

## **Messy Church Learning**

This Palm Sunday, we're using our palms to reflect on Holy Week. The first step is to write your name on the back of the board. I will keep these and have them in the sanctuary next week for you to take home when they are dry. The next step is to trace your palm with a pencil or pen. As I share Jesus' last week, quietly reflect and think about this as you decorate your palm. When the story is over, feel free to talk. At 15 to the hour, we'll regroup.

**-This year we're learning Easter from Matthew. He writes...**

### **Palm Sunday**

This is a day of hope and joy. A day of welcoming Jesus, prince of Peace and shunning Herod, king of war. Palms mean celebration and eternal life. Funerals and also joy. Hosanna is praise and also prayer for salvation.

**Matt. 21:1** When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." **4** This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

**5** "Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; **7** they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

**10** When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" **11** The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

*Monday and Tuesday, Jesus teaches through word and action. Wednesday he is anointed with perfume.*

### **Maundy Thursday**

This is a day of forgiveness, painful love, betrayals, sacrifice. It is a day of human failure and the need for God. It is a day of shaming violence.

Judas has accepted coins to betray Jesus. Jesus gathers for the Passover meal in the upper room. In other versions, he washes their feet. In this version, he offers his body and blood as the wine and bread.

**Matt. 26:20** When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve disciples, **21** and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” **22** And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” **23** He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. **24** The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” **25** Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

**26** While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” **27** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, **28** for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**30** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

*Here, Jesus is grieved. He asks for company. But the disciples fall asleep. Jesus prays, asking God if this has to happen. A crowd arrives with swords. They observe Judas kiss Jesus, betraying him, showing the crowd which man is Jesus. Jesus chastises Judas, and the crowd, for confronting him with violence at night when he has met them with peace in the day. As predicted, Simon Peter denies Jesus three times before dawn. As predicted, every disciple flees Jesus' side.*

### **Good Friday**

*This is a day of shadows and death. A day of governments and justice failing. A day of hopes dashed.*

**Matt. 27:11** Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” **12** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. **13** Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” **14** But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

*The governor offers the crowd, in honour of the holiday, to release a prisoner. He offers 2 rebels - Barabbas or Jesus. The crowd chooses Barabbas. He asks what to do with Jesus? And the crowd calls for Jesus to be crucified - the death of sedition, rebellion against Rome.*

**27** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. **28** They stripped him and put a scarlet (or purple) robe on him, **29** and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **30** They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. **31** After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**37** Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” **38** Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. **39** Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads **40** and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from

the cross.” **41** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, **42** “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” **44** The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

**45** From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **46** And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” **47** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” **48** At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. **49** But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” **50** Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*At dusk, he is placed hastily in a tomb before the Sabbath begins.*

### **Holy Saturday**

*This is the day of now what? What do we do after death, after loss, after hope is gone? It is a day of silence. A terrible silence.*

**Matt. 27:62** The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate **63** and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ **64** Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” **65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” **66** So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*Many churches teach that while we sat in silence and grief- Jesus was busy going into hell, or Sheol, and releasing all prisoners - all people who died before him - and giving eternal life to all across time.*

### **Easter Sunday**

*This is the day of surprise, of relief, of new life and new beginnings. The day of the promise God will not let violence, death, or evil have the last laugh.*

**Matt. 28:1** After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. **4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” **8** So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

