

## Holy Week Liturgy

### Palm Sunday

Arrange your pieces of purple felt in the center of the table to create a cross. Place three battery-operated candles on the cross and light all of them as you read the scripture. (*Use your Advent candles and your Christ candle.*)

**Read:** Luke 19:28-40

What part of the story causes you to wonder?

Share your responses.

**Activity:** You could recreate the Palm Sunday story with your peg people and story pieces. Or you may want to act out this story with family members. You will need someone to be the donkey, Jesus, and the people waving palms. Don't forget to shout, "Hosanna!"



**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, we know if we keep quiet, the stones will burst out in cheers. We will sing your praises as the people did long ago. Hosanna in the highest! We will celebrate all day long because you are our King! Amen, may it be so.

### Holy Thursday

Arrange your purple felt in the center of the table to create a cross. Place your battery-operated candles on the cross and light each as you read the scripture.

**Read:** John 13:1-17

What part of the story causes you to wonder?

Share your responses.

**Activity:** You could recreate the Last Supper story with your peg people and story pieces. Or you may want to act out this story.

A few options:

- You could wash another person's feet
- You could serve each other bread and juice
- You could sing a hymn together like Jesus and the disciples did that night



**Prayer:** Jesus, you are the suffering servant the prophets spoke of so long ago. Teach us to serve others as you did, to love as you loved, and to pray as you prayed when in our times of sorrow. Amen, may it be so.

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### Good Friday

Arrange your purple felt in the center of the table to create a cross. Place your battery-operated candles on the cross and light each as you read the scripture.

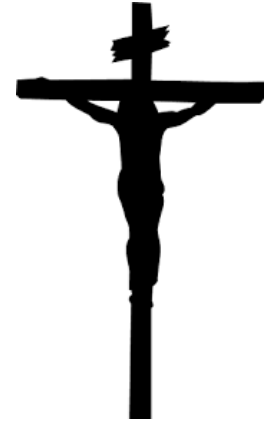
**Read:** Mark 15 (choose how much of the chapter you want to read depending on your children's ages). Then sit in silence as you slowly extinguish the candles one at a time to show the light of Christ leaving the world.

What part of the story causes you to wonder?

Share your responses.

**Activity:** You could recreate the crucifixion and burial with your peg people and story pieces. Or you may want to act out parts of the story with your family, watch an Easter story movie, or draw a scene from today's scripture reading.

**Prayer:** Jesus, Savior, when we think about the day you hung on the cross for us, we are filled with sadness. We don't know how to express what we feel today. In our imaginations, we hear your cries. We watch the sky turn dark and feel afraid. We hear the temple curtain tearing and wonder what that means. We will think about your death. Amen, may it be so.



### Holy Saturday

Arrange your purple felt in the center of the table to create a cross. Place your battery-operated candles on the cross, but do not light the candles today.

**Read:** Mathew 27:62-66

The religious leaders ordered soldiers to guard the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. I wonder where Jesus' friends were all day Saturday and what they were doing.

What part of the story causes you to wonder?

Share your responses.

**Read:** John 16:32-33

What do you think Jesus was talking about in these verses?

I wonder what Jesus' friends were thinking about on Saturday.



**Activity:** You may want to act this out by talking to each other as though you are the disciples and Jesus has died and is buried. What things would you say to each other?

If you have not completed your Lament activity with the bottle of tears, this could be a good day to talk about sadness and lament and fill your bottle. Use the directions in your binder.

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**Prayer:** Jesus, today we wait in sorrow. We remember your friends went home and waited in sorrow, not knowing what to do next. Today we will wait for tomorrow's sunrise before we celebrate. We wonder how you could love us enough to die for us. Today we will speak quietly, pray often, and wait patiently. Tomorrow, our sadness will be gone. Amen, may it be so.

### Easter Sunday

Arrange your purple felt in the center of the table to create a cross. Place your battery-operated candles on the cross and slowly light them one at a time to symbolize the light of Christ coming back into the world. Open your tomb and place a candle inside.

**Read:** Matthew 28:1-10

After reading the scripture, take turns responding to each other with the traditional Easter morning greeting:



Leader: "He is Risen"

**All: "He is Risen indeed!"**

Say this three times, and speak louder each time. By the third time, you are shouting!

What part of the story causes you to wonder?

Share your responses.

What are the big changes in the world because Jesus rose from the dead?

**Activity:** You could reenact the story of Easter morning with your peg people and story props or you could act it out as a family. If you have not used your 'party in a bag' yet this month, today is the best day of the year to celebrate!

**Prayer:** Jesus our Savior, last Sunday we shouted, "Hosanna - Lord save us!" Today we shout, "Hallelujah - you did!" You have changed everything by dying and coming back to life. We know that because you were resurrected, someday we will have resurrected bodies too! Our joy is overflowing! We will worship and celebrate you today and forever. Amen, so be it.

\*The Easter season on the church calendar is 50 days. God's people are Easter people; one day is not long enough to celebrate his resurrection. Let's continue to celebrate his resurrection every day until Pentecost, when we will celebrate again—but this time it is because Jesus has sent us his Holy Spirit.