



# **Holy Week Resources**

*for*

# **Families**



## **Holy Week Resources for Families**

### **Introduction to Holy Week**

*Faithful Celebrations: Making Time for God from Mardi Gras Through Pentecost*

Sharon Ely Pearson

### **Holy Week Prayers**

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Jenifer Gamber and Timothy J. S. Seamans

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*Building Faith Brick by Brick: An Imaginative Way to Explore the Bible with Children*

Emily Slichter Given

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*What We Do in Lent: A Child's Activity Book*

Anne E. Kitch, Illustrations by Dorothy Thompson Perez

### **Maundy Thursday**

*Faithful Celebrations: Making Time for God from Mardi Gras Through Pentecost*

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Jay Sidebotham



# FAITHFUL *Celebrations*

MAKING TIME FOR GOD FROM  
MARDI GRAS THROUGH PENTECOST

*Edited by*

SHARON ELY PEARSON



Church Publishing  
NEW YORK

## Chapter 3

# HOLY WEEK

### Introduction

During Holy Week the church dramatizes the events leading up to and including the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion, or Palm Sunday, and the joyous triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and ends with the Triduum (*Triduum Sacrum*, meaning in Latin “the sacred three days”), which begins with the celebration of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday and ends with the vespers of Easter Sunday evening.

Each day of Holy Week is considered a “red letter” feast day, and many churches offer special services each noonday or evening to commemorate this last day of Jesus’s life. Thursday and Friday of Holy Week are especially significant. The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin *mandatum* or “commandment,” from the words attributed to Jesus in the Gospel of John: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another” (John 13:34). Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of our Lord. It is known as “Good” because of the new life brought about by Christ’s victory of the cross. Holy Saturday is a time for reflecting upon Jesus’s death and burial and what it means for our lives. It is the calm after the storm as we await the sunrise.

## Love and Sacrifice

The principal theme of Holy Week is Jesus's passion: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Jesus gives his life to save us from sin and death.

The language of sacrifice is difficult to understand. The New Testament draws heavily on the sacrificial practices of the temple in describing the unique role of Jesus in bringing salvation through the cross. Pascal lambs were sacrificed at Passover, and Jesus's death on the cross was seen in the light of that temple practice.

During Holy Week it is also important to see the cross from the perspective of the love that God has for us. Jesus's death on the cross shows us how much God loves us, for in the words of Paul, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor death, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38–39). It is because we share in Christ's victory over sin and death that we face the cross with feelings of sadness and remorse, but also with deep thankfulness for what we have been given. Good Friday is about triumph.

## Holy Week with Children

Talking about death and grief with children is critical to their faith, however, and even though it is Holy Week and not yet Easter it is necessary to give the proclamation, "Christ has died and Christ is risen from the dead" to small children. This is the time to instill in them through prayer and practice the importance of Holy Week in their faith. For example, you might want to do a "foot washing" at home in a special way after sharing the story of Jesus and the Last Supper. You might attend a Good Friday service as a family. Talk about how sad the disciples and Mary the Mother of Jesus must have been to see Jesus die, but there was a promise Jesus needed to complete. Attend an Easter Vigil service and remind them of the story of our salvation, from Old Testament times to the present. Act out the Good Friday/Easter story the same way children often reenact the Christmas story.



# COMMON PRAYER

*for Children  
and Families*



JENIFER GAMBER &  
TIMOTHY J. S. SEAMANS

*Foreword by Wendy Claire Barrie*

*Illustrations by Perry Hodgkins Jones*



# Holy Week

## Palm Sunday

*The one who enters in the Lord's name is blessed; we bless all of you from the Lord's house. —Psalm 118:26*

Praise God, praise God, praise God we say,  
welcoming Jesus along the way.  
Waving our branches of palms we say,  
hosanna, hosanna along the way.  
Welcome to Jesus, our blessed king.  
Praise God, praise God, praise God we sing. Amen.

## Monday of Holy Week

*Jesus said, "Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves." —Matthew 11:29*

Walk with me, Jesus, walk with me.  
The way isn't always easy, you see.  
But your love, it reaches up to the sky,  
and carries me, so that I can try.  
The way isn't always easy, you see.  
Walk with me, Jesus, walk with me. Amen.

## Tuesday of Holy Week

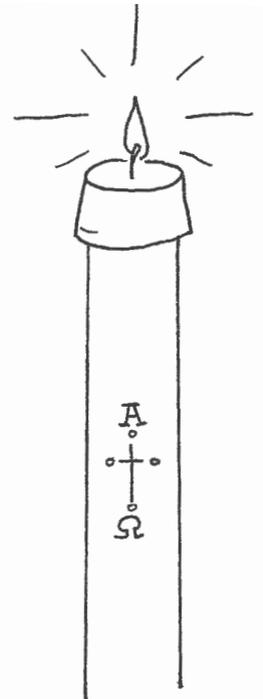
*Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be." —John 12:26*

I will follow you, Jesus, by following love,  
and earth will grow closer to heaven above.  
When we serve others and do good deeds,  
when we show people kindness and care for their needs,  
earth will grow closer to heaven above  
when we follow you, Jesus, when we follow love. Amen.

## Wednesday of Holy Week

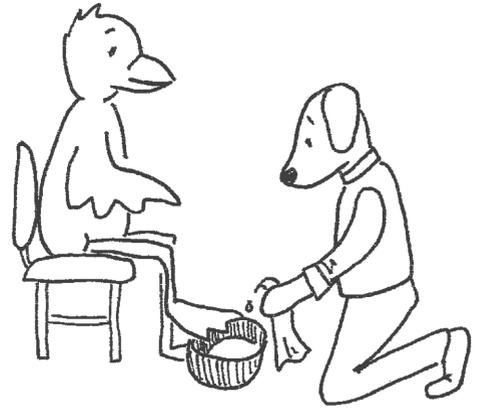
*Jesus said to the crowd, "The light is with you for a little longer . . . While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light." —John 12:35–36 RSV, adapted*

The light of Christ glows in me and in others,  
and in the family of God all are sisters and brothers.  
It's a light you must see with your heart to believe.  
It's a light you can share, you can give and receive.  
In the family of God we are sisters and brothers,  
and the light of Christ shines in me and  
in others. Amen.



## Maundy Thursday

*Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." —John 13:34–35*



A new commandment, you gave at the table,  
to love one another as you made us able.  
When we love one another, all will know it is true  
that we and our friends, indeed, follow you.  
So let us remember the commandment to love  
so the world becomes more like heaven above. Amen.

## Good Friday

*Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life.  
—John 19:30*

When Jesus died that day on the cross  
all creation together sighed, "This is a great loss."  
Time grew empty and the afternoon dark  
as the light of the world had not even a spark.  
The women stood by at a distance in tears  
wondering what would become of their fears.  
Fear not, the angels soon will say.  
Jesus's death has given us the way. Amen.

## Holy Saturday

*There was a garden in the place where Jesus died and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. They laid Jesus in the tomb. —John 19:41–42, adapted*

We speak few words this day that is hollow,  
this day that sighs with one great sorrow.  
We sit in the garden next to the tomb  
knowing that soon it will be a womb. Amen.

## Easter Vigil

*Sing, heavens! Rejoice, earth! Break out, mountains, with a song.  
—Isaiah 49:13*

Alleluia! Alleluia! We sing this night,  
joining heaven and earth that rejoice with delight.  
Jesus, our Lord, is risen today.  
God's love and light is here to stay.  
Joining heaven and earth that rejoice with delight,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We sing this night. Amen.



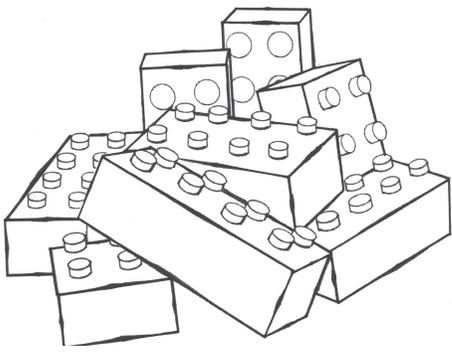
# Building Faith Brick by Brick

An Imaginative Way to Explore the Bible with Children

**Emily Slichter Given**



Morehouse Education Resources  
NEW YORK



## Basic Lesson Plan

### Welcome the Group

- Shoes may be removed and lined up along the wall in the hallway. Some children with sensory issues may not wish to remove their shoes, so make shoe removal optional.
- Welcome each child into the room by an adult volunteer or leader.
- Provide nametags if you do not know all the participants. The use of names is so important. It also helps children to learn one another's names.
- Give a bowl/bucket, building mat, and a few figures to each child.
- Invite each child to fill his/her bowl/bucket with LEGO® bricks and encourage each to create freely while others arrive.
- Give a 2-minute notice before the focused group time begins.

**Note:** To avoid mix-ups with bowls, use a dry erase marker to label each bowl/bucket with the group member's name. After trying a number of different styles and shapes, the large, square popcorn buckets available at dollar stores seem to work the best.

### Lay the Foundation

- Each lesson provides background information for both the leader and the group. Details about that lesson's story include authorship, placement in scripture, main characters, and modern day parallels.

### Did You Know?

- This section offers additional background information to spark interest and provide a wider base of knowledge and context before sharing the story. As necessary, tailor the information to the particular age.

### Pray

- Light the Christ candle and pocket the matches.
- Invite each person voluntarily into some form of prayer:
  - Write or draw prayers on brightly colored paper rectangles to build a brick prayer wall session by session.
  - Write or draw prayers on Etch-a-Sketches®.
  - Write or draw prayers on white boards.
  - Toss a LEGO® brick into a central bucket for each prayer offered during the circle gathering. These prayers can be guided or spontaneous.
  - Write prayers using magnetic letters placed on metal sheeting or baking trays.
  - Offer popcorn prayers: Children pop up to offer a short prayer when so moved.
  - Offer Post-It® prayers: Colorful self-adhesive notes can be stuck to the wall to build an ongoing prayer corner.

## Share the Story

- Introduce the story by answering some or all of the following questions, as appropriate. Each lesson includes brief answers to most or all of these questions; you are always free to supplement this information from your own knowledge and research:
  - Where is this story found in the Bible?
  - What other stories can be found before and after this story?
  - Who wrote this story?
  - When did this story take place?
  - When was the story written?
  - Whom are we going to “meet” in this story?
  - Where did this story take place?
  - Where is this location in today’s world?
- Share the story by reading or retelling it.
- Show different images of the story to help spark imagination (art books, original LEGO® constructions, online image sites, etc.).

## Respond to the Story

### Ask Building Questions

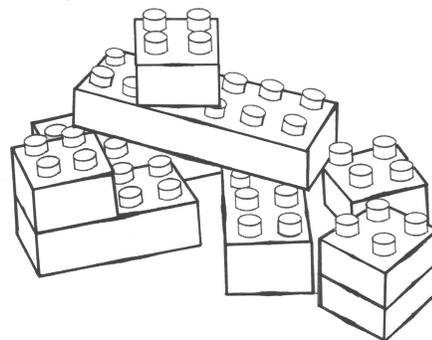
- Allow time for *Building Questions*, comments, and insights. We provide a robust list of questions for each lesson. This time of “wondering” typically serves as the most sacred part of the gathering; try not to rush through the reflections. At this point the interior life of the group often emerges in remarkable ways. This is where the bulk of the theological reflection can be heard and witnessed.
- The list of *Building Questions* is intentionally longer than needed for any given session so that the

lessons can be repeated with the same group over time. This also allows for the leader to pick and choose which question fits best within the context.

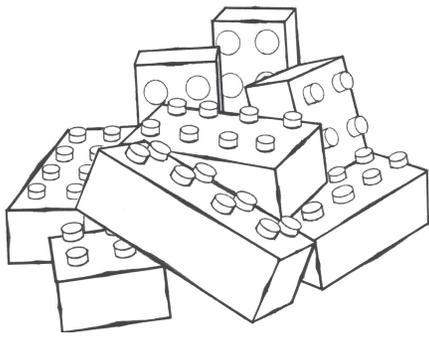
- Set the expectation that something from the story must be constructed before any other creations can be made.
- Be available to answer questions, review the story, or help “stuck” children.

### Suggest Blueprints

- *Building Faith Brick by Brick* is intended to be an open-ended theological reflection using LEGO® bricks. The need to specifically script a response should be avoided. However, if a child is having a difficult time focusing in on a response to the story, a few suggested idea starters have been offered, called *Blueprints*. The suggestions should only be introduced as needed. Reading *Blueprints* to the whole group could hinder the creative process, so keep them for “as needed” moments.
- Allow the suggested *Blueprints* to be simple words or concepts to spark ideas within the imagination of the child.



Building Faith Brick by Brick



# Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;  
Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

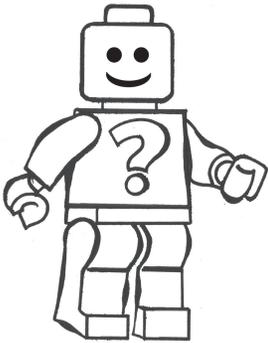
## Welcome the Group

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### Lay the Foundation

- *Where is this story found in the Bible?*  
**New Testament**
- *What is its place in the Bible story?*  
**after Jesus healed two blind men; before Jesus cleared the temple of money changers**
- *Who is the author?*  
**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**
- *Who are the main characters?*  
**Jesus, disciples, donkey, people of Jerusalem, and God**
- *Where in the biblical world did it happen?*  
**Jerusalem**
- *Where is this in today's world?*  
**Jerusalem**

Find the full description of *Lay the Foundation* on page 15.



### Did You Know?

- ✓ This part of scripture is often called “the triumphal entry.”
- ✓ This is the reason we celebrate Palm Sunday.
- ✓ Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophet Zechariah (9:9) by riding in on a donkey.
- ✓ Not everyone was glad to see Jesus.
- ✓ The word *hosanna* means “praise God.”

## Pray

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*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! Praise God now and forever. Amen.*

Suggested prayer methods are outlined on page 15.

## Share the Story

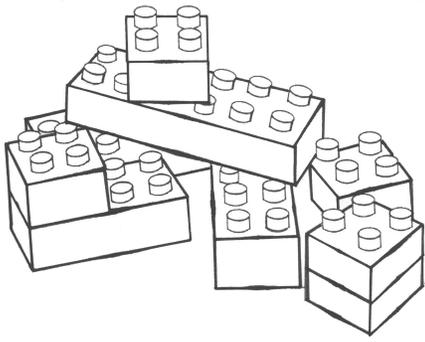
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Suggestions for storytelling are detailed on page 16.

## Respond to the Story

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Invite each member of the group to use bricks and figures to respond to the story. This can be done individually or in small groups. Suggestions for how to support this form of theological reflection can be found on page 16.



### Ask Building Questions

- I wonder if it was ever hard for the disciples to trust Jesus?
- I wonder if it is hard for you to trust God?
- I wonder if you have been in a really large crowd?
- I wonder what it felt like to be in that Jerusalem crowd?
- I wonder if children were there?
- I wonder what words you would use to praise God?

### Suggest Blueprints *(if needed)*

- Mount of Olives
- Jesus
- disciples
- donkey
- crowd
- parade
- palm branches
- clothing in the road
- God

### Continue the Story

One way to deepen the learning experience and create a link between group learning and faith formation in the home is to have builders show their creations to the adults who pick them up after class.

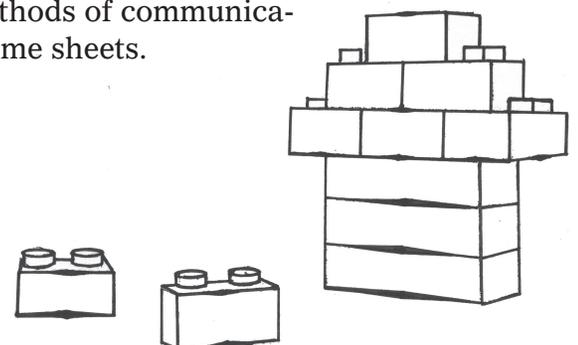
For additional study and conversation at home, consider different ways to share the Bible verses as well as some of the *Building Questions*. Possible methods of communication are texts, social media, e-blasts, website posts, or take-home sheets.

### Share Responses to the Story

Encourage each group member to share the creations they have made in response to the story. More details about sharing can be found on page 17.

### Share a Snack

- party food
- parade food
- leaf/palm shaped cookies





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# What We Do in Lent

A Child's Activity Book



Anne E. Kitch

Illustrations by Dorothy Thompson Perez

MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING

HARRISBURG · NEW YORK

[www.churchpublishing.org/products/whatwedoinlent](http://www.churchpublishing.org/products/whatwedoinlent)

# Monday in Holy Week

## Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Jesus taught in the \_\_\_\_\_, and many came to hear him. When he saw many people buying and selling in the temple grounds, he became angry. He drove them out saying, "Remember it is written, My house shall be called a house of \_\_\_\_\_ but you are making it a den of \_\_\_\_\_." Then he \_\_\_\_\_ all who came to him. Matthew 21:13

robbers

temple

healed

prayer

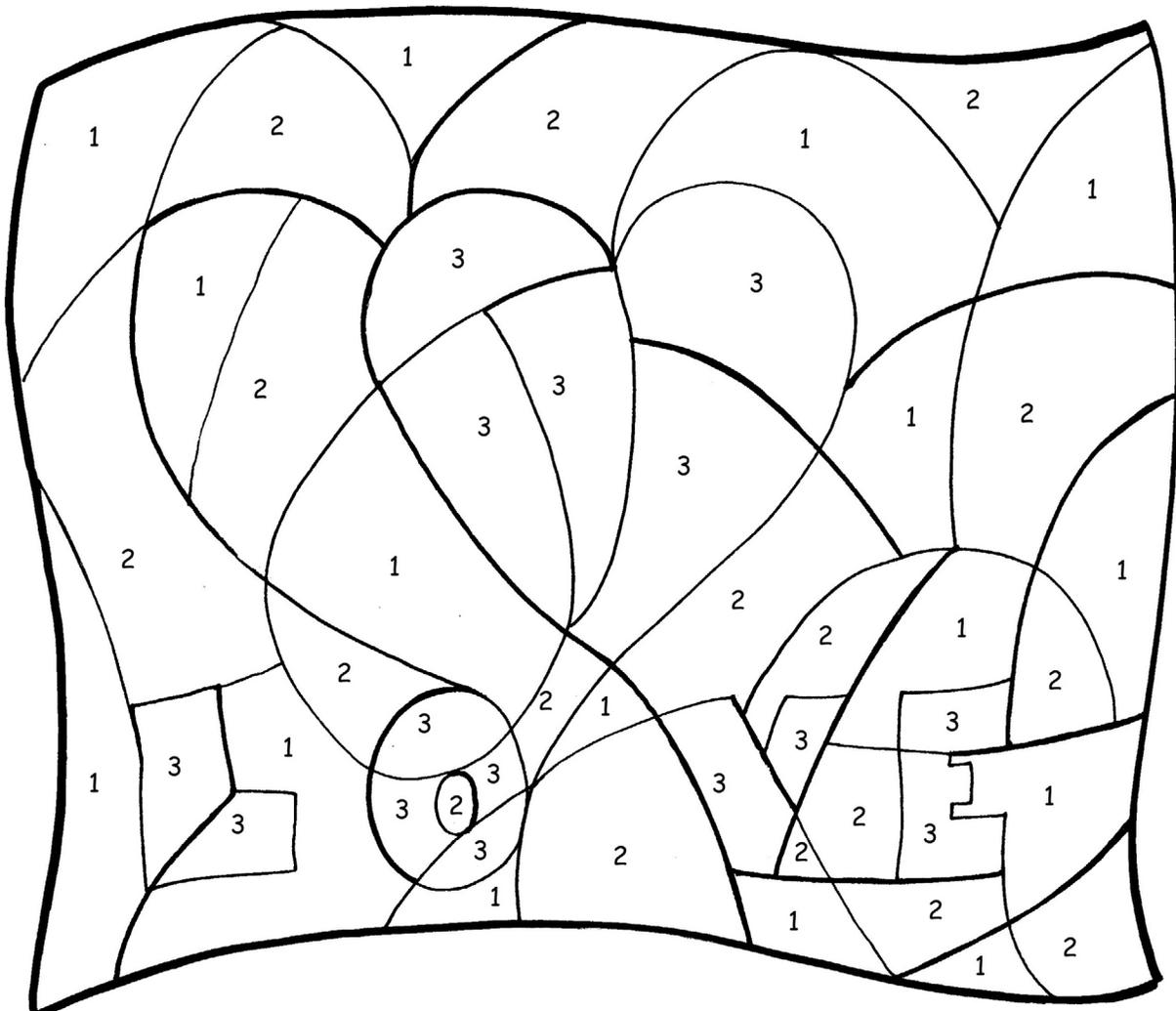


# Tuesday in Holy Week

## The Greatest Commandment

A lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus answered, "You shall \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And you shall \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:36-38



Color the hidden picture to discover the greatest commandment.

1 – Blue

2 – Green

3 – Red

## Wednesday in Holy Week

### A Woman Anoints Jesus

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Mark 14:9



Color the picture.

# FAITHFUL *Celebrations*

MAKING TIME FOR GOD FROM  
MARDI GRAS THROUGH PENTECOST

*Edited by*

SHARON ELY PEARSON



Church Publishing  
NEW YORK

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

### **Agapé Meal followed by Foot Washing and Hand Blessing**

Commemorate Maundy Thursday with an agapé meal, or love feast, as a community event or family meal. The setting should be plain and food simple, in keeping with the solemnity of the Lenten fast that continues this week. A meal of soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and wine are appropriate. Eat the meal in silence while someone reads passages from Scripture or poetry that allows for introspection while eating, or have soft music playing in the background.

#### *Materials*

- tables and chairs set simply for dinner
- soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, and bread on serving plates or bowls for each table
- a carafe of wine or pitcher of water for each table
- Bible
- CD player if music is going to be played

The Book of Common Prayer (pp. 274–275) offers a Maundy Thursday liturgy that includes Psalm 78:14–20, 23–25. Noted here, this may be one of the readings chosen for your meal:

In the daytime he led them with a cloud,  
and all night long with a fiery light.  
He split rocks open in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.  
He made streams come out of the rock,  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.  
Yet they sinned still more against him,  
rebellng against the Most High in the desert.  
They tested God in their heart  
by demanding the food they craved.  
They spoke against God, saying,

## FAITHFUL CELEBRATIONS

“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?  
Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out  
and torrents overflowed, . . .  
Yet he commanded the skies above,  
and opened the doors of heaven;  
he rained down on them manna to eat,  
and gave them the grain of heaven.  
Mortals ate of the bread of angels;  
he sent them food in abundance.

### **Anointing One Another**

In the Old Testament, anointing commonly signified a transmission of power and blessing. In the New Testament, it came to be a sign of love, of identity as a Christian, and of the reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These flowed from the Church’s understanding of Jesus as the “Messiah” or “Christ,” which means “the anointed one.”

#### *Materials*

- small bowl
- perfume oil
- Bible

#### *Directions*

1. Gather in a circle.
2. Invite a volunteer to read Mark 14:3–9 from the Bible, or here:

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given

to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

3. Pass a bowl of perfumed oil around, each person drawing the sign of the cross on the palm of the person next to them.
4. Conclude with the following litany:

*Leader:* We will remember the soothing,

*All:* And not forget the jarring.

*Leader:* We will remember the sweetness,

*All:* And not forget the sour.

*Leader:* We will remember the jagged desperateness of Judas,

*All:* And own it; it is our story too.

*Leader:* We will remember

*Women/Girls:* The passion of love,

*Men/Boys:* The smell of perfume,

*Women/Girls:* The pain of rejection,

*Men/Boys:* The stench of blood money.

*Leader:* And help us on the journey, to help us hold the tensions, to help us face both the delight and the difficulty,

*All:* We will say “Yes” to God’s generosity in creation, we will say “Yes” to God’s judgment poured out on humankind, we will say “Yes” to God’s justice in Jesus.

# FAITH AT HOME

**A Handbook for Cautiously Christian Parents**



WENDY CLAIRE BARRIE

 Morehouse Publishing  
NEW YORK

[www.churchpublishing.org/faithathome](http://www.churchpublishing.org/faithathome)

### **Good Friday**

Right. This day is hard for adults, let alone kids, and it's really important to resist skipping over it and going straight to Easter. We do know how the story ends. We call Good Friday "good" because we are an Easter people. Even in the name we give it, we do not look at this day alone for the terrible thing that happened, that Jesus died on the cross. We look all the way to Sunday, when Jesus rose again. Jesus, whom we love, died on a dark day when soldiers shamed him, nearly all his friends left his side, and he wasn't even sure that God was with him. We tell the story of what happened that day because it is vital for our children to hear: Jesus was afraid, he suffered, he died . . . and God turned his fear, his suffering, and his dying into hope, wholeness, and new life.

We tell this story—our Christian story—over and over again because it tells us the truth: not that there is no darkness, but that "light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."<sup>5</sup> Remembering that gives us comfort and makes us bold, helps us encourage others and find goodness in the most difficult of days. We are Easter people because we have been to the cross and the grave and we know the promise God makes to us in Jesus: God's power and grace can transform anything; God's love is stronger than the cross, stronger than death itself.

You might bring some sweetness to this bitter day in a traditional way, by baking hot cross buns, a custom that dates to Saxon times. My husband makes this recipe:<sup>6</sup>

## Seasons and Celebrations

### HOT CROSS BUNS

#### Ingredients

- 1 package active dry yeast
- ¼ cup warm milk
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon cardamom
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg (preferably freshly grated)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup warm milk
- ¾ cup currants
- 2 teaspoons grated orange zest
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon milk
- 3 to 5 tablespoons powdered sugar
- OR, instead of milk and sugar: white chocolate chips

#### Directions

1. Warm ¼ cup of milk. Stir in 1 teaspoon of sugar and sprinkle in the package of yeast. Let sit 5 to 10 minutes until foamy.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together 3 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon of salt, all the spices and ¼ cup of sugar.

## FAITH AT HOME

3. Make a well in the flour and add the yeast mixture, 4 tablespoons of melted butter, 2 eggs, and ½ cup warm milk. Mix the ingredients well with a wooden spoon. Mix in the currants and orange zest.
4. Knead until well mixed; knead in additional tablespoons of flour until the dough doesn't stick to your fingers or the bowl.
5. Form the dough into a ball, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and leave at room temperature for 2 hours—the dough should double in size.
6. Press down on the dough to deflate it, then roll into a log and divide into 16 pieces. Form each piece into a bun by rolling between your hands.
7. Place the buns on a baking sheet, at least an inch apart. Cover it all with plastic wrap and let it sit for another 40 minutes, until they've doubled again.
8. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together 1 egg and 1 tablespoon of milk. (Some people use a sharp knife to slash a cross in the top of each bun to guide the icing later, but I prefer the smooth dome.)
9. Brush egg wash on each bun. (Optional but they look a lot better.)
10. Put in the oven on the middle rack and cook for about 12 minutes. Remove from oven, cool a few minutes, then move to a wire rack to cool more.
11. For traditional white frosting, whisk together 1 teaspoon of milk and 3 tablespoons of powdered sugar. Whisk in additional tablespoons of sugar until it's a little thicker

## Seasons and Celebrations

than you think it needs to be. After the buns are *totally* cooled, use an icing bag or a plastic sandwich bag with a corner snipped off to pipe a cross on each bun. You can also use white chocolate instead of white icing. Just melt white chocolate chips in the microwave or over a double boiler, then proceed as above.

Break your fast (yes, that's where the word *breakfast* comes from) with these, and make enough to share with your neighbors or with the overworked staff of your church, who still have these three intense days before they rest.

### ***The Great Vigil on Holy Saturday***

The Great Vigil is the holiest night of the year. If you like Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, you will love the Great Vigil of Easter. TAKE YOUR KIDS. Not preschoolers. I recommend ages eight and up. They can come in their pajamas. The service, elements of which date back to the second century, begins in darkness. A fire is kindled, perhaps outside, perhaps at the back of the church, and from it the paschal candle (a really huge candle) is lit. This candle is such a powerful symbol of the resurrection that it is present for not only every baptism but for every funeral as well, and it will stay lit for every liturgy, every service for all fifty days of Easter. (Yes, fifty! That's how important Easter is to us. It's not just one day, but a season in itself.) The paschal candle is brought into the church with chanting and individual candles are lit from it as the light of Christ spreads throughout the congregation.

By candlelight the stories of God's saving deeds in history are told, always including the Exodus. People are baptized,

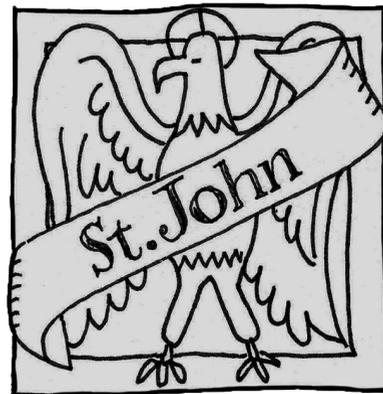
## FAITH AT HOME

alleluias are shouted and sung, the lights blaze, bells are rung, the Easter gospel is proclaimed, and everyone is fed with the bread and wine made holy. Talk about a great party!

YEAR A

# Drawn *to the Gospels*

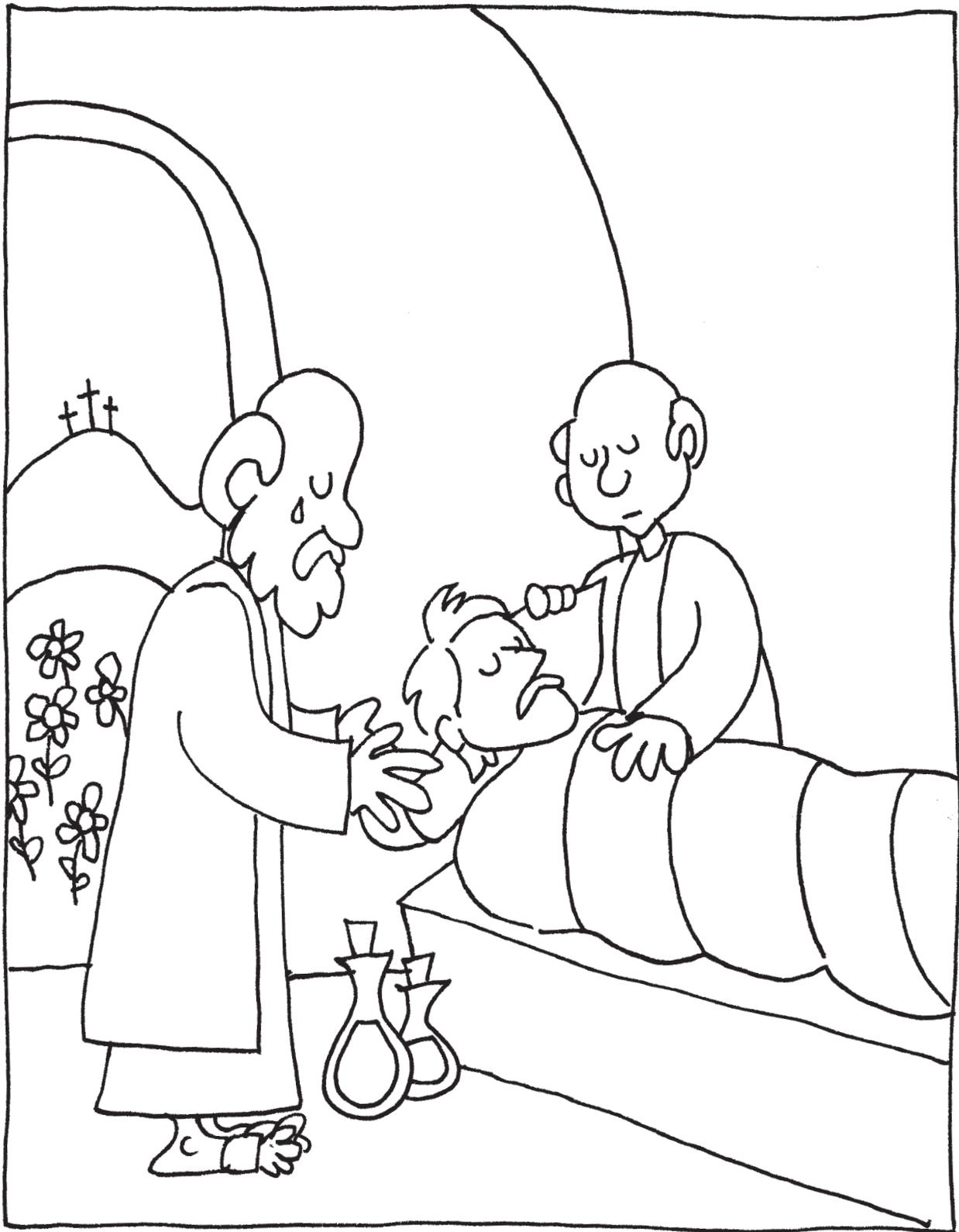
An Illustrated Lectionary



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Drawn to the Gospels

# Holy Saturday

## Matthew 27:57-66

□ □ □

*or* John 19:38-42

### Notes on These Readings

For this holy day—a day of rest and a day of quiet—we are offered two different passages from the gospels, one from Matthew and one from John. Both describe the hours after Jesus's death, as he is taken down from the cross. Both describe the loving and attentive ministry of Joseph of Arimathea. In the case of John's gospel, Nicodemus also appears. Remember, we met him earlier this year, in Lent, when he came to meet Jesus at night. Take this day as a day of quiet remembrance. Let words be few.

### Questions

1. What do you think motivated Joseph of Arimathea to go public in his attentiveness to Jesus? Do you think that took courage? What was he risking?
2. How will you observe this particular feast day in the church? What will you do to carve out some silence?
3. Only Matthew includes details of a rumor that Jesus's disciples would steal his body. Why do you think that's included in this reading?



# Under the Fig Tree

Visual Prayers and Poems for Lent

ROGER HUTCHISON



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Under the Fig Tree



The colors of passion

Spread out across the canvas

My fingers—active participants in the story

Begin to move the colors

A chaotic and *stirring dance*

born from the depth of my artist's soul.

Darkness becomes light

The horizon

A thin place

Between heaven and earth

The tomb is empty

And the sun shines

With a holy fire

Sending streaks of *vibrant* and *shimmering*  
light across the sky

I can feel my heart beating in my chest!

The colors fill the canvas and spill over the edge and  
onto The Painting Table.

My hands open wide

Covered with the colors of God's forgiving love.

I raise them to the sky!

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Christ is risen today!!!



# THE WAY OF LOVE

## TURN



## LEARN



## PRAY

PRAISE YOU,  
LORD!

THANK YOU,  
LORD!

HELP ME,  
LORD!

## WORSHIP



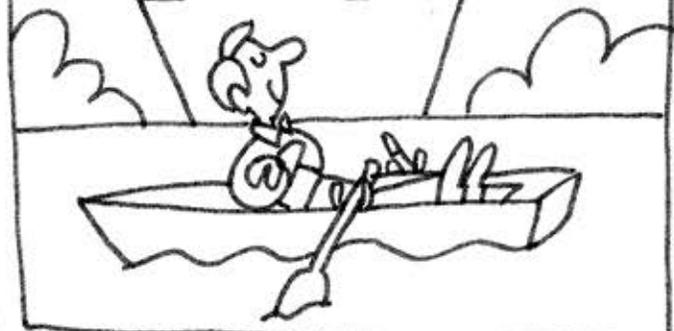
## BLESS



## GO

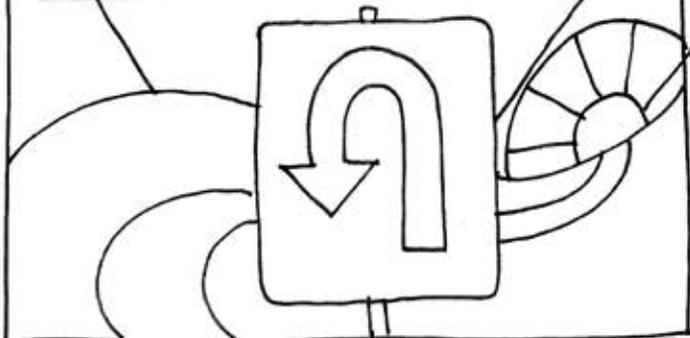


## REST

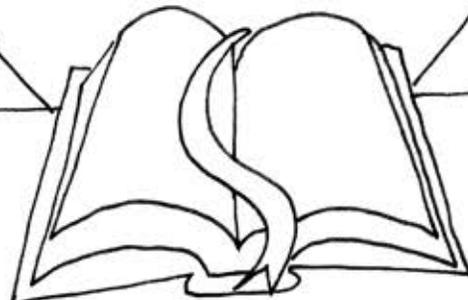


# EL CAMINO DEL AMOR

## GAMBIAR



## APRENDER



## ORAR

ALABADO SEA,  
SEÑOR.

GRACIAS,  
SEÑOR.

AYUDEME,  
SEÑOR.

## ADORAR



## BENDECIR



## IR



## DESCANSAR

