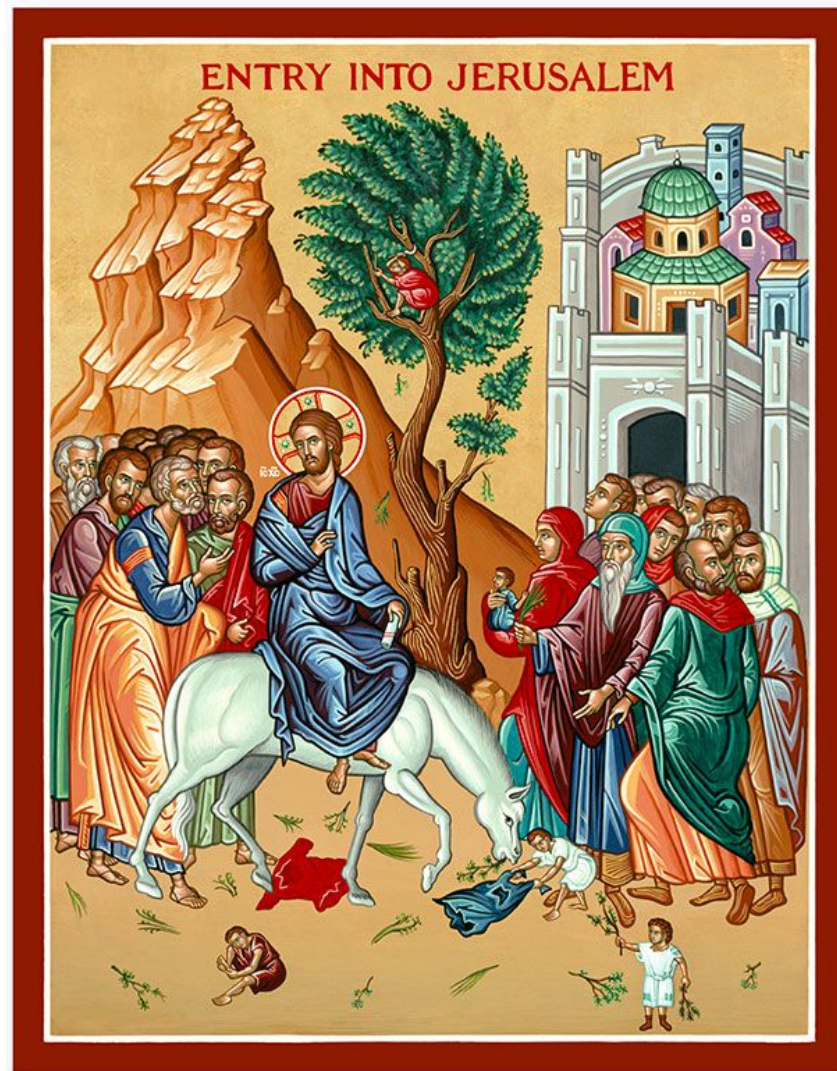


PALM SUNDAY and Holy Week



Prayer: O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of understanding Thy Word, and teach me to do Thy will.

Explanation for Parents: This week we will be taking the children on a journey through the Easter story. Starting on Palm Sunday there will be a short Gospel reading for each day until Easter. After sharing the Gospel reading with your child have him/her retell what occurred in the reading and then choose a picture from the The Easter Story Activity page that would go with the story and glue it onto the journey path.

The Gospel Reading for each day is listed below:

Sunday April 25- Matthew 21:1-11

Monday April 26- Matthew 26:17-30

Tuesday April 27- Matthew 26:36-46

Wednesday April 28- Matt. 26:47-56

Thursday April 29- Matthew 26:69-75

Friday April 30- Matthew 27:27-44

Saturday May 1- Matthew 27:57-66

Sunday May 2- Matthew 28: 1-8

I have included a kid friendly version for the younger children. You can choose which version would be best for your child. Let the children know that the stories are from the Gospel of Matthew.

Have the children make the Palm Branch craft before you read the Palm Sunday reading so they can wave their branches and shout Hosanna when they hear the words, “Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” during the reading.

Activities: These can be picked up at church.

- The Easter Story Activity
- Hosanna Palm Wavers Craft Packet

Kid Friendly Versions of the Gospel Readings

Sunday April 25- Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. Before they got there, Jesus told two of his disciples to bring him a donkey. When they got back with the donkey, they laid their coats on the donkey and Jesus climbed on its back. The donkey started to clippity-clop through the town. When the people heard Jesus was coming, they came running to see Him. They threw their coats down for the donkey to walk on, just like a red carpet would be laid down for a king. They took palm branches and waved them in the air shouting, "Hosanna, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Some of them remembered the Scriptures that said, "Your king is coming...sitting on the back of the colt of a donkey.

Monday April 26- Jesus and his disciples gathered together for a special Passover meal. He knew he would be leaving them soon. Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke apart the bread and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sin. And after they sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. This was the first Holy Communion.

Tuesday April 27- Jesus and his disciples went straight from the Passover meal to a quiet garden. Jesus wanted to pray and ask God to make Him strong for what was about to happen. He took three of his closest followers, Peter, James, and John, with Him. Jesus asked them to wait and pray while He went a little farther into the garden to pray by Himself. It was very late and the three men were very tired. They couldn't keep their eyes open to pray. Soon they were asleep. Jesus woke them twice, but they fell back to sleep each time. The third time, Jesus, woke his followers he told them, "Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed."

Wednesday April 28- While Jesus was still speaking to his disciples in the garden, a big crowd came carrying swords and clubs. Judas, one of Jesus' followers, was with them. He went up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek. This was a signal to the guards to arrest Jesus. Peter wanted to protect Jesus. He pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the guard. But Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. Then He healed the guard's ear. Then the guards arrested Jesus and all his disciples ran away.

Thursday April 29- After Jesus was arrested the guards brought Him to the governor's palace. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples sat outside in the courtyard, waiting to see what will happen to Jesus. A girl came up to him and said, "You were with Jesus." But Peter was afraid that he would be arrested, too. So he told the girl, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said, "This man was with Jesus." But again he said, "No, I do not know the man." A little later some other people came up to Peter and said, "Surely, you are one of them." But Peter shouted, "I do not know the man!" Then Peter heard a rooster crow and he remembered that Jesus had told him that before the rooster crows he would deny knowing Jesus three times." This made Peter very sad. He went away and wept.

Friday April 30- After the guards arrested Jesus, they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head and made fun of Him calling him the King of the Jews. Then they led Jesus out of the city. They made Him carry a big wooden cross to a place called Golgatha. They nailed Jesus to the cross and Jesus died on the cross. Everyone who loved Jesus was very sad. But they forgot something important. Jesus had said He would see them again soon!

Saturday May 1- A rich man, named Joseph of Arimathea, had a new tomb where he had planned to be buried. Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross, anointed it with oils, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and put Him in his own empty tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the opening of the tomb and guards were put there to watch and make sure that the stone would not be moved.

Sunday May 2- The day after Jesus was buried was a holy day so His friends had to stay home. Then very early on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went back to the tomb. When the women got there, they could not believe their eyes. The stone had been rolled away! An angel of God was sitting on the stone! The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here, for He is risen, as He said." The women were as happy as they could be and they ran to tell all of Jesus' disciples that, "Christ is Risen!"

The EASTER Story

ACTIVITY

Journey through the Easter story in the Bible starting with Palm Sunday to Jesus' resurrection using The Easter Story as your guide.

Activity Objective:

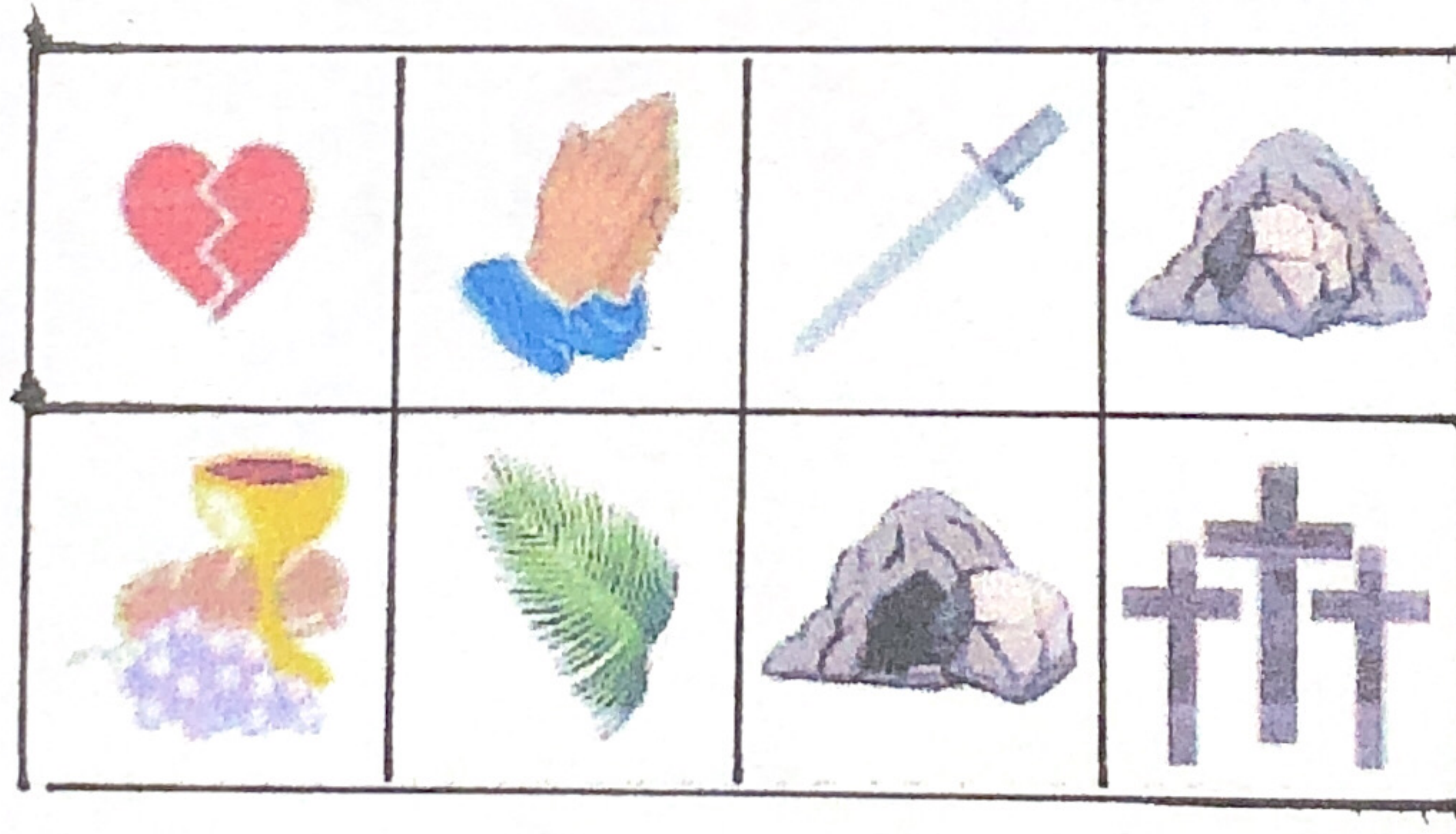
Keep track of your Bible reading and complete the Bible studies when indicated

Activity Supplies:

Scissors, glue, print this page and page 6.

Activity Instructions:

- Cut out pictures below along dot red lines and keep in a safe spot
- Each day, read a box of scripture and paste the corresponding picture to the day's reading



The EASTER Story

