and joyfully. They ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive. Suddenly, Jesus met the women and said, "Good morning!" The women ran to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him! Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there!"

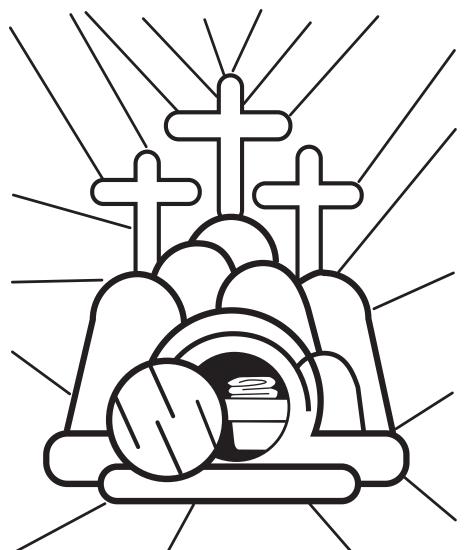
DEVOITONAL: Do you like surprises? One year for my birthday, my parents left me at my grandparent's house to mow their lawn. I was disappointed and thought they had forgotten my birthday! When I went back home, there was a surprise party waiting for me. My parents had a plan the entire time to give me an amazing birthday.

When the women arrived at the tomb, they were surprised to find it empty. God had a plan the entire time for Jesus to defeat death so that we can forever have a relationship with Him.

Dear God, Thank You so much for sending Your Son to save us from our sin by dying on the cross and rising again. In Your name we pray, Amen.

# HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS NOT HERE, FOR AS HE SAID.

COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY.





In the Gospel of John





# PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2 | 10:30AM



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6 | 7:00PM



# **GOOD FRIDAY**

APRIL 7 | 12:00PM



# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

APRIL 9 | 10:30AM



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