

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

(Sunday, April 10)



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THE LAST SUPPER

(Monday, April 11)



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Read Luke 19:28-40

How loud can you be? I am thinking that if you are a kid, then you can be loud (at least sometimes, right parents?! I can be loud, too, and I am an adult (just ask my family)!

When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, He rode a donkey into Jerusalem. The people (His followers) lined the streets, laid down their cloaks, waved palm branches, and shouted "Hosanna!"

And guess what? His followers were really loud! They were so loud that the Pharisees (the religious leaders) told Jesus to tell His followers to be quiet and stop shouting. I love what Jesus said back to them, "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40).

Don't you love that? He is saying that even if people don't praise Him, the stones will cry out in praise! Nothing can stop creation from praising the Lord! I am thankful we can praise the Lord at any time!

Now it's time to see how loud you can be for Jesus! Go outside and shout "Hosanna!" really loud, so all your neighbors can hear. Let's be loud for Jesus, just like His followers were that day in Jerusalem!

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Read Luke 22:7-23

Have you ever been excited to eat a meal with your family or friends? Maybe you eagerly awaited a big birthday dinner, a special dinner with your grandparents, or maybe your parents promised to take you to your favorite pizza place that also has lots of arcade games! You were super pumped and ready for that day to come!

Did you know that Jesus eagerly waited to eat a meal with His disciples? But it wasn't going to be an exciting meal, as He would share with them some really sad news. He knew it would be the last time He would eat a meal with His friends, so He wanted to give them a way to remember Him.

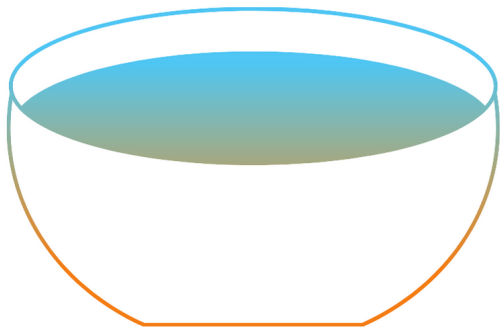
At this meal, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to die soon. But there was a way to remember Him after He was gone. Whenever they ate bread and drank wine (or juice), they could remember Him. They would remember that his body was broken and that His blood was shed for them (and for everyone) when He died on the cross. And He died on the cross to save us from our sins so we could live forever with Him one day in heaven.

So next time you take communion at church, or even when you eat bread or drink grape juice, remember Jesus and thank Him for what He has done.

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FOOT WASHING

(Tuesday, April 12)



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GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

(Wednesday, April 13)



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Read John 13:1-17

What's the first thing you think of when I say the word "feet?" Smelly, dirty, gross? Maybe those are a few things that come to mind.

In Bible times, they wore sandals. And it was really dusty where they lived. So just imagine how dirty and stinky their feet were! After the disciples and Jesus had eaten their last meal together, Jesus did something that the disciples thought He should not have done. He washed their feet! The disciples did not want Jesus to wash their feet because that was typically the job of a servant of a household. And they did not see Jesus as their servant. He was their Teacher, their Friend, the Messiah, the Son of God. There is no way He should be washing their feet.

But Jesus did this because He was showing them that He came to serve others. And He was teaching and showing them (and us) that we are to serve others as well.

What can you do to serve someone else today?

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Read Matthew 26:36-46

Their dinner was over, their bellies were full, and they spent a wonderful evening hanging out with Jesus (He even washed their feet!). The disciples might have been ready to turn in for the night, but Jesus knew that for Him, the night was just beginning, and it would not be a good night.

After dinner, Jesus wanted all of them to go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray because He knew it was almost time for Him to be taken away to die. He asked eight of His disciples to hang at the front gate of the garden to keep watch (Jesus knew He would be arrested that night). He then took the other three disciples (Peter, James, and John) a little further into the garden and asked them to keep watch and pray while He went on His own and prayed to God. They didn't know why He wanted them to pray, but they did what He said.

Except, they had one problem...they couldn't stay awake! Three times Jesus came back from praying to find them asleep! I am sure Jesus was a little annoyed that they couldn't stay awake and pray at a time when He really needed them!

Have you ever fallen asleep while praying? I have! So what I try to do at night when I say my prayers is not to lay down in bed (because if I do I will be out like a light!). I sit up in bed or kneel beside it to say my prayers. And often times I speak the prayers out loud which helps, too! So tonight when you go to sleep, try sitting or kneeling and speak your prayers out loud. Spend time with God each night before you go to sleep.

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JESUS IS ARRESTED

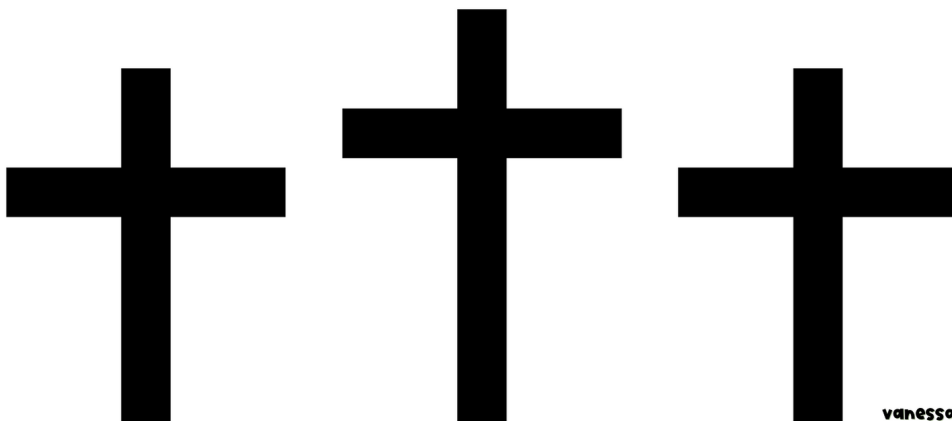
(Thursday, April 14)



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JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

(Friday, April 15)



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Read Matthew 26:14-16, 47-56

In the previous devotion, did you count how many disciples were at the Garden of Gethsemane? If not, go back and count. Did you count eleven? Eight at the gate and the other three with Jesus. So where is the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot?

Before Judas Iscariot went to the Last Supper with Jesus and the other disciples, he met with the chief priests and they agreed to pay him 30 pieces of silver when he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

After the supper was over, he didn't follow Jesus and the others to the garden. He first went to get the chief priests and told them he knew where Jesus was going and it was time to betray him. Judas was a greedy man and he wanted his money!

Judas and a crowd of people, armed with swords and clubs, entered the garden. Judas came up to Jesus, kissed him, and Jesus told him to do what he came to do. He knew Judas would betray Him. It was time. However, the disciples were furious and ready to fight, but Jesus said don't fight because this is how it needed to happen, just as the Scriptures said it would. Now was the time for Jesus' mission on earth to be fulfilled.

Would you have been upset like the disciples were the night Jesus was arrested?

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Read Matthew 27:32-56

Today is a hard day to talk about. It's a super sad day and one I wish we could skip right over and head straight to Easter and Jesus' resurrection. But this day is a vital part of who we are as Christians and one we just can't skip over. We talk about Jesus' death because it's important. Because of His death on the cross, we are saved and can live forever with Him in heaven.

After Jesus was arrested, He was mocked by the chief priests and the crowd of Jews, and was beaten by the soldiers. Then they took Jesus to a place called Golgotha and hung Him on a cross to die (which is called crucifixion). And even while He was on the cross dying, people still yelled insults at Him and yelled at Him to save Himself if He really was the Son of God.

And could Jesus have saved Himself? Absolutely! He is God! But, He had to die for us so that we could live forever with Him in heaven one day. Jesus took on the sins of all people in the whole world and sacrificed His life for us so we could live forever with Him.

When I really stop and think about Jesus' death, my eyes are filled with tears and I am overcome with emotion. Today is a good day for all people because without the death of Jesus, we would not be able to live eternally. Pray now and thank God for sending Jesus to this earth to die for all our sins.

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SOMBER SATURDAY

(Saturday, April 16)



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THE RESURRECTION

(Sunday, April 17)



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Read Luke 23:50-56

The Saturday after Good Friday (and the day before Easter Sunday) is known as Somber Saturday. Why? Because the people who loved Jesus and followed Him, were grieving His death. It was a sad time for all who loved Him.

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph of Arimathea, took His body and buried it in one of his tombs. The women who had been with Jesus since His arrest and death, followed Joseph to the tomb. They saw where He had been laid to rest and they went home to prepare spices and perfumes to bring back. They planned to bring them back to put on His body, but couldn't do that till the day after next because the next day was the Sabbath day and it was a day of rest.

So as they rested, what do you think they did? I am sure they spent time with one another and mourned the loss of Jesus together. They would have been filled with so much sorrow and tears. They were deeply saddened by the death of their Teacher, their Friend, their Savior. And being with fellow followers of Jesus had to be comforting.

On this Somber Saturday, remember Jesus. Remember that He died to save you. Why? Because He loves you so very much.

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Read Luke 24:1-12

The day after the Sabbath, the women were still thinking about Jesus. They were still sad, but it was time to go back to His tomb and anoint His body with the spices and perfumes they had prepared. So early that morning they headed to the tomb. Except when they got there, they found the stone in front of the tomb rolled away and Jesus' body nowhere to be found. Out of nowhere, two angels appeared and told them Jesus was not there because He had risen, just as He said He would. And then it was like a light bulb went off in their heads. They remembered all the things He had taught them about His death and resurrection!

When you get excited about something, what do you do? You have to share it with someone else!! The women quickly ran back to the eleven disciples and the others and told them that Jesus had risen! And of course, they didn't believe them at first. They had to see it for themselves. And they found it just as the women had said.

Jesus is alive! He is risen! Get excited and go tell others about Jesus! And when you go to church today...Smile! Shout! Hug others! Give high fives! Celebrate with joy our Risen Savior!

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