

## Holy Week at Home

We're all pretty much at home right now. We'll gather virtually as a community to observe Holy Week, but below please find a few ideas for keeping Holy Week in your own homes! Blessings, friends.

### Maundy Thursday

Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38; John 13:1-15; 31-34

The word "maundy" comes from the Latin "mandate," meaning commandment. This day, when we remember how Jesus gathered with his disciples for the last supper, we remember the two commandments Jesus gave us: to "do this in remembrance of me" when speaking of the Lord's Supper, and "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)



When we're together for worship we celebrate the Lord's Supper. But every time we share a meal it can be an act of thanksgiving and sharing. So consider...have a meal served "family style," with all the elements of the feast on the table, and then pass the dishes and platters. Share; even serve the person sitting next to you.

And keep in mind Jesus' teaching for us to love one another. Is there someone you need to reach out to today? Is there someone you know...a neighbor or family member...who would find it a grace if you connected with them? Maybe by a telephone call; maybe, even by a letter or note. We can check in on our friends and family and all those we care about, and Maundy Thursday is a great day to do so!

### Good Friday—The Garden

Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1-11

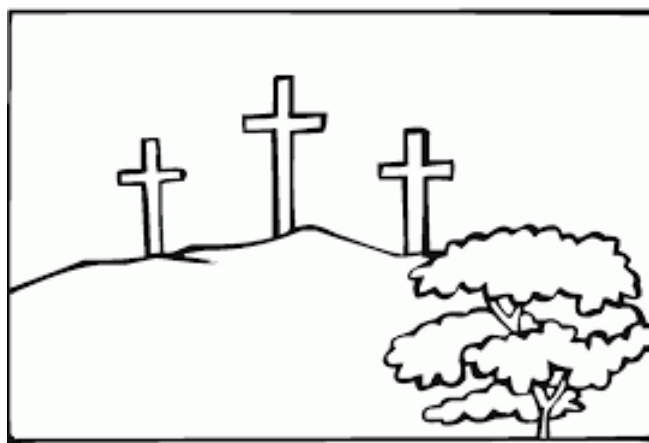


After the Last Supper, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed. He asked his Father for a way other than the cross, and quickly followed that up with asking for strength to do the will of God. "Not my will, but your will be done" Jesus prayed to his Father. Jesus takes on this burden and trusts in God's love because of his great love for us.

Get a flower from your garden; or maybe, just use the picture above. The flower represents all that is beautiful and growing because it has life. Remember that because of what Jesus does for us, we have life. We are made beautiful in him, and we are always growing in him. Pray for each member of your family, near and far, this day, and trust that God will help you to continue to grow. Let this flower represent your life and be a reminder of how you are always growing in Christ!

### **Good Friday—the Cross**

Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42

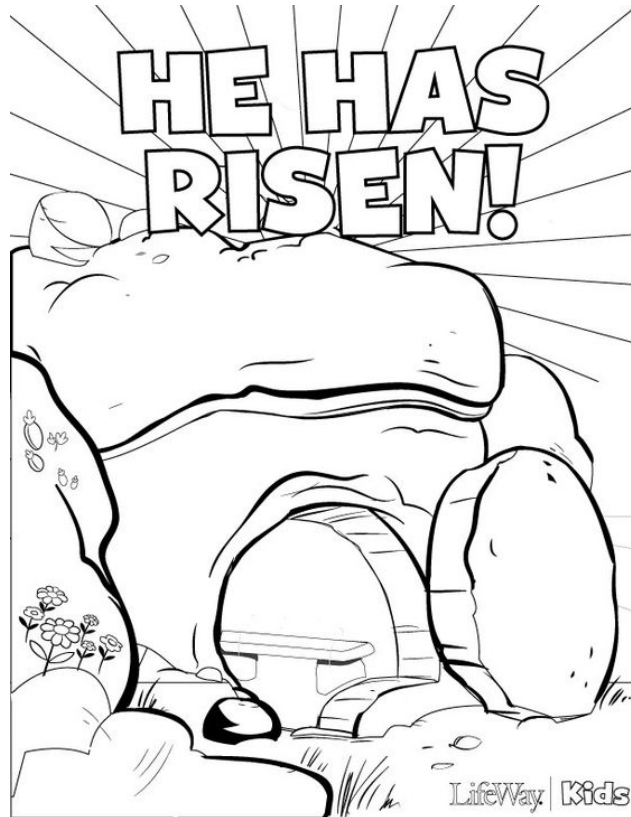


Before reading the story, get three Q tips and place them over one another to make a cross. You can make three crosses if you like. And if you really want an adventure, use a little dental floss to tie the two Q tips together!

Though Jesus had done nothing wrong, Pilate sentenced him to death on a cross like a common criminal. And so Jesus endured the pain of the cross for our sake. On the cross, he gathered in all the pain and sadness of the world, and took it upon himself. On Good Friday, we remember the pain Jesus endured on our behalf, for our sakes. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that all who believe in should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

### **Easter Day**

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18



God rolled the stone away, and the tomb was empty! Christ is Risen! Always, God rolls away stones; always, Jesus is raised; and always, Jesus brings resurrection! Hallelujah!

Say to someone in your home “Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!” And then they can say back to you “The Lord is Risen, indeed! Hallelujah!” This is a perfectly delightful way to greet one another on Easter Day!

And then, find yourself a rock. There are *lots* of rocks around where we live in Texas, so that should be pretty easy to do. And then, find a safe place to throw your rock. And then...throw that rock as far as you can! And when you throw that rock, remember that Jesus makes all things right, his love for you is never-ending, and he always rolls away stones!

Happy Easter, friends! Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!