



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH *in*
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

A Journey through Holy Week at Home

One can observe Holy Week at home by using simple objects tucked into a paper lunch bag. Each day, take out the special object, and use it along with scripture to remember the story of God's amazing action through Christ. Each item is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Materials

- Small brown paper bags
- Small branches or palm frond(s)
- A plastic bag containing 2 cookies and 2 tea bags.
- Flower seeds
- 3 coins
- A paper towel
- Two small sticks and a piece of string
- A plastic egg
- A chocolate egg

Palm Sunday: palm fronds

It's Palm Sunday. The people cut down palms and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem. Go outside if possible, and cut a small branch from a bush. Wave them and imagine you are part of the procession welcoming Jesus.

Read Mark 11:1-10

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are



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you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

How can we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes?

Holy Monday: tea bags and cookies.

Remember that Jesus went to dinner parties, as you use your tea bags and biscuits: enjoy a cup of tea and a cookies, sharing with a friend or family member if possible.

Read Mark 2.15-17

As Jesus sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

In what way can we be kind to those who we may think do things that are wrong?

Holy Tuesday: flower seeds

Remember what Jesus asked his followers to do.

Read John 12:20-36

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this



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world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Plant some seeds in a planter. How do we bear good fruit when we follow Jesus?

Holy Wednesday: coins

Remember Judas who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of Silver

Read John 13.21-26

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.

Think about the good and bad things about money. How do we use money in a Godly way?

Maunder Thursday: paper towel

Remember that Jesus knelt down to wash the feet of his friends.

Read John 13.1, 3-5, 12-15

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? ¹You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.



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Gently wash someone's hand today, and dry it with the paper towel.

Good Friday: sticks and string

Remember when Jesus was crucified: make a cross out of the sticks and string. Carry it around with you today to remind you of Jesus' death.

Read Mark 15:1, 15, 22-25, 37, 39.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

How do we see Jesus loving us through the cross?

Holy Saturday: Plastic egg

Remember Jesus in the tomb: carry the empty plastic egg around with you to remind you of the quietness of Easter Saturday. There is a legend that on this day Jesus went down and opened the gates of Hell, to free all the souls imprisoned there, including his friend Judas.

Read Matthew 27.57-66

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees



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gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ 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.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Is there anyone who needs your help today?

Easter Sunday: Chocolate egg

Remember the sweetness of Jesus rising from death and bursting from the tomb.

Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

Read about it in Mark 16:1-8.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

What difference does it make that God raised Jesus back to life?