

HOLY WEEK JOURNEY FOR FAMILIES USE AT HOME

The stories of Jesus' death and resurrection can feel like heavy topics to talk about with your families, especially in a time of fear and uncertainty as COVID-19 grips the world. Unlike the joyous baby-in-a-manger stories you told at Christmas, the stories that are bookended by Palm Sunday and an Easter Sunday resurrection, include betrayal, death, confusion, and deep sadness. But they also show Jesus' character as the loving, humble, servant King who welcomes all to the table, and they help us realize the depth of Christ's sacrifice, preparing our hearts and minds to experience Easter awe. The Holy Week Journey package is based on resources developed by Dwell At Home (www.dwellcurriculum.org) It is designed to provide your family with a simple, meaningful way to grow in faith together as you remember the events leading up to Jesus' death and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus' resurrection. It is supplemented with material from Messy Easter (Bible Reading Fellowship) and other ideas off the internet.

What Is Holy Week? Beginning on Palm Sunday and ending with the three days that mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection, Holy Week is a time to remember Jesus' journey to the cross—and beyond. A lot happens from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his appearance outside his tomb. Reading these stories throughout Holy Week gives us a chance to walk with Jesus in the last moments of his life and to experience the miracle of his resurrection.

How to Use these Devotions:

There's no right or wrong way to use these devotions. For example, you could read one each day during Holy Week. Alternatively, you could combine some of the stories and read them over a few days. Or maybe this year you're only able to read a few of the stories together. That's OK. We've provided NIV Scripture references for each story, but feel free to read the stories from a children's story Bible if that works best for your kids. We have included a meditation resource for those who prefer this, or live alone.

We have also included the option to journey with the key events of Holy Week in the context of an Agape meal. See the last page of this pack.

Whatever you decide we invite you to use the four steps below as a framework for your time together.

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as together you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (Adjust the length of this quiet time according to your children's attention spans.)

READ: Spend time in God's story by reading the suggested passage from the Bible or from a children's story Bible. Some days the selections are longer than others. One way to keep kids of all ages engaged is by including them in the telling of the story. You can invite pre-readers to make up an action to do each time they hear a particular word or name. Assign readers a section of the story to read aloud, or have them read the lines of a character as you narrate the story.

WONDER: Use the questions to reflect on the story. We've provided you with "wondering questions" because they work well with all ages, they have no right or wrong answers, and they result in deeper thinking about God and about the lives of the people in the story. Encourage kids to use their imaginations as you wonder together about these stories. You might want to end this time by asking, "What do you wonder about this story?"

PRAY: Close your time with prayer using the provided suggestions or your own words and ideas.

Easy Extra Ideas

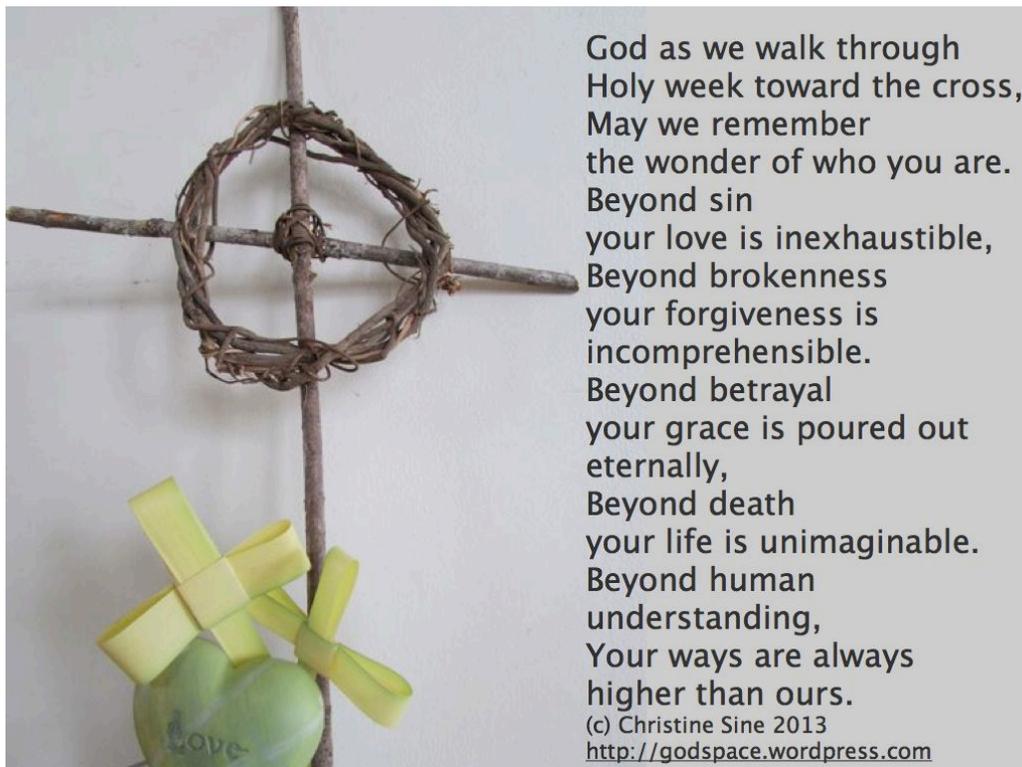
Looking for other ways to engage with the stories during Holy Week? Try one of these ideas:

- Use LEGO™ or other blocks to build something featured in each day's story.
- Create a resurrection garden like this one (tinyurl.com/DwellatHomeGarden) from the blog Confessions of a Homeschooler.
- Make or purchase hot cross buns to eat on Good Friday.
- Make a colorful sign or banner with the words "Alleluia! Jesus Is Alive!" written on it. Hide it somewhere for your children to discover on Easter Sunday as part of your celebration. Or have your child make the banner and then hide it for you to find!
- Celebrate Jesus' resurrection by singing or listening to a favorite Easter song together.

We pray that you will be truly blessed as you experience this extraordinary Easter Journey with your family and that you will grow in faith and love.

All Saints Anglican Church – Fourways Gardens – South Africa

March 2020



PALM SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2020: SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
Entrance into Jerusalem

Collect for the Day

Eternal Father, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ fulfilled your will by taking on our nature and giving his life for us: help us to follow the example of his humility by walking in the way of the cross; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

Amen

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: Matthew 21:1-11

WONDER:

- ✓ What would it be like to be in the crowd that welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem? What would you have said or done if you had been there?

AND/OR

- ✓ What does Saviour mean to you? What are your expectations of God at this time?

PRAY:

- ✓ Dear Jesus, like the people on Palm Sunday, we praise you. Thank you for coming to be our King and establishing your kingdom. Help us to serve you in it. Amen.

AND/OR

- ✓ Saviour of the world, help me to be more open to the ways in which you choose to meet us in our needs. Strip me of all expectations so that I may love you for the greatest gift you give so freely....your very self. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT: In Medias Res *"If these were silent, the stones would shout out."*
– Luke 19:40

You who enter the city in the midst of things,
come to find a place to love and die,
though we are busy keeping feasts,
keeping kosher
keeping our heads down,
keeping a low profile ducked behind stone walls of practiced custom
where no hope or change or grace can reach us.

You who come to upset our assumptions
take away the illusion that we are the center of things
that we can cushion the stumbling stones in our paths with pretentious fronds and conceited
cloaks
though we cry save us, save us
without acknowledging that we need saving.

You who come to tear down temples
overturn the tables of our sacred things
scatter the coinage of our sacerdotal commerce

release the doves we sacrifice to self-deception
though we apprehend you without understanding
and install you in the harsher sanctuary of our stony hill.

You who dwell in the midst of things:
for a moment, for an instant, for a heartbeat
slow the processional of things still the noise of things until we hear the one thing whispered
in the silence of the stones.

– Paul Hooker

Something else to do:

Create an edible palm tree: slice a peeled banana in half lengthways and place it on the plate as a trunk. Slice it into chunks to create a palm bark effect. Then make branches from segmented apples or kiwi fruit. Sprinkle rice cereal or muesli at the base to look like sand.█

Talk about how the people cut down palm branches and laid them across Jesus' path or waved them in the air as he entered Jerusalem. They greeted him as a king and thought he would save them from the Romans. Palm branches signified goodness and victory and were often depicted on coins and important buildings. But Jesus was not there to kick out the Romans: he had come to die. This would surprise the Palm Sunday crowds. They wanted Jesus to come and make them happy, but Jesus came to make us holy and whole.



MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK 6 APRIL 2020
Throwing out the money changers

Collect for the Day

***True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross which is the path of glory;
for you live and reign in the unity of the Holy Trinity,
one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen***

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: Matthew 21:12-17

WONDER:

- ✓ What does this story show you about Jesus? What words do you think the people Jesus healed would use to describe him? How do you think the children's faces looked as they shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

AND/OR

- ✓ Jesus was angry at the way the money changers were profiting from the religious rites performed in the temple. What are the ways that we have seen people profiting from religion? How do we make God a consumer good in our life?

PRAY:

- ✓ The children ran and shouted "Hosanna!" Use this praise litany as your prayer today, responding with a loud "Hosanna!" after each phrase (run around and shout it if you like):
Jesus, you are the great and awesome King. **Hosanna!**
Jesus, all glory and honor belong to you. **Hosanna!**
Jesus, you are the King—then, now, and forever. **Hosanna!**

AND/OR

- ✓ Lord Jesus help me to love you for who you are and not what I want you to do for me. Especially at this time, help me trust your desire to heal and make whole. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT:

Cleansing The Temple
By Margaret Cagle

Jesus went into the temple
And drove the money changers out.
He overthrew their money tables,
And the money scattered all about.

Jesus was cleansing the temple
Of corruption that was there.
They had made it a den of thieves
Instead of a house of prayer.

Christian, how about your temple?
Do you let corruption enter in?
The Bible says our body is a temple,
For the Holy Spirit dwells within.

Let us keep our temple clean.
There dwells the Spirit of God.
If we let corruption have control,
We can face the chastening rod.

Something else to do:

Stick some papers together to make a large banner or poster. Write the word "Hosanna" in large letters on the banner and decorate it.

Different people encountered Jesus at the temple. Talk about how children used the word "Hosanna" which means "save us". What do you think your reaction would have been if you had met Jesus at the temple?

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 7 APRIL 2020
The Last Supper

Collect for the Day

***True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross which is the path of glory;
for you live and reign in the unity of the Holy Trinity,
one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen***

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: Luke 22:7-23

WONDER:

- ✓ Do you remember the words Jesus said about the bread and the cup? (If not, reread verses 19 and 20 together.) Wonder how the Lord's Supper celebration at your church is like the special meal Jesus had with his disciples. Why might Jesus have used food and drink to remind us how much he loves us? What do you wonder about the Lord's Supper?

AND/OR

- ✓ The "consecration prayer" we use at the Eucharist is always a version of these scriptures in which Jesus tells us to do this "in remembrance of me". In which ways do you need to be re-membered into the Body of Christ?

PRAY:

- ✓ Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us a way to remember your sacrifice for us and to remind us how much you love us. We love you too, Lord! Amen.

AND/OR

- ✓ Lord Jesus, help me to always approach your sacrifice for us with thanksgiving and hopeful expectation. May it be a chance to re-member me into your Body and fill me with your indwelling Spirit. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT:

As in that upper room you left your seat
and took a towel and chose a servant's part,
so for today, Lord, wash again my feet,
who in your mercy died to cleanse my heart.

I bow before you, all my sin confessed,
to hear again the words of love you said;

and at your table, as your honoured guest,
I take and eat the true and living bread.

So in remembrance of your life laid down
I come to praise you for your grace divine;
saved by your cross, and subject to your crown,
strengthened for service by this bread and wine.

- By Timothy Dudley-Smith

Something else to do:

Bake some bread together. There are many recipes available, but this one doesn't require you to find yeast!

EMERGENCY NO YEAST BREAD

When you need bread in a hurry, or the shop has run out? This no yeast, no rise loaf that anyone can bake, that uses only 4 everyday ingredients is the answer. Egg Free.

Servings: 10 slices

Author: [Helen Best-Shaw](https://fussfreeflavours.com/emergency-bread/#wprm-recipe-container-53572) <https://fussfreeflavours.com/emergency-bread/#wprm-recipe-container-53572>

Prep Time 5 mins

Cook Time 35 mins

Total Time 40 mins

Ingredients

- 500 g plain flour (regular cake or all purpose flour not bread or wholewheat / wholegrain)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 310 ml milk (or water with a spoon of oil or melted butter)

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 190°C Fan (210C (regular). Place a heavy baking sheet in the oven to heat.
2. Mix the dry ingredients. Stir in the milk, and bring the dough together by stirring the ingredients until the milk is mixed with with flour and forms a dough. It's easiest to do this with your hands rather than a wooden spoon.
3. Turn the dough out onto your work surface and knead briefly until the dough has a uniform consistency.
4. Shape the dough into a round disc about 3cm thick and deeply score the top with an X. **This is important! Don't make a round ball of dough as it won't cook in the middle.**
5. Bake on the baking sheet at for about 35 minutes until pale brown and sounding hollow when tapped on the bottom.

Notes

- **Important! We cannot stress enough that the dough needs to be a flat pancake - not more than 3cm deep when it goes into the oven, or it will not cook properly in the middle.**
- If you don't have milk you can make some up with powdered milk, mix up yogurt and water, or use water with a spoon of oil or melted butter or spread.
- Delicious served freshly baked for breakfast with homemade jam or marmalade.

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 8 APRIL 2020
Foot washing

Collect for the Day

***True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross which is the path of glory;
for you live and reign in the unity of the Holy Trinity,
one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen***

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: John 13:1-17

WONDER:

- ✓ Imagine how the water would feel on your tired feet. What would it be like to have someone so important serve you by washing your smelly, dirty feet? Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to wash one another's feet? How do you serve others?

AND/OR

- ✓ Jesus makes a very dramatic statement here about what kind of Saviour he is, and what our response to this should be. What does a *servant God* mean to you? And how would you love to respond to this?

PRAY:

- ✓ Think of all the people who serve you—family members, coaches, teachers, and community helpers. Offer a prayer of thanks for these people, naming them whenever you are ready. End your prayer by asking God to help you serve others too.

AND/OR

- ✓ Humble God and servant King, you journey to the cross to die for me and all the world. Help me to see and serve you in others, especially those who I struggle most to love. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT:

If you are alone, you may wish to pour water from the jug into the bowl and take some time to imagine the story: Jesus bending over your feet to wash them. Jesus looking at you with welcome and love. He has desired to share this Passover meal with you.

What is your response to Jesus as he washes your feet and welcomes you with love to his table? Take time to ponder and respond. You may wish to gently wash your own feet with your eyes closed imagining Jesus washing them, paying attention to the sensations of water, touch on your feet, the texture of the towel. The intensity of the atmosphere between you and Jesus.

“ God says: “No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake. Come to me with your misery and your sins, with your trouble and your needs, and with all your longing to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and knock. Open to me for I thirst for you.” Mother Theresa

Where do we long to be loved and forgiven at this hour?

Something else to do:

Fit a basin or bucket with warm water and find a clean towel and some soap. Take turns to prayerfully wash and dry each others' feet.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2020
Garden of Gethsemane

Collect for the Day
God our Father,
your Son revealed his love in washing the feet of his disciples
and by giving us this supper;
nourish us by Christ's presence and unite us in Christ's love;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: Luke 22:39-62

WONDER:

- ✓ Wonder why the disciples fell asleep. How do you think Jesus felt when all his friends were too tired to support him? Imagine that you're Peter, a follower and friend of Jesus. After Jesus was arrested, what emotions would you be feeling? Why do you think Peter denied Jesus? Why do you think Peter cried?

AND/OR

- ✓ There is so much happening in this story! Jesus, alone in the garden, asking his friends to watch and pray, is wrestling with his destiny. This scene shows us that he knew the cost, and ultimately freely chose to surrender his life. I wonder how he found the courage? A courage that was lacking in Peter who denies knowing Jesus. In what ways do you lack courage to follow where God calls?

PRAY:

- ✓ Think about a time when you did something that made Jesus sad. Begin a family prayer with "Jesus, I made you sad when. . . ." Then give everyone a moment to silently talk to Jesus. End the prayer with "Thank you, Jesus, for forgiving us. Thank you for always loving us, no matter what. We're so glad you never leave us or get too tired for us! Amen."

AND/OR

- ✓ Take a moment to reflect on which part of this story really speaks to you. What question does it ask of your life.....offer that to God in prayer.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT Love III

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin,
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

By George Herbert

“We must get ready then. Our journey requires a rejuvenated faith. We must set high standards. We must rely on the gospel to guide us. It will help us to follow Christ and grow better acquainted with him so we are prepared to live with Jesus in his heavenly kingdom.” from The Rule of St. Benedict

Where does our faith need rejuvenation today? How will we let the gospel guide us? Place a prayer shawl (or similar piece of cloth) over your head. Imagine Jesus in the Gethsemane. Sit with him in the Father’s presence. Ponder God’s tender and infinite love for you, doing all of this before you even knew its significance.

Something else to do:

Find 30 coins. Invite members of the family to draw around a coin and alongside the shape, write something people do that disappoints us. See if you can cover the paper with 30 disappointments, representing each of the coins given to Judas to betray Jesus.

Talk about how Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. He told the high priests that he would give Jesus to them and was paid 30 pieces of silver. Jesus knew that this would happen and even told the disciples so, as they sat and ate with him. Jesus still loved Judas, though, and wants us to forgive those who hurt us.

GOOD FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2020

Jesus dies

Collect for the day

Eternal God

**the cross of Jesus reveals the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and awe may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: John 19:14-30

WONDER:

- ✓ What do you wonder about Jesus dying on the cross? How does this story make you feel?

AND/OR

- ✓ The crucifixion shows a collusion between the ruling religious elite and the political powers of the day – both who were deeply threatened by the life and teachings of Jesus. In what ways is this radical message of God's love and inclusion a threat to the status quo of today's world? In what ways is it a challenge to you?

PRAY:

- ✓ Draw a simple cross. Practice holding up the cross and having everyone say, "Thank you, Jesus." Hold it up after each sentence in this prayer, saying the response together:

Dear Jesus, you are our Lord. Thank you, Jesus!

You came to earth for us. Thank you, Jesus!

You lived for us. Thank you, Jesus!

You suffered for us. Thank you, Jesus!

You died for us. Thank you, Jesus!

You love us. Thank you, Jesus!

Amen.

AND/OR

- ✓ Holy God, you showed once and for all upon that cross the depth of your love for us. Sweet Jesus, help me to embrace that love and share it with others for whom you have died. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT:

There is a poem by St. John of the cross, “No me mueve, Mi Dios”. It is contained in Madeleine l’Engle’s book Two-Part Invention where she reflects on this poem as her husband Hugh is dying. She is wrestling with deep questions of life and death. a friend translated the poem for her this way:

I am not moved, my God, to love you
by the heaven you have promised me.
Neither does hell, so feared, move me
to keep me from offending you.

You move me, Lord, I am moved seeing you
scoffed at and nailed on a cross.
I am moved seeing your body so wounded.
your injuries and your death move me.

It is your love that moves me, and in such a way
that even though there were no heaven, I would love you,
and even though there were no hell, I would fear you.

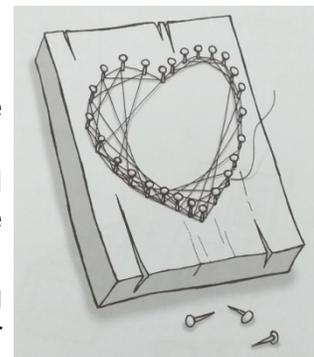
You do not have to give me anything so that I love you,
For even if I didn’t hope for what I hope,
as I love you now, so would I love you.

Something else to do

Make a Heart of Nails:

Choose a piece of wood and lay a heart template on top. Choose a number of nails and hammer them into the wood, outlining the shape as symmetrically as possible. Hammer the nails into the wood deep enough to stand proud but firm. Remove the heart template. Weave some wool or string around the heads of the nails to outline a border and then from one side of the heart to another, creating your own design.■

Talk about how Good Friday turns bad into good. Jesus’ dying on the cross for us was the worst best thing ever. Jesus never did anything wrong, but he loves us so much that he suffered the nails of the cross in his flesh because of all the wrong we do.



HOLY SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2020
Jesus is buried

Collect for the day
God our Father,

**we have been baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ:
grant that buried with him we may pass through the grave and gate of death
and enter the joy of Christ's resurrection.
Amen**

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: John 19:38-42

WONDER:

- ✓ When Jesus was alive, Joseph of Arimathea was afraid to tell others he was a follower of Jesus. But after Jesus died, Joseph asked Pilate if he could bury Jesus' body. Wonder why Joseph wanted to do this for Jesus. What emotions do you think Joseph and Nicodemus were feeling as they buried Jesus? Where do you think the other disciples were on this day? How do you think they were feeling? How does this part of the story make you feel?

AND/OR

- ✓ We see Joseph of Arimathea 3 times in the Gospel of John. First he comes to him at night trying to understand who Jesus is. Second, he defends Jesus when the ruling elite plot to kill him. And finally here we see him bring enough embalming material to bury a king. Thinking back on your faith journey, how have you grown in understanding who this Jesus is? Where would you like to go in future?

PRAY:

- ✓ Practice making the signs for "Jesus" (with hands open, touch the tip of the middle finger of one hand to the palm of your other hand; repeat on the opposite hand) and for "Thank you" (touch the fingertips of your dominant hand to your chin; then extend your hand forward with the palm up). Sign "Jesus" and "Thank you" as you read the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, you taught us how to be servants to each other. Thank you!

Jesus, you suffered in the garden when your friends weren't there for you. Thank you!

Jesus, you let your enemies arrest you and hurt you. Thank you!

Jesus, your friends ran away and even said they didn't know you. But you didn't complain. Thank you!

We are sorry that your friends ran away.

We are sorry that you felt so alone.

We are sorry that your enemies hurt you.

We are sorry that you suffered so much for us.

Jesus, we love you. Thank you for loving us!

Amen.

(prayer adapted from Kid Connection, Year 2, Quarter 2, p. 151)

AND/OR

- ✓ Lord Jesus, thank you the way you have journeyed with me in this life of faith. Bring me to new places of intimacy with you in the days, weeks, months and year ahead. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT:

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would
know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb, but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear Christ, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Words by Samuel Crossman

“To make of his story something that could neither startle, nor shock, nor terrify, nor excite, nor inspire a living soul is to crucify the Son of God afresh.” Dorothy L Sayers

Where do we seek courage and wisdom to proclaim the gospel in its fullness?

Something else to do

Draw and colour a butterfly. Or make an origami butterfly using a square of paper (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWjEYIMZnhE>)

One of the most ancient and appropriate symbols of Easter is the butterfly. Butterflies are a powerful metaphor of the resurrection. Jesus Christ was buried in a dark tomb for three days, and then emerged, still himself but changed and glorified. The parallel to a butterfly is striking; caterpillars “bury” themselves within a chrysalis, emerging as transformed butterflies. As Christians, we believe that we too are transformed through the grace of God. One transformation occurs as we follow Jesus’ teachings, living into the kingdom of God. In addition, we are assured of a further transformation when we, like Christ, inherit a glorified and eternal body. Making butterflies for Easter is powerful way to claim and teach these Christian beliefs.

EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020
Jesus is Alive!

Collect for the day
Almighty God,

**this night explodes with the radiance of the risen Christ:
set us ablaze with the power of your love and propel us into the world
to live and proclaim the gospel of the living Lord;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

BREATHE: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.

READ: John 20:1-18

WONDER:

- ✓ What do you think Jesus' friends thought when they saw that his tomb was empty? Why do you think Jesus' friend Mary Magdalene didn't realize at first that she was talking to Jesus? What would you have done when you realized Jesus was alive again? Who would you run to tell?

AND/OR

- ✓ The disciples were all crushed by the death of Jesus. It is only after the resurrection that they came to really understand what Jesus was saying all along. Have there been times like this for you? Times when you have only seen what God means later? Why do you think this is?

PRAY:

- ✓ Celebrate Jesus' resurrection by echoing this prayer together (repeating each phrase as it's read):

Jesus, you are Lord.

Jesus, you are our hope.

Jesus, you won the victory over death.

Jesus, we jump for joy because you are alive!

Amen.

AND/OR

- ✓ Holy God, through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, you call us to be a resurrection people. To share in His risen life and to continue His ministry here on earth. Show me in the days, weeks, months, and year ahead how to live more fully into this wonderful invitation. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT

From the far star points of his pinned extremities,
cold inched in—black ice and squid ink—till the hung flesh was empty.
lonely in that void even for pain,
he missed his splintered feet,
the human stare buried in his face.
He ached for two hands made of meat
he could reach to the end of.
in the corpse's core, the stone fist
of his heart began to bang
on the stiff chest's door, and breath spilled
back into that battered shape. Now

It's your limbs he comes to fill,
as warm water shatters at birth,
rivering every way.

– Mary Karr

“Descending theology: the resurrection” from Sinners Welcome: Poems by Mary Karr, © 2006 by Mary Karr.

Something else to do

The egg is an ancient symbol of new life, and has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

HOW TO MAKE MARBLED EASTER EGGS WITH OIL (Better Homes & Gardens)

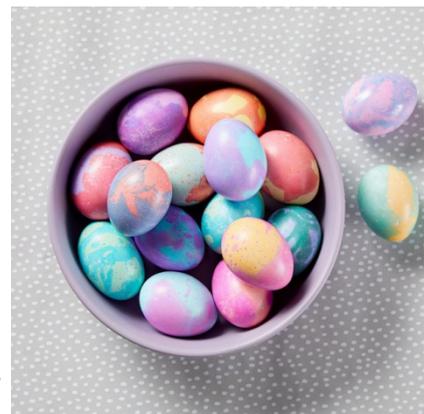
<https://www.bhg.com/holidays/easter/crafts/make-marbled-easter-eggs-with-oil/>

Supplies Needed

- Glass bowls
- Measuring cup
- Measuring spoons
- Hot water
- White vinegar
- Food coloring
- Spoon
- Hard-boiled eggs
- Paper towels
- Warm water
- Vegetable oil

Step 1: Create First Dye Color

In a glass bowl mix one cup of hot water, one teaspoon of



white vinegar, and 5-10 drops of food coloring. The dye in this bowl will be the base color of your egg, so we recommend using a lighter shade of dye. Use a spoon to place a hard-boiled egg into each bowl, making sure the egg is completely submerged in the liquid. Let the egg sit in the dye for just one minute—this ensures you'll have a shade light enough to show the marbled pattern. Remove and place the colored egg on a paper towel to dry. The dyed Easter eggs will need to be completely dry before you dip them again.

Step 2: Prepare Oil Mixture

While the dyed eggs dry, prepare the oil mixture that will give your eggs a marbled look. Since the oil mixture adds a second color to the dyed egg, it will need to be quite a bit more saturated. In a new bowl mix approximately 20 drops of food coloring with one cup of warm water. Add one tablespoon of vegetable oil and use a spoon to gently mix.

Step 3: Create Marbled Easter Eggs

When the eggs are dry, use a spoon to add one colored egg to the vegetable oil mix. Gently roll the egg around in the dye bath and remove it when you notice a marbled Easter egg effect. Keep in mind that if you leave the egg in the mixture too long, it will turn a solid color.

Step 4: Dry and Display

After removing the egg, lightly blot excess water and oil from the egg using a paper towel and let dry completely before displaying. For a touch of shine, rub the marble looking Easter eggs with oil. Try varying the color combinations and oil swirls to create a pretty display of dyed Easter eggs