

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Palm Sunday begins in joy, but the joy is fragile ... and before we are finished, today, we will have been led to the foot of the Cross and made to stare at the Son of God, gasping out his life. Is this an image we want to hold before our children? Or do we try to shield them from it, or soft-pedal it in favor of the more cheery aspects of the Gospel: Jesus as teacher, healer and friend?

I remember my children talking about Jesus's prayer in Gethsemane. One of them said, "It helps me, when I'm scared, to know that Jesus could be scared too." Many of us have felt the same way. And yet, when you think of it, it hardly makes sense: how is our anguish made any more bearable by the knowledge that someone else has felt the same way? Logically, that is no help at all: it in no way removes whatever evil is causing our pain, and it offers the unpromising news that even the One who is closest to God has horrors to endure that are as bad as anything that has ever come the way of any human. What have we to look forward to in trying to love and serve God, when the life of the Messiah himself comes to this point of total abandonment?

Mercifully, logic is not the whole story. Humans in pain persist in being consoled by the knowledge that someone else whom they love and trust has "been there," knows what it feels like, and has emerged on the other side, still in one piece and ready to hold out a loving hand in the darkness. God has not built his universe on logic alone, but on emotional truth: on love, risk, freedom and hope. Having made us free to turn from him and hurt each other, he then comes to us in the only way he can—to allow us to hurt him, and to "be there" for us in whatever this crazy world may do to us, whatever we may do to ourselves, whatever we may do to each other. It may not make sense, but it is true to human nature, and children know this. The Cross is frightening, but it would be much more frightening to live in a world where God did not know what it feels like to be terribly hurt. And we know that Jesus did emerge in the other side, truly "in one piece"—and ready to hold out his hands to us for ever and ever. "Hosanna, Son of Man! Hosanna!"

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THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

Year B
PALM
SUNDAY



"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

MARK 11: 9-10



THIS IS PALM SUNDAY.

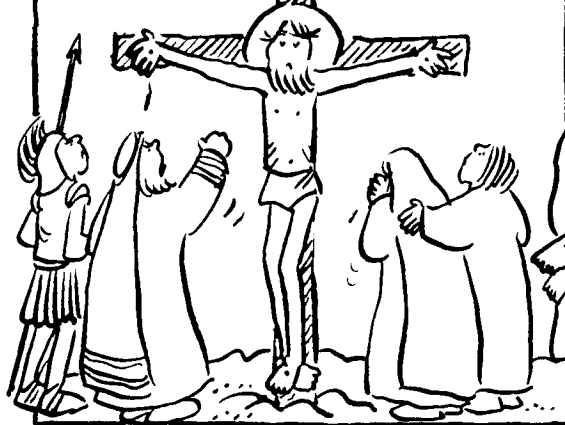
Jesus came to Jerusalem. People waved palms and shouted, "Hosanna!"



On Thursday of that week, Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends. But Jesus had enemies, too.



That night, his enemies found him and took him to jail. On Friday, he was killed on a cross.



Jesus's friends took his body down, and buried it in a cave tomb.



Palm Sunday is the first day of HOLY WEEK. This week, we remember how Jesus gave up his life for us. On MAUNDY THURSDAY, we remember his Last Supper with his friends. On GOOD FRIDAY we remember how he died on the cross. We call it "good," because Jesus died to bring us new life.

At the end of Holy Week, it is EASTER! Put the month and days on the calendar, and decorate it.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY

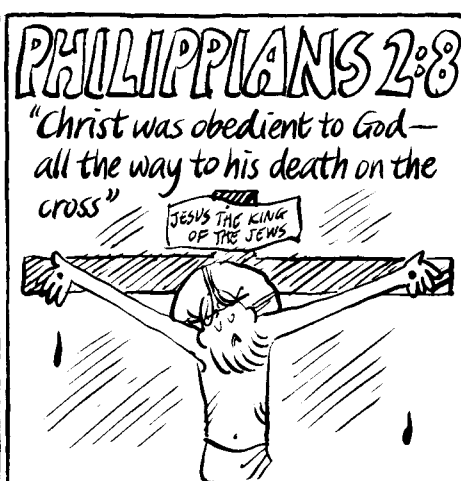
THE SUNDAY PAPER Year B PALM SUNDAY

This Sunday has two names. Usually, we call it **PALM SUNDAY**. On Palm Sunday, Jesus came into Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When people heard he was coming, they spread their clothes for a carpet, and waved branches, and shouted, "Hosanna! Hooray for Jesus the Messiah!" So today in church we carry palms, and sing hymns of welcome to Jesus, our Messiah and King!




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The other name for this Sunday is **THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**. ("PASSION" means Jesus's suffering.) When Jesus came to Jerusalem, his enemies were waiting to arrest him and kill him. Jesus became the true Messiah by being willing to die on the cross, to set all God's people free!



† THE SUNDAY PAPER †

HOLY WEEK
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PALM SUNDAY Jesus rides into Jerusalem	MONDAY  Jesus preaches in Jerusalem. His enemies plan to arrest him.	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER The Last Supper Jesus is arrested	GOOD FRIDAY Jesus is tried, crucified, and buried	HOLY SATURDAY Jesus in the tomb	EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN!!
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The week between Palm Sunday and Easter is called HOLY WEEK. This is the week when we celebrate the mighty deeds that Jesus, the Messiah, did to set us free from sin and death.

Jesus came to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to celebrate the Passover, the great Jewish festival of freedom. At Passover, God's people remember how he set them free from slavery in Egypt. We call Jesus's Passover celebration "The Last Supper," because he died the next day. We remember the Last Supper on Thursday of Holy Week. We learn how Jesus gave the Passover a new meaning by what he did that night and the next day.

This Thursday is sometimes called MAUNDY THURSDAY. "Maundy" means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to live by!

EXODUS 12:6-8 God says, "Kill a lamb and eat it with unleavened bread, to celebrate Passover" 	PSALM 116:12-13 "How shall I repay the Lord for his goodness? I will lift up the cup of salvation, and praise him" 	1 CORINTHIANS 11: 26 "Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death till he comes again" 
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THE LAST SUPPER
 Luke 22, John 13
 JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS SAT DOWN TO CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER SUPPER!

THIS IS THE LAST PASSOVER I WILL SHARE WITH YOU BEFORE GOD'S KINGDOM COMES!

DO THIS, TO REMEMBER ME!

TAKE THIS BREAD AND EAT IT—THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU!

THIS IS MY BLOOD, TO SAVE YOU!

TONIGHT, I WILL BE ARRESTED! THE BIBLE SAYS THIS HAS TO HAPPEN TO THE MESSIAH—BUT ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO HAND ME OVER!

WHO, LORD?

WHAT? ONE OF US?

NEVER, LORD!! I'LL ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO YOU!

ME TOO! WHO'S THE TRAITOR?

SHUT UP, WISE GUY!

THE DISCIPLES STARTED TO QUARREL! BUT JESUS GOT UP FROM THE TABLE...

MASTER—DON'T!!

WE SHOULD BE WAITING ON YOU, NOT YOU ON US!

THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO! YOU MUST BE SERVANTS, NOT MASTERS!

THIS IS GOD'S NEW COMMANDMENT TO YOU: (JOHN 13:34)!

✝ THE SUNDAY PAPER HOLY WEEK ✝


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The Friday in Holy Week is the day Jesus died. We call it **GOOD FRIDAY** because we believe Jesus's death gives us life.

Ever since we first disobeyed God, we have all had to die. Death is our punishment for sin. But Jesus changed all that. He wasn't a sinner. He didn't have to die. He came to share our death. He did our dying for us. Because he did that, now we can be free. We still have to die, but instead of being a punishment, it is our way to share Jesus's obedience. It is our way out of being sinners. It is our way back to God!


ISAIAH 53:6

"We have gone astray like lost sheep, but God has laid all our sins on him"




PSALM 22:1

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far away?"



HEBREWS 10:23

"Let us remember what Jesus did for us, and hold fast our hope"




JESUS DIES FOR US

John 18 and 19

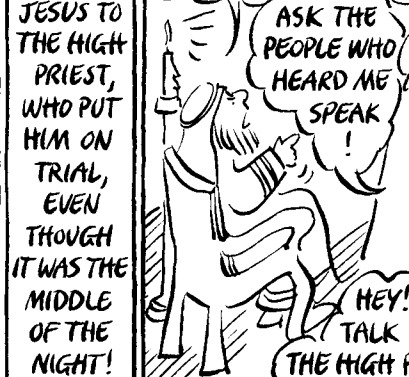
AFTER SUPPER, JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS WENT OUT TO A GARDEN TO PRAY. JUDAS, ONE OF HIS FRIENDS...

...HAD TOLD THE TEMPLE GUARDS WHERE THEY COULD FIND JESUS!



YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!


THEY TOOK JESUS TO THE HIGH PRIEST, WHO PUT HIM ON TRIAL, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!



DO YOU CLAIM TO BE THE MESSIAH?

ASK THE PEOPLE WHO HEARD ME SPEAK!

HEY! DON'T TALK BACK TO THE HIGH PRIEST!




PETER HAD FOLLOWED JESUS TO THE HIGH PRIEST'S HOUSE!

HEY! THERE'S ONE OF HIS FRIENDS!

YEAH! I SAW YOU IN THE GARDEN!

ME?! NO! I-I-NO!! NO WAY! I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THE GUY!



THE GOVERNOR WAS THIS PONTIUS PILATE!


SO JESUS WAS WHIPPED!

WE CONDEMN JESUS TO DEATH! TAKE HIM TO THE GOVERNOR, TO GET PERMISSION TO CRUCIFY HIM!

MY KINGDOM ISN'T IN THIS WORLD!

(THIS GUY IS JUST A NUT! I'LL HAVE HIM WHIPPED, AND LET HIM GO!)

HA! CRAZY KING!




BY THIS TIME IT WAS MORNING. A CROWD HAD GATHERED!

(JOHN 19: 14) NOW I WANT TO LET HIM GO!

(BUT IF THIS MOB STARTS A RIOT, I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!)

NO! NO! CRUCIFY HIM!!




SO PILATE DECIDED TO HAVE JESUS CRUCIFIED. THEY MADE JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS TO A HILL CALLED GOLGOTHA. THERE, THEY CRUCIFIED HIM!

JOHN!


YES, LORD?

TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER!

IT IS FINISHED!



JESUS'S FRIENDS TOOK HIS BODY DOWN, WRAPPED IT, AND PUT IT IN A CAVE-TOMB.



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A NOTE TO PARENTS
ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



I got me flowers to straw thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree,
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and the East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.

George Herbert (1593-1632)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Eastern Orthodox liturgy

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 223

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Year B
EASTER!



Jesus died, and was buried, on Friday. Saturday was the Sabbath, the Day of Rest.



Early on Sunday morning, some of Jesus's friends went to tend his grave.



They saw an angel! The angel said, "Don't be scared! Jesus is alive!"

"Run and tell Peter and the others! Soon, you will see Jesus yourselves!"



Easter is the most special and wonderful day in the church's year. Now we know that nothing can stop God's love, not even death. God gave Jesus new life, and Jesus shares it with us.

This is the day that the LORD has made We will rejoice and be glad in it
PSALM 118:24

What makes Easter a special and wonderful day for you?
Draw that in the picture.

THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year B EASTER!

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!!

Jesus died for us—and now he lives for us! This is the Good News of Easter. It is the best news we could ever hear, because it means that no matter how much we have turned away from God, he has not turned away from us. We were caught in sin and fear and death, and he has set us free. He sent his Son to be with us, to share our life and our death, and to be our Messiah. And when people even killed the Messiah, even that did not stop God. God gave Jesus new life that will last for ever. And if we say "yes" to him, he gives it to us, too. He gives us his Kingdom. He keeps all his ancient promises. He makes us his own children. Alleluia!



Our Gospel on Easter morning is the story of the wonderful, mysterious discovery that Jesus's friends made at his tomb!

THE EMPTY TOMB

Mark 16:1-8
JESUS DIED ON A FRIDAY. SATURDAY WAS THE SABBATH, SO HIS FRIENDS STAYED HOME. EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNING, THE WOMEN WENT TO HIS TOMB!

