

A Holy Week *at home*

Palm Sunday will mark the beginning of a special week in the church year called “Holy Week.” Within this week, the church follows the journey of Christ from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the cross and beyond: to an empty tomb.





A meaningful way to mark the days of this holiest of weeks is through worship and activities in your home. This is good news for all of us who are living in a pandemic and practicing social distancing out of great love for our neighbor.


I have included a few ideas for keeping a Holy Week at home, especially for families. Also included are crafts or ideas for activities to bring the message alive in a tactile sense!


Visit our website for this (+ working links) and more ideas about worshipping at home during this time: www.gracecamphill.org/worshipathome

An Order for Worship at Home *during Holy Week*

Gather with a Song 

Open the Scripture 

Remember through Actions 

Pray in Color (and/or around your table) 

Gather with a Song

Sing together as you gather each day in Holy Week, or listen to a song. Here are some suggestions:

Palm Sunday: Ride On, King Jesus

Monday: Come and Fill Our Hearts

Tuesday: Jesus, Remember Me

Wednesday: Bless the Lord, My Soul

Maundy Thursday: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Good Friday: Were You There?

Easter Vigil: In the Garden
Easter Sunday: This is the Day

Open the Scripture

Set a time this week to read the scripture for the day together. Maybe that time is during or after dinner; maybe it is over breakfast or as a mid-morning online-school break. The readings at the bottom of this handout capture the major events and themes of each day of Holy Week.

Scripture Passages for Palm Sunday – Easter Day

Adults, Teens, and Spark! Bible Readers:

Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11
Holy Monday: Matthew 18:1-5
Holy Tuesday: Matthew 26:47-56
Holy Wednesday: Matthew 26:57-75
Maundy Thursday: John 13:1-17
Good Friday: John 19:1-30
Easter Vigil: Exodus 14:10-29* and John 20:1-18
Easter Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10

Spark Story Bible Readers

Read the Story and end with the “squiggles” activity or question. Some suggestions are below to expand what squiggles asks or suggests.

Palm Sunday: “Palm Sunday” page 454

See Remembering through Actions to capture the squiggles activity!

Monday: “Whose the Greatest” page 324

Tuesday: “Jesus is Betrayed” page 468

Wednesday: “Christ the King” page 474

Maundy Thursday: “The Last Supper” page 462

To expand the squiggles question, do something to show people you love them today. Facetime with family or friends you can’t be with, or prepare a card to mail to them.

Good Friday: “The Day Jesus Died” page 476

Talk about what makes you sad or afraid, especially in these days. Color the picture of Sad from Inside Out. Say a prayer together asking God to calm your fears and take care of everyone who is sick.

Easter Vigil–“The Red Sea” page 84*

In the church we remember our baptism when we are scared. Prepare a bowl of water.

Take turns dipping your fingers in it and making the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads. Say "God is with you. Do not fear."

Easter Sunday: "The Empty Tomb" page 483

Make a newspaper and deliver it or "film" a newscast with good news! Share or post on social media! #goodnews #notcancelled

*This scripture selection may seem out of order, but on the Great Vigil of Easter, we read stories from all of scripture about God showing up when the people are afraid and the future is unknown. The sea crossing is but one story in the collection, and yet a powerful way to understand what happens in our baptism—God provides a way where there is no way (through the waters!) to new life, salvation, and freedom for all.

Remembering through Actions

One of the many ways we learn the stories of our faith in worship is through the repetition of actions. On this holiest of weeks, there are certain actions that are central to each day's remembering. These actions do more than help us "remember," they are the ways that God in Christ connects even now, even today, with us. At home you can share in the pattern of these actions and share in the remembering.

Sunday: Go out in your yard and cut down a few leafy branches to pile up (either inside or outside). Make your own procession area out of the branches. Use old coats, blankets, towels to lay down on the "roadway," and take turns entering Jerusalem being Jesus. Have everyone else wave at you and shout "Hosanna!"

Monday: Make the pop-up craft kit "Jesus enters Jerusalem" with younger kids. Older kids, begin a comic book or graphic novel about Holy Week. How does the story unfold? Are there clues to the ending you can plant earlier in the storyline (foreshadowing)?

Tuesday: Use the "Nature Print Sun-Sensitive Paper" sent in your packets to make a design capturing God's great love for all creation this week. Where do you see God's love for you in other living beings? Tall grass blades stretching skyward, blooming flowers giving fragrance, evergreen boughs that never fade? Capture it on the nature paper.

Wednesday: Create a special space in your home, maybe the dinner table, that you decorate for a fancy meal. You are preparing for the special meal Jesus ate with his disciples. Decorate with the palms or branches you brought in too. Go all out.

Thursday: Share a meal together tonight. Dress up! Sit together at your special table. When it is over, take everything apart. Crumple up the branches. Leave the table bare. In the church building, we strip the altar at the end of Maundy Thursday, as Jesus was stripped of his dignity, clothing, and humanity. He left nothing and sacrificed everything. Consider how your table tonight is the altar, and your meal invites the very presence of God with you.

(For younger kids: make a special meal out of play dough. “Serve it” to each other. Talk about how Jesus shared special meals with everyone, and tonight we remember the special meal we share called Holy Communion.)

- If you share a home with other people, consider remembering this day through foot washing. If washing outside, you will need only towels and a pitcher or two of warm water. (If inside, use a large basin or hold your foot over the bathtub). The basics are: hold the heel-pour the water-wipe the feet with the towel.

Friday: In our world of blue-light screens that are on or near us 24-7, dark is a precious commodity and it is difficult to come by. Find a dark place. Be in it for a while. Let it settle around you until you can make out something. Even in the darkness of Good Friday God could see the surprise that would come.

(For younger kids: use a flashlight and make a living room fort, or get out a camping tent and pop it up in your backyard. Read your scripture for the day in there. Then, talk about darkness--we think of it as scary, but in the scriptures a lot of wonderful moments happen in the dark. The shepherds were out in the fields in the dark when the angels brought the good news of Jesus’ birth; Jacob camped outside and used a stone for a pillow when in the darkness God showed him a ladder of angels. Even and especially in the darkness, God is with us.)

Saturday: Start a campfire or small (contained!) fire outside. Light candles off of the light to put in your home. Bring the light inside from outside, just as the resurrection brought new light to our world and our lives when darkness seemed to prevail. Watch the worship service at 7:00p.m. on our live stream if you can. Listen to all those ancient stories of the faith—times when the people were scared, or anxious, or the future was unknown, and God was with them.



Sunday: Many of us will spend time today hunting for eggs. Why? Several reasons, but for today, consider that an egg looks like it is dead from the outside, but inside it is really full of life. Think of all the things that are part of creation's wondrous mystery in this way, like a seed that goes underground in order to bring up new blossoms or fruit. Where is God working a hidden mystery in your life today? What new life might be waiting for you outside today – a baby bird, a blossoming shrub, a blooming flower?

- When you see it, say a blessing or one word to honor God's gift of new life in all creation.
- To remember your own gift of new life in baptism, trim a small branch from an evergreen tree or shrub. Dip it in water and sprinkle each other!
- [This Butterfly Craft](#) is a fun activity for kids. Talk about how a caterpillar hides in a cocoon and looks dead, but emerges a beautiful butterfly.



Bringing the Week Together...

1. Older Kids – Share your Comic Book or Graphic Novel that you began earlier in the week. Post a picture of it on Social Media!

2. Make Resurrection Rolls

Work together to tell the whole story of Jesus' death and resurrection by making these Resurrection Rolls. What a sweet ending to the week!

(Recipe at the end)

Praying in Color

One of the many ways to pray is by using color (see [prayingincolor](#) for more info). Holy Week is a week of rainbows in terms of the church year--so many colors in one short week! Use the color palette of Holy Week to pray in color. This is a wonderful and meaningful activity for all ages, and is especially anxiety reducing (which we could all use!).

I have included some pages you may wish to use to get you started praying in color.

- With children, have them color or draw pictures of the stories and use only the color palette of that day.
- For older kids and adults, centering your coloring around a scripture verse from the day's reading, or make your prayer about the names of people in your life or church community.

A Color Guide for Holy Week

Palm Sunday: Use all the shades of green (for those palm branches) and brown (the path Jesus walked was dirt and stone).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: Use purple (it's still Lent!) and scarlet (this is the Traditional Holy Week color--*blood red*)

Thursday: Use scarlet (think wine of communion) and blue (water for foot washing)

Friday: Use black and grays only

Saturday: Use yellows and reds and golds, like a fire

Sunday: Use the whole rainbow! **For kids, a special watercolor picture is included here with a surprise message!*

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Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients: Melted Butter, Cinnamon, Sugar, Large Marshmallows, Crescent Rolls.

Set up baking sheets lined with parchment. Unroll crescent rolls on sheets.

Jesus is anointed for burial with oil.

1. Each person takes a marshmallow, rolls it in melted butter.

The women brought spices to prepare his body for burial.

2. Dip your buttery marshmallow in a cinnamon-sugar mix.

Jesus was wrapped in a linen cloth and laid in a tomb. Everyone was sad.

3. Roll up the marshmallow in the crescent roll. Close ends.

Jesus was in the tomb for three days. Everyone thought that was the end of the story.

4. Put the rolls in the oven. (Bake as directed on crescent roll package).

When the women came to the tomb, Jesus was not there. Jesus had risen!

5. When the rolls have cooled enough to safely handle, look inside—do you see the marshmallow? What a sweet surprise!

