

HOLY WEEK@HOME



We wish we were together during this important week, but we know that the best way we can love each other and everyone is to spend Holy Week at home. However, that doesn't mean we can't observe these very important days. We ask that you would continue to hold in your prayers the sick, medical professionals, and all the employees at grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and the postal service who continue to work in service to all of us.

Since we are locked away in our house together, we thought maybe we could actually work on something together. So we invite you to join us in following the life of Jesus this week and commemorating Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with special devotions. We are with you all from a distance, and you are in our prayers during this holiest of weeks.

Pastor Seyward & Pastor Justin

MONDAY, APRIL 6



READ MATTHEW 21:13-22

TUESDAY, APRIL 7



READ MATTHEW 25:31-46

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8



READ MATTHEW 26:1-16

think about it...

How would you describe Jesus in the reading for today? What emotions is he feeling?

When have you felt these emotions in your life?

What catches your attention and stands out in today's reading?

What questions would you ask Jesus about this part of his life?

What songs come to mind as you read these verses?



MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

On Maundy Thursday we recall the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. During this meal Jesus shared not only his love with his followers, but a prediction that they will all betray him. Although they each denied that this

would happen, before the end of the night all of them had deserted him.

Tonight we want you to reflect on this holy meal as you eat your dinner. Whatever the menu will be, separate it into three "courses." Salad, dinner, dessert? Appetizer, dessert, and dessert again? It's up to you. Be creative!


 **READ MATTHEW 26:17-25**

 **PRAY YOUR FAMILY'S FAVORITE TABLE BLESSING.**

 **EAT YOUR FIRST COURSE.**


 **READ MATTHEW 26:26-35**

 **EAT YOUR SECOND COURSE.**

 **AS YOU EAT, SHARE STORIES OF MEALS THAT HOLD SPECIAL MEMORIES FOR YOU. WHO DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU REMEMBER THOSE MEALS? WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THEM? WHICH ONES DO YOU STILL CARRY ON TODAY?**

 **READ MATTHEW 26:47-56**

 **EAT YOUR THIRD COURSE.**

 **AS YOU EAT, ASK YOURSELVES: IN WHAT WAYS ARE WE GOOD DISCIPLES TODAY? IN WHAT WAYS ARE WE NOT? HOW ARE WE SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL DISCIPLES?**

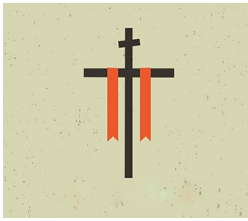
closing blessing
This night is our calling to be disciples, scattered to the ends of the earth, to love as Jesus loved and serve in the name of Christ. It is our calling to remember, even in our darkest hour, whose we are. We remember that Jesus is always with us. Tonight, we love in the name of the one who first loved us.

digging deeper!

READ JOHN 13:1-17
WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT LOVE?

for the kids!

TODAY'S MEAL IS ABOUT LOVE AND SHARING FOOD WITH THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT. HAVE YOUR KIDS PLAN THE MENU, HELP PREPARE THE FOOD, DECORATE THE TABLE, EVEN CHOOSE THE DRESS CODE.



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. It's a day of somber reflection, but also a day that reminds us that when we experience hardships in life, we are not alone because Jesus suffered first. God

is with us no matter what, even when we feel forsaken and abandoned.

Gather in a dark room after the sun has set. Light a candle and read the story of Jesus' crucifixion and parts of Psalm 22. As Jesus was on the cross he prayed parts of this psalm.

 **READ: MATTHEW 27:32-47**


 **REFLECT: PSALM 22 (NLT)**

¹ MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME? WHY ARE YOU SO FAR AWAY WHEN I GROAN FOR HELP? ² EVERY DAY I CALL TO YOU, MY GOD, BUT YOU DO NOT ANSWER. EVERY NIGHT I LIFT MY VOICE, BUT I FIND NO RELIEF.


 **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EMOTIONS JESUS WAS FEELING THAT WOULD CAUSE HIM TO SAY THIS PRAYER? WHEN HAVE YOU FELT ABANDONED?**

¹⁰ I WAS THRUST INTO YOUR ARMS AT MY BIRTH. YOU HAVE BEEN MY GOD FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN.

¹¹ DO NOT STAY SO FAR FROM ME, FOR TROUBLE IS NEAR, AND NO ONE ELSE CAN HELP ME.

 **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TROUBLES IN YOUR LIFE? HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED GOD BEING NEAR IN HARD TIMES?**

²⁹ LET THE RICH OF THE EARTH FEAST AND WORSHIP. BOW BEFORE HIM, ALL WHO ARE MORTAL, ALL WHOSE LIVES WILL END AS DUST. ³⁰ OUR CHILDREN WILL ALSO SERVE HIM. FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL HEAR ABOUT THE WONDERS OF THE LORD. ³¹ HIS RIGHTEOUS ACTS WILL BE TOLD TO THOSE NOT YET BORN. THEY WILL HEAR ABOUT EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE.

 **WHO TOLD YOU STORIES ABOUT JESUS AND PASSED ON THEIR FAITH IN GOD TO YOU? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HOPES YOU HAVE FOR HOW GOD WILL ACT IN YOUR LIFE?**

 **READ: MATTHEW 27:45-54**

 **WHISPER THE LORD'S PRAYER**

 **EXTINGUISH THE CANDLE IN SILENCE**

digging deeper!

READ THE ENTIRETY OF PSALM 22

for the kids!

TRACE THE OUTLINE OF YOUR HANDS ON A SHEET OF PAPER. COLOR OR PAINT THE HANDS AND THEN INCLUDE A SMALL RED CIRCLE IN THE MIDDLE FOR THE MARK OF THE NAILS THAT PIERCED JESUS' HANDS. HAVE CHILDREN WRITE WORDS OR DRAW PICTURES ABOUT HOW THE DEATH OF JESUS MAKES THEM FEEL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

 **READ MATTHEW 27:57-66**



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

 **READ MATTHEW 28:1-10**

AFTER THE SABBATH, AS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK WAS DAWNING, MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY WENT TO SEE THE TOMB. AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE; FOR AN ANGEL OF THE LORD, DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN, CAME AND ROLLED BACK THE STONE AND SAT ON IT. HIS APPEARANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING, AND HIS CLOTHING WHITE AS SNOW. FOR FEAR OF HIM THE GUARDS SHOOK AND BECAME LIKE DEAD MEN. BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THE WOMEN, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID; I KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE; FOR HE HAS BEEN RAISED, AS HE SAID. COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY. THEN GO QUICKLY AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES, "HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, AND INDEED HE IS GOING AHEAD OF YOU TO GALILEE; THERE YOU WILL SEE HIM." THIS IS MY MESSAGE FOR YOU.' SO THEY LEFT THE TOMB QUICKLY WITH FEAR AND GREAT JOY, AND RAN TO TELL HIS DISCIPLES. SUDDENLY JESUS MET THEM AND SAID, 'GREETINGS!' AND THEY CAME TO HIM, TOOK HOLD OF HIS FEET, AND WORSHIPPED HIM. THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID; GO AND TELL MY BROTHERS TO GO TO GALILEE; THERE THEY WILL SEE ME.'

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread
and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
we praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others. Amen.

—Michaela Youngson


LUTHERAN CHURCH


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