

Holy Week Boxes

A meaningful daily guide for home



This week is full of important remembrances of Jesus' last incarnate days, His death, burial, and resurrection - Easter! I wonder how we can explore these remembrances at home? What hands-on, play-based activities can help us internalize and access Jesus' last days?

Take a Holy Week box and this guide with you, and play every day as you remember The Story of Jesus. The box includes a scripture, activity/display, and collect modified from the Book of Common Prayer p 167+ for today, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Add to what's provided with your own supplies and imagination! Take photos and videos and share to Facebook or Insta and tag us! @stmarkx_familysmtx @stmarks_sm

Follow me!

Almighty God, whose most Holy Child first suffered pain and was crucified, then went up to heaven and entered into glory: Mercifully grant that we, following in the way of the cross - the via dolorosa, may find it our own way of life and peace; through Your same Holy Child Jesus Christ our Wonderful Counselor, who lives and guides with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

A miniature donkey greets us as we arrive at church today, but why, I wonder? Jesus is arriving in Jerusalem in The Story of His Life as we remember it today. And he rides in on the back of a donkey. And the people lay out their cloaks and palm fronds to prepare His way.

From the packet, select the Palm Sunday scripture (Matthew 21:1-11) and the Palm Sunday icon card. Read the scripture together as a family group or with your friends. Open your box and take out the Jesus peg person. Decorate Jesus, if you want - eyes, mouth, hair, cloak, sandals - what else might the Teacher need on the final days of this journey? Take out the two pre-cut palm fronds. Stand the box in the background. Imagine you are part of the story you read in the scripture. Where would you be? What would you say and do? Act it all out with your box as the stage and your Jesus peg person and palm fronds.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose love sent God's Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take on our flesh and to suffer death on the cross, that all people could follow the example of Jesus' great humility: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of Jesus' patience, and also be part of Jesus' resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Friend, who lives and guides with God and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Thursday, April 6, 2023

The Last Supper

Every Sunday, we remember this event. This week we remember it in a special way as we are walking through Jesus' final days - the first time he said these words - "This is my body..." Jewish Passover was going on when Jesus entered Jerusalem, and it begins this year at sundown Wednesday April 5, 2023. Let us gather together and remember our Abrahamic ancestry and unite with our Jewish siblings in the Passover feast as Jesus did and share in the story as Jesus told it to the disciples in the Upper Room - "Do this in remembrance of me..."

Find your Last Supper Scripture (Matthew 26:26-28) and the Last Supper icon. Consider adding your own communion set to this display. Do you have a tea set? How about a favorite plate and cup? Share a meal of bread and wine (or juice) with your family and friends. Open a Book of Common Prayer to p. 361 and go through the Eucharist together. Let your box be an altar to remind you what you've learned about the Last Supper. Consider reading the scriptures on your Garden of Gethsemane, Arrested, and Crown of Thorns cards, too. After the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went away, so Jesus could pray. In memory of Jesus' night in the garden praying, we will sit watch and wait with Jesus. Join us for any or all of the vigil in the font area of the church. As dawn broke and Jesus and the disciples were concluding their vigil, Judas betrayed Jesus, and the soldiers arrested Jesus. Finally, for this night, create a crown of thorns, as the soldiers did. Place it on Jesus' head. And for the deeply curious...dig into the Jewish calendar and learn about how often Passover and Easter coincide and why they do when they do!

Almighty God, whose dear Son, on the night before the ultimate suffering, did institute the Sacrament of the Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same Sacrament in remembrance of Jesus who in these holy mysteries

gives us a promise of eternal life, the same as Jesus Christ our Beloved; who now lives and guides with You and the Holy Spirit ever; one God, world without end. Amen.



Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday

Why is today called Good Friday? What does it mean to Crucify someone? Does anyone still get crucified? Have people other than Jesus been crucified?

Turn your box so the cross is standing up and outward facing. Stand the Jesus peg person against the cross. Read the Crucified scripture (John 19:17-22) and display the crucified icon with Jesus and the cross box. Do you have things around the house that you can use to show that two others were crucified alongside Jesus? Can you make a sign to show how Pilate labeled Jesus? Visit the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday - 10:00 am come-and-go family activity Stations in the Parish hall; 12:00 pm hike with dramatized, contemplative, instructed Stations beginning at First Christian Church next door and ending in our parking lot. Join in a Good Friday service - 3pm. And, because we asked why today is called Good Friday, take some time to learn more about this name and what others call it - it's not called Good Friday everywhere!

Jesus Christ, Child of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners

everlasting life and glory; for with God and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Saturday, April 8, 2023

Holy Saturday

Yesterday, Jesus was crucified and was buried in Joseph's tomb. He's there today. Dead. Wrapped in funeral linens. The women of Jesus' group of disciples will head to the tomb tomorrow to anoint Jesus' body as they continue in the 7-day ritual of shiva. Perhaps the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested, fearing for their own lives. Perhaps they are doing as men of their time would have and simply allowing the women to do the work of mourning and tending the body. Perhaps they have actively moved on to the work Jesus assigned them. Today, though, the tomb is still sealed.

Open your box so the black "stone" is standing up and facing out and nothing else is revealed. Sit in silence together. Turn all the lights off. How long can you sit still and quiet in the dark? Talk with each other about what it feels like to be still. To be quiet. What did you think about while you were being still and quiet? Why do you think some people like to sit still and quiet when they pray?

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your only Child was laid in the tomb and rested on the holy Sabbath, so we may await with Jesus the coming of the third day, and rise with Jesus to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

Χριστός ἀνέστη

Christos anesti

Christ is Risen!

Join in our community egg hunt at 10am and our services at 8am or 11am.

Turn your box into an open tomb. In what ways can you demonstrate the empty tomb with this box? Where will you put your Jesus peg person? How will you demonstrate the women at the tomb and their shock at Jesus' body not being there?

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of Jesus Christ's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship You in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate, who lives and guides with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.