



Pflaum

April 5, 2020
Palm/Passion Sunday

VISIONS

BREAKING NEWS: IT'S HOLY WEEK!

City Welcomes Jesus

This is Josiah, reporting live from Jerusalem. The teacher Jesus has entered the city, riding a young donkey as a gesture of peace. People line the road into the city. Many

have cut down palm branches and laid them in his path. Some have put their cloaks down in front of him. People are shouting "Hosanna!" to welcome him. Let's ask some

of the people in the crowd why they're here today.



Why are you here?

What are some of the things Jesus has done?

What do you want to talk with Jesus about?



As a class, read the Gospel for the Procession with Palms, Matthew 21:1-11.

Put Yourself in JESUS' PASSION

To betray someone means that we fail a friend, break a trust, or desert someone who counts on us. Rank these betraying actions on the checklist, one through nine, with one being the worst.

- ☐ A friend tells other kids something personal that embarrasses you.
- ☐ A friend says he or she can't go somewhere, then you see your friend on Instagram with someone else.
- ☐ You are not invited to a party given by a person you always invite.
- ☐ A teacher says that journals in religion class are private, but then reads a page of yours aloud in class.
- ☐ A friend re-gifts a birthday gift from you to another kid.
- ☐ Only three kids come to your party.
- ☐ Grandma gives your sister \$25 for her eighth-grade graduation but only gives you \$10.
- ☐ The principal uses the fundraiser money for new lighting instead of the new team uniforms the student council voted for.
- ☐ The baseball coach promises to let everyone play, but three of you have only played half an inning in each game.



SUNDAY GOSPEL

Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 26:14—27:66

We Walk in Jesus' Steps During Holy Week

To begin Holy Week, we read Matthew's account of Jesus' Passion on Palm/Passion Sunday. The questions in each section ask you to take the points of view of characters in the Passion account. After each section of the Gospel Reading, respond to the question(s) and complete the activities on pages 2-5.

Jesus' Friend Turns on Him

One of the Twelve Apostles—the one named Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What will you give me if I hand over Jesus to you?" They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him. From then on, Judas looked for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them.

Matthew 26:14-16



In the evening, Jesus and the Twelve Apostles sat down to eat. During the meal, Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

The disciples were very upset and began to ask him, one after the other, "Surely, you don't mean me?"

Judas spoke up, "Surely, Teacher, you don't mean me?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

Matthew 26:20-22,25

How do you think Jesus' disciples feel?
Why do you think Judas betrays Jesus?

Jesus Celebrates the Last Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his followers. "Take and eat," he said, "this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink from it, all of you," he said, "for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins."

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:26-30

If you were Jesus at this last supper, what would you say to your friends?

Jesus Knows Peter Will Deny Him

Jesus said to his followers, “This very night, your faith in me will be shaken, for the scripture says, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised to life, I will go to Galilee ahead of you.”

Peter said to Jesus, “I will never lose faith in you.”

Jesus said to Peter, “Amen, I say to you that before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Peter answered, “I will never say that, even if I have to die with you!” And all the other disciples said the same thing.

Matthew 26:31–35

Imagine you're Peter. How do you feel when Jesus says you'll deny him?

Jesus Prays to His Father

Then Jesus went with his followers to a place called Gethsemane and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, and he said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

He went a little farther on, threw himself facedown on the ground, and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want.”

Matthew 26:36–39

Imagine you are Jesus in the garden. What are your sorrows? How would you wish things had turned out?



Jesus Is Arrested

Jesus was still speaking when Judas arrived. With Judas was a large crowd, who had been sent by the chief priests and elders. They were armed with swords and clubs. Judas had given the crowd a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him!”

Judas went straight to Jesus and said, “Hello, Teacher,” and kissed him.

Jesus answered, “Friend, do what you have come to do.”

Matthew 26:47–50

How do you think Judas feels in this scene?

Then Jesus spoke to the crowd. “Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were a robber? Every day, I sat and taught in the Temple, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened in order to fulfill what the prophets wrote.”

Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

Matthew 26:55–56

Imagine you are Jesus. Write how you feel about your friends.

Imagine that you are one of Jesus' disciples. Explain why you ran when Jesus is arrested. What will you do now?

High Priest, Council Interrogate Jesus

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the Law and the elders had gathered together.

Peter followed from a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest's house. He went into the courtyard and sat down with the servants to see how it would all come out.

The chief priests and the whole council tried to find some false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they could not find any, even though many people came forward and told lies about him.

Finally, the high priest said to Jesus, "In the name of the living God, I now put you under oath. Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Jesus answered him: "You have said so. But I tell you that from now on, you will see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of heaven!"

At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said: "Blasphemy! We have just heard his blasphemy! What do you think?"

They answered, "He deserves death."

Matthew 26:57–66

Disciple Denies His Leader

Look up Matthew 26:69–75. Write in your own words the story of Peter's denial.

Governor Says Jesus Is Innocent

Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked Jesus.

"You say so," answered Jesus. But he said nothing in response to the accusations of the chief priests and elders. Pilate said to Jesus, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But Jesus did not say one word, which amazed Pilate.

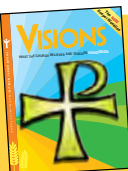
When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!" The crowd replied, "His blood be upon us and upon our children."

Then Pilate set Barabbas free; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:11–26

Before continuing on, turn to Matthew 27:15–23 and read about how Jesus came to be sentenced to death. Think about a time you or someone you know were falsely accused of something. How did that feel?

The governor's release of the well-known criminal Barabbas pleased the crowds that gathered to witness this Passover custom. Pilate suggested releasing Jesus of Nazareth but the crowd refused. In the picture below, write on the posters what you think people in the crowd might have written about Jesus.



From Noah and Moses to Mary, the Mother of God, the Bible is full of stories of people who said yes to God. No one says yes as completely as Jesus does when he accepts his Death on the Cross for our salvation. Turn to page 29 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to trace the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for us. Then turn to pages 6 and 53 to identify the events of Holy Week in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.



Romans Crucify Jesus

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' Cross. They came to a place called *Golgotha*, which means "Place of the Skull." The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall (a drug), but he refused to drink.

They crucified Jesus and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. Then they sat down and kept watch over him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." They crucified two criminals with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left.

People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days. Save yourself if you are God's Son. Come down from the cross!"

In the same way, the chief priests, scribes, and elders made fun of him: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Isn't he the king of Israel?"

If he will come down off the cross now, we will believe in him. He trusts in God and claims to be God's Son. Then, let us see if God wants to save him now!"

At noon, the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" Some people standing by said, "He is calling for Elijah." One person ran to get a sponge, dipped it in wine, and held it up on a reed for Jesus to drink.

Others said, "Wait. Let us see if Elijah comes to save him."

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and gave up his spirit.

Matthew 27:32–50

At this point of the Gospel, we kneel and pause for a moment. A volunteer will now read Matthew 27:51–56, verses that recall what happened immediately after Jesus died.

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary stayed sitting there, facing the tomb.

Matthew 27:57–61

Imagine that you are Mary Magdalene. Write a prayer she might have prayed for Jesus.



and DOCTRINE

Jesus Sacrifices His Life for Us

This week, we walk with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery of his suffering, Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection. We are saved out of God's love for us. "He loved us and sent his son to be the expiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). This means that Jesus makes things right through his Death.

Jesus dies so that our sins are forgiven—even the Original Sin that we inherited from our first ancestors. Jesus is called a suffering servant (CCC, 623). This means that Jesus humbly accepts and follows God's plan for his life, knowing that it will end in his Death.



1 Who makes sacrifices for you? In what ways do you sacrifice for family and friends?

2 Reflect on how your Lenten sacrifices show your gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice—that is, his Death on the Cross. How are your Lenten commitments going? Journal your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

Plan a Vigil Service

On Holy Saturday night, the Church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection from the dead with an ancient liturgy called the Easter Vigil. A vigil is a time of waiting and watching in prayer. The Easter Gospel tells us that Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb at dawn on the first day of the week (Sunday) and found the tomb empty.

Waiting and praying throughout the dark night is the Church's way of longing and preparing for Jesus' Resurrection, which happens before dawn on the first Easter morning. The Church's Easter Vigil has four main parts:

Service of Light—the blessing and lighting of the new Easter candle and the singing of the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*)

Liturgy of the Word—the reading of passages from the Bible that help us understand the history of our salvation through Jesus Christ

Baptismal Liturgy—the welcoming of those who have been preparing for Baptism

Liturgy of the Eucharist—gathering to share the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord

Prepare a class vigil service to conclude your **Holy Week** lesson. Plan to gather in a space large enough for the class to sit in a circle around the Easter candle, a bowl of water, and a Bible. Work in four groups to prepare this class vigil service.



Group 1

LIGHT Easter Candle

1. Prepare an Easter candle. Use a white candle about three inches in diameter and ten to twelve inches high. Make Easter symbols and tape them to the candle. Symbols may include a cross, an alpha, an omega, and the year.
2. If you can light the candle, bring matches or another way to light it.
3. Choose one candle bearer and four leaders for this part of the vigil. Look over and practice the Leader parts on page 7.

Group 2

LIGHT Easter Song

Create your own additions to the *Exsultet*, the Church's Easter song. It uses Bible stories to explain the importance of the night Jesus was raised from the dead. Many of the lines in the song begin: "This is the night." On the lines provided on page 7, add your own word pictures that explain to people today the importance of this most holy night of Christ's Resurrection. Then choose seven group members to act as leaders for this section of the vigil service.



Group 3

WORD

1. Choose and plan passages to read from the Bible. Select readers or plan other ways to present the Bible readings. Mark the passages in the Bible for the readers.
2. Choose one or two of the following readings:
 - about Creation—Genesis 1:1, 26–31a
 - about how the People of Israel escape from Egypt—Exodus 14:15–15:1
 - about Baptism—Romans 6:3–5
3. Find and mark the Easter Sunday Gospel in the Bible—John 20:1–9
4. Volunteers will read the Gospel. Have the first reader carry the Bible into your prayer circle and place it in the center on a low table.



Group 4

BAPTISM

1. Fill a glass bowl with water. Surround the bowl with greens or flowers or simply float a flower or flowers in the water to express how water symbolizes new life.
2. Choose four leaders and a water bearer for this part of the vigil.
3. Provide small candles for each class member. Place the bowl of water at the center of your gathering space.



Catholic FAITH WORD

HOLY WEEK In the Liturgical Year, the week preceding Easter. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and culminates in the memorial of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

We Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection



Group 1

LIGHT Easter Candle

The candle bearer leads the class into the darkened room carrying the unlit Easter candle; forms the class into a circle and has them sit on the floor; and places the candle on a low table or on the floor at the center of circle.

Leader 1: (*Lights candle.*) Bless this new fire. May we be inflamed with Jesus' new dreams for humankind.

Candle bearer: (*Carries lighted candle slowly around the circle of students.*)

Leader 2: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader 3: Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.

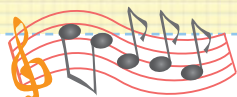
All: Jesus is the beginning and the end.

Leader 4: Jesus is the Morning Star.

All: Who shines always.

Group 2

LIGHT Easter Song



Leader 1: This is the night that God set the people of Israel free from slavery in Egypt.

Leader 2: This is the night that Jesus passed from death to life.

Leader 3: This is the night that Jesus broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Leader 4: This is the night when Heaven is wedded to earth and humans become one with God.

Leader 5: This is the night

Leader 6: This is the night

Leader 7: This is the night

Group 3

WORD

Reader 1: (*Proclaims the First Reading from the Bible.*)

All: The earth is full of the goodness of our loving God.

Reader 2: (*Proclaims the Second Reading, if there is one.*)

Gospel Reader: (*Invites all to stand; proclaims Gospel.*)

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Group 4

BAPTISM

Leader 1: We belong to the family of God. Let us ask all the saints, who belong to the family of God, to pray for us. Holy Mary, Mother of God,

All: Pray for us.

Leader 1: Saints Peter and Paul, Andrew and John,

All: Pray for us.

Leader 1: Saint Mary Magdalene and all the holy women who stood by Jesus at the Cross,

All: Pray for us.

Leader 2: Saint Stephen, Saint Ignatius, Saint Lawrence, Saint Perpetua, Saint Felicity, Saint Agnes, and all holy martyrs,

All: Pray for us.

Leader 2: Saint Augustine, Saint Benedict, Saint Francis, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Teresa of Avila, and all holy men and women,

All: Pray for us.

Leader 3: I invite everyone to mention the name of a favorite or patron saint. After each saint's name, all respond...



All: Pray for us.

Leader 3: Let us remember the new life we received at Baptism.

All: We believe in God, the Father, who gives life to all that is. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose Death and Resurrection is the promise of our new life forever with God. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who unites us in love.

Leader 4: Let us make the Sign of the Cross with water to remember our Baptism.

Water Bearer: (*Takes water bowl to each person around the circle. Each person takes some water and makes the Sign of the Cross.*)

All: We are Easter people. Alleluia is our song. Christian is our name. Amen.



Play and sing "Lord By Your Cross" (Venture/Visions Music CD, CD-1, #16).

We Seek Forgiveness and Strength

Celebrate this forgiveness service as a class or take it home to pray with your family. Place a crucifix in your prayer space or tie together two small tree branches with bright-colored yarn to make a cross.

Leader: On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' Passion and Death. We ask forgiveness for the unloving things we have done. We put ourselves in the place of Jesus' friends and enemies and realize that their actions are like our own.

Reader 1: For all the times a crowd influences us and we don't think for ourselves,

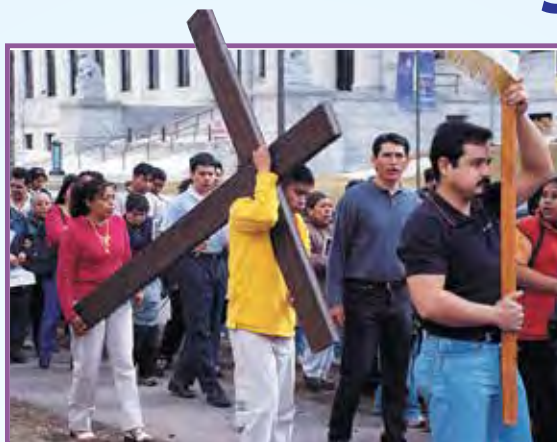
All: Loving God, forgive us.

Reader 1: For the times we let our family, friends, or teachers think they can count on us and we let them down,

All: Loving God, forgive us.

Reader 1: For feeling sorry for ourselves, thinking that no one else has it as bad, and for forgetting to talk it over with you, God, the way that Jesus talked with you in the garden,

All: Loving God, forgive us.



Leader: We ask for forgiveness today, but we also ask for strength to do what is right.

Reader 2: When we think that we can't do anything to make a difference in our families, schools, or the world,

All: Give us your strength, Jesus.

Reader 2: When we feel powerless against people who put us down or against times of sickness and bad luck,

All: Give us your strength, Jesus.

Reader 2: When we know that we should use our voices to speak for those who are not heard,

All: Give us your strength, Jesus.

Leader: Jesus, we remember your suffering today. We also remember the suffering of people in the world. We pray especially for...
Take turns mentioning people and situations you wish to pray about.

Leader: Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers. In Jesus' name, we will work to forgive others and act as peacemakers in our communities,
All: Amen.



Play and sing "Come Back" (Venture/Visions Music CD, CD-1, #13).

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources. 



Pray

God, help me to be selfless like Jesus and put other people's needs before my own. Amen.



Think

How do I stand up for my friends?



Act

Lead your family on a walk through your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.



Good Friday

John 18:1—19:42

The liturgy for Good Friday is simple. We honor Jesus' Cross, pray for the world, and receive Holy Communion. The Gospel for Good Friday is John's version of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Plan to read and reflect on this Gospel on your own during Holy Week.

