

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!

Resurrection Rolls Recipe

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!

