



Hope in Lent and Holy Week

(Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



LENTEN JOURNEY

 Lent is a journey from Ash Wednesday through Easter. It is a time to follow the footsteps of Jesus as he goes to the cross and rises from the dead three days later. It is also a time for us to reflect on our journey in life, turn away from those things that harm ourselves or others, and renew our walk with God. Use the following worship time to begin your Lenten walk.

 **Invocation and Prayer**

LEADER: Under the care of God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: Let us pause to ask for God's presence to be with us during this journey of learning, sharing, and nourishment.

Silence for reflection.

 **LEADER:** Faithful and gracious God,

ALL: As this journey begins, help us to trust that your loving hand will guide us. Remind us by our baptism that you are ever-present as we travel. Give us your grace to be open to new beginnings and adventures that you have in store for us. In your name we pray. Amen

 **Scripture**

LEADER: A reading from Deuteronomy.

ALL: The LORD will lead you into the land. He will always be with you and help you, so don't ever be afraid of your enemies. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

 **Reflection**

LEADER: Think about your own personal journey of faith. How does God walk with you through your life?

After some time for reflection, the LEADER will instruct you to share your responses with a partner. As you conclude your conversations or meditations, come to the baptismal bowl, dip your finger in the water, and make the sign of the cross on your forehead, saying aloud:

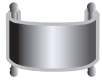
ALL: Remember, God goes with me every step of the way. Amen



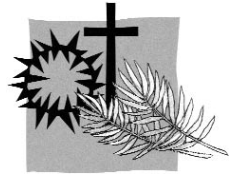


Some people observe Lent by giving something up that is valuable to them. If you try this practice, what will you give up? Make a list of possibilities here.

Hope in Lent and Holy Week



Here's the Story (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



ANOINT THAT KING!

In Bible times, when a new person became king, oil was poured onto their heads. Kings were *anointed* with oil. Discover the names of three very famous Old Testament kings as you read about their anointings!



1 Samuel 10:1



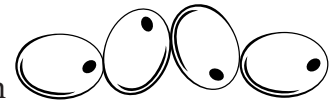
1 Samuel 16:1-13



1 Kings 1:28-30, 39-40

OLIVE OIL

Olive oil had been used to anoint kings in Israel for thousands of years. It is also a staple in cooking in Mediterranean countries. This week, plan a meal for your family using olive oil as one of the ingredients. Ask your parents for help if you need to. Before you begin, do research on the Internet about olive oil. From where does it come? How is it used? Why is it so important? Tell your family what you learn about olive oil.



Answers: Saul, David, Solomon



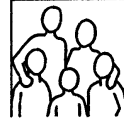


Note Home



Today we heard the story about the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Some of the people with her were irritated and saw her actions as wasteful. Another way to look at this action of the woman is to remember that when kings were crowned in Jesus' day and before, olive oil was poured on their head as a sign that God was with them. We believe Jesus was the *Messiah*, which means "anointed one." He was sent by God to save God's people. When the woman poured perfume on his head, she was anointing him as the Messiah, the Savior.

Family Time



The way of Jesus is the way of humility and service. The world does not work this way, however. The world craves power and prestige. This week, talk about the following questions together.

- What impresses you most, power and prestige or humility and service? Be honest. Why are you impressed the way you are?
- If humility and service were the way of the world, how would things be different in politics? Religion? Finance? Entertainment? Other?

Church Year Tunes



Listen to Track 9, "Jesus, Remember Me," on the music CD as a bedtime prayer. Close with a quiet "Amen."

Pray Together



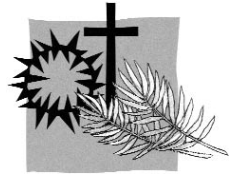
Around a bowl of water and a lit candle, pray together each day. This week, pray a chain prayer. One person begins the prayer and each person in the family is given the chance to add their own petitions. The person who began the prayer should end the prayer. At the close of the prayers, each person should "anoint" another with olive oil. Dip your thumb or a finger in a small bowl of oil, trace the sign of the cross on the other's forehead, and say the words, "[name], child of God, you have been marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever."



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



Here's the Theme (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



PEOPLE OF GREAT FAITH!

Look up the following Bible verses. Each verse deals with someone who is not named, but is a person of great faith. List these people.

Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 15:21-28

ANONYMOUS SAINTS

Make a list of the “anonymous saints,” the people you know who are your examples of faithful living. Do they know you watch and admire them? This week, send each person on your list a note telling them of their influence in your life and thanking them for it. Say a prayer of thanks to God for each of these people, too.

1 _____

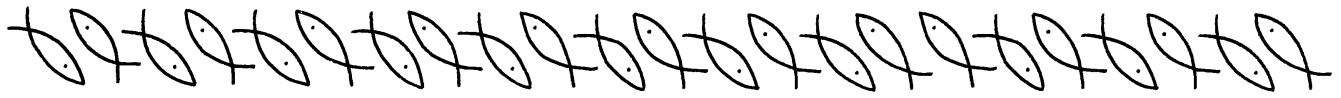
2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____





Note Home



The woman who anointed Jesus was an anonymous character, but Jesus said of her that whenever the good news was told, what she did would be told as well. We often hear of the big names in Bible stories...Jesus, Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene, Judas, and it's easy to quickly pass over stories like this that do not mention names and therefore seem so insignificant. Through the centuries, there have been countless people, known to no one or long forgotten, who have struggled through life to follow Jesus the best they could. Their kindnesses were significant to others—maybe even helped change others' lives.

Church Year Tunes



Share Track 9, "Jesus, Remember Me," on the music CD with a friend this week, and encourage each other during these long days of Lent.

Family Time



This week share stories of one person who influenced you in your faith life. Who was the person? Why did this person have such an impact on you? Remember, to have an impact does not necessarily mean the person was eloquent in speech. Perhaps you learned by their example of humble service, or perhaps they did something that impressed you and stayed in your memory.

Pray Together



Around a bowl of water and a lit candle, pray together each day. This week, pray a special prayer of thanks for each of the anonymous saints in your family's life. Close with the Lord's Prayer.



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



The Story and Me (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



JESUS' FINAL DAYS...

Look up the following Bible verses. Draw lines to the day on which the action took place.

Hint: You may have to read what comes just before or just after the verses listed.

Luke 22:24-30

Palm Sunday

Luke 23:56b

Maundy Thursday

Luke 19:28-40

Good Friday

Luke 23:6-12

Holy Saturday

CHARACTER PUZZLE

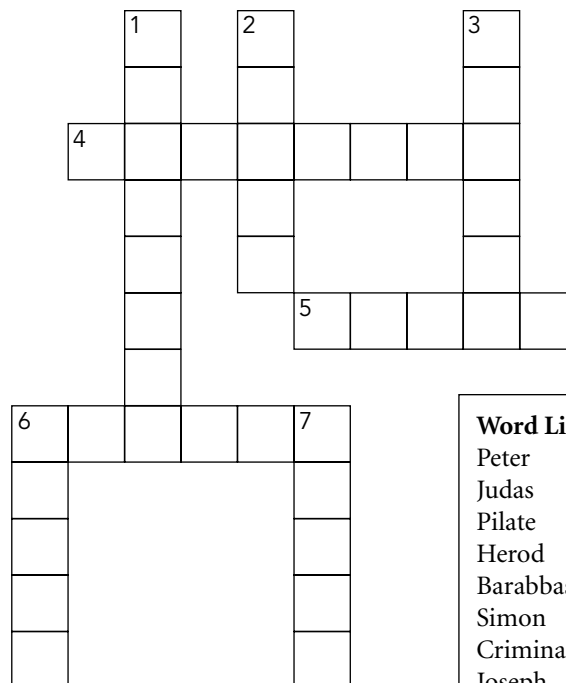
Work on the crossword puzzle. In it, you will find the major characters of the passion story of Jesus.

Across

4. Jesus promised him, "Today you will be with me in paradise."
5. He denied Jesus.
6. Buried Jesus.

Down

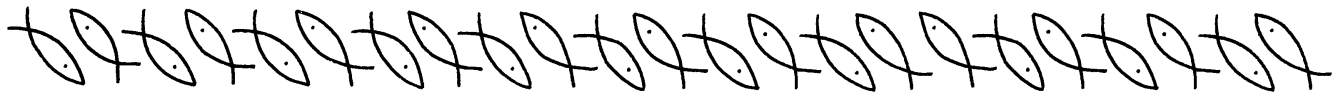
1. Criminal released instead of Jesus.
2. Carried the cross for Jesus.
3. Governor of Judea.
6. He betrayed Jesus.
7. Ruler of Galilee.



Word List

Peter
Judas
Pilate
Herod
Barabbas
Simon
Criminal
Joseph



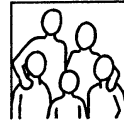


Note Home



Holy Week comes right at the end of Lent and marks the last week of Jesus' ministry. During Holy Week, Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, died, and was buried. It begins with Palm Sunday (or the Sunday of the Passion), which marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Thursday in Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday, the day on which Jesus ate his Last Supper with the disciples and gave them a new commandment to "love one another." On Good Friday, which some consider the holiest day of the year, the church watches as Jesus is betrayed, sentenced, tortured, and executed—God's loving, sacrificial act on behalf of broken humanity. Holy Saturday is a day of rest, remembering Jesus in the tomb, but on Saturday night, the first strains of Easter are heard as, in the Vigil of Easter, the history of God's saving acts are recalled, culminating in the glorious resurrection of Jesus.

Family Time



This week, read the passion story (Luke 19:28—23:56) as a family. (You may break it up into smaller segments to spread it over a week.) Divide the story into parts. Even young children can speak the parts of the crowd. Begin and end the story with moments of silence.

Pray Together



Around a bowl of water and a lit candle, pray together each day. This week, pray a circle prayer. Each family member should, in addition to the prayers they wish to pray, thank God each day for one thing out of the passion story that Jesus went through on our behalf.

Church Year Tunes



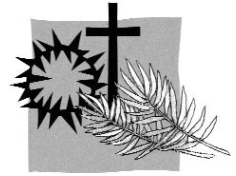
Listen to Track 8, "Were You There" and Track 9, "Jesus, Remember Me," on the music CD as you drive around this week. How do you feel?



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



The Story and My Church (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



JESUS' WORDS OF HOPE

Look up the following Bible verses. Jesus speaks words of hope and forgiveness while he is dying. Answer the questions below to learn what Jesus' words of hope were.

What did Jesus say to the women of Jerusalem? (Luke 23:28)

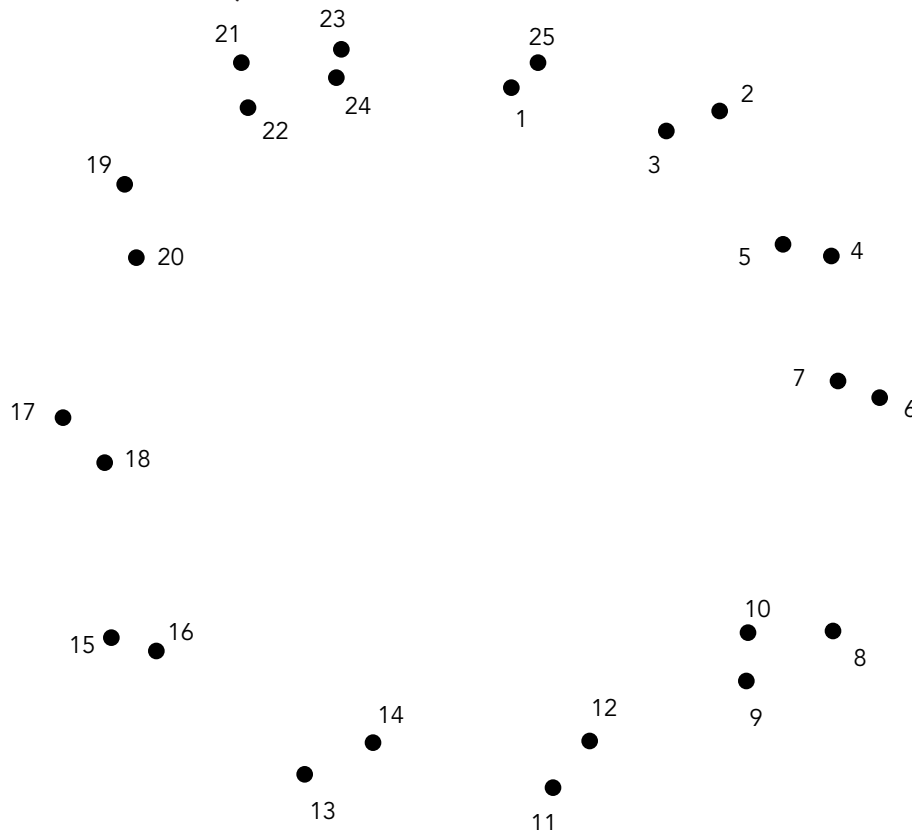
What did Jesus say as the soldiers nailed him to the cross? (Luke 23:34)

What did Jesus say to one of the criminals he was hanging with? (Luke 23:43)

What did Jesus say just before he died? (Luke 23:46)

HUMILIATION

Connect the numbers to find a symbol of Jesus' humiliation on our behalf.





Note Home



Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the one who God promised would come to save people, but the people thought the Messiah would save them from the occupation and oppression of Rome, a foreign nation. They thought the Messiah would be a new king who would make the nation of Israel a powerful nation again. But Jesus had no power or armies to back him up—just a scraggy band of disciples who, in the end, deserted him. He was whipped, beaten, mocked, and finally crucified, a gruesome death in which persons were nailed to a cross and slowly suffocated to death as their strength gave out. This doesn't sound like the Messiah the people were waiting for. But, this is the way God works: in the midst of humiliation, hurt, and sorrow, God is there—for us too.

Family Time



Jesus offered a word of hope for a criminal who was crucified with him. This week, as a family, make a special effort to speak words of hope to persons who are feeling hopeless. Perhaps it is a coworker going through a tough time. Perhaps it is a kid on the playground who is taunted by the others. At the end of the week, share what you did. What happened?

Pray Together



Around a bowl of water and a lit candle, pray together each day. Go through the newspaper and lift up situations that need a word of hope. Pray that God brings hope and healing to these situations.

Church Year Tunes



As you pray together this week, play Track 8, “Were You There” on the music CD. End in silence and darkness.

