



The Spirit of St. Paul's

MARCH 2024

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
www.stpaulslutheran.ca

PASTOR'S CORNER

Easter falls on March 31 this year. Easter Sunday is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21st. This can happen any date between March 21st and April 18th, which means Easter cannot be earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25th.

In our part of the world, as we make the transition from winter to spring during this time of year, we experience the long days of darkness give way to light. The frigid cold starts being replaced with warmth. The grass, plants, and trees begin to show signs of life. We notice that the birds start singing. Every year the transition from winter to spring is an invigorating boost! And this change from winter to spring nicely illustrates the transition from the season of Lent to Easter.

During Lent we contemplate the darkness of sin and death as we journey with Jesus to the cross. We omit the "alleluias" from our liturgy, hymns and prayers to help remind us of the penitential and solemn nature of this time in the Church Year. Lent provides us the opportunity to consider our sin and repent.

Lent also prepares us for the most important and joyous occasion in all of human history: Jesus rising

from His grave. During the season of Easter we celebrate that through Christ's resurrection—sin and death have been overcome once and for all. The darkness and coldness of sin and death is replaced with the light and warmth of Christ's love, forgiveness and life.

As we experience the warmth of the spring sun shining on us we remember that the light of Christ's resurrection continues to break into the darkness of our lives today. Through His enduring Word of promise He gives us comfort and peace and strength and hope. Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

On March 31, with resounding "Alleluias!", we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. In His resurrection we find the vindication of Jesus as our Saviour and the foundation for our faith. His resurrection was only the beginning. God promises to raise us with Jesus when He returns, and that promise fills us with hope through the season of Lent and each day of our lives.

*Scatter the darkness, break the gloom;
Sun, reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,
Hope and peace for all tomorrows,
Life un eclipsed by doubt and dread:
Christ has risen from the dead!*

(LSB #481, v.1)

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

Easter Cross Witness

Those who have Easter crosses to honour Christ are encouraged to once again participate in The Easter Cross Witness. Instructions suggest that the plain side of your cross be displayed beginning on Palm Sunday (March 24) and throughout the following week, and that your cross be turned to display "He is Risen" on Resurrection Sunday (March 31) and throughout the week that follows. We regret that we no longer have a supply of crosses to hand out to new participants or as replacements.

Board of Evangelism and Public Relations



Reminders

- Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.

- Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.

- LWMLC mites and society offerings may be put in the offering plate in an envelope separate from your church offering, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.

Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

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EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER

GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

Isn't it a great feeling when you finally finish a big project? At the end of this month, on March 31, we will be celebrating the anniversary of when God finished HIS big project. Any guesses as to what that might be? If you said "Easter," you're right! Two thousand years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Why did He have to do that? Because about six thousand years ago, Adam and Eve, the first people God created, did something God told them not to do. This caused sin to be in the perfect world God created for us to live in. But God had a plan to save us from the sin that is in the world, the sin we think about and do, and the devil, who is the master of sin. Jesus, our Saviour, dying on the cross and coming back to life and rising again, was that plan! God tells us of this big project in the Bible. Did you know that He talks about Jesus, not only in

the New Testament, but in the Old Testament as well?! It's a great book to read!

May you have a very Happy Easter celebrating what Jesus did for all the people in the world. His love for us is something to celebrate, for sure!

Pastor Cooper's current activity sheets are online weekly at lll.ca. Previous year's sheets for Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are at the end of this newsletter or at church on the table in the narthex.

Alleluia, Jesus our King lives!

In His love,
 Lisa Poier and Denise Timm

The kid's worship activity bags have been updated. When you come to church, pick one up from the church library! They're loaded with things to do!



St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS

Don Meister and Peter, Gaylene, Paul and Leah Haugen are our newest family members. We are so glad you have decided to make St. Paul's your church home. Welcome everyone!

FINDING TREASURE

We all have treasures, items and memories that have value to us for a whole variety of reasons whether they be nostalgic family heirlooms or perhaps valuable in other ways. Sometimes these items may include your grandmother's dining room set or perhaps her china or old photo albums from when you were a kid. Maybe even the thrill of finding a box containing old letters layered along with embroidered hanky's and ancient sticks of gum. These things can tug at our heartstrings and cause us to laugh or perhaps cry because of the memories they are able to invoke.

My sister Sherry and I, along with other family members, have had the privilege in the last couple of years to assist with dispersing of a couple of households of loved one's possessions, literally housefuls of stuff. Many of you have likely had similar experiences with your own families or friends. Some of the items have significant meaning to family members and are considered treasures. Much of the rest are just things that need to be dealt with and dispersed, sometimes to charities and sometimes sold. Commonly, that's what garage sales are all about and we're all familiar with that.

Even congregations have treasures of all sorts. St. Paul's has many "family" treasures. Some of these items are stored for safe keeping and include old hymnals, photos and assorted documents. Several years ago, we celebrated

St. Paul's 100th anniversary and a couple of books were compiled to acknowledge that milestone, one was official and the other was a labour of love to some of the



founding families. One of these treasures came into my possession recently. It is a little cookbook that was compiled by the Ladies Aid many years ago. Initially it wasn't the recipes that caught my attention, it was the names of the individuals that contributed those recipes. I've had to dig deep into my memory to recall who some of the women were as I only have fleeting memories of most of them, they were a generation or more older than me. None of the women who contributed to this booklet are living, but memories of them will still resound with many of us. They would have served in the same positions as many of us do today in the church. In a sense we are a reflection of them, continuing the work here at St. Paul's, doing similar tasks, providing friendship and community.

We are planning to do something with and about this little cookbook, we're just not sure exactly what yet. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Here are a couple of ideas that we have been presented with; submissions of recipes to create a new St. Paul's cookbook, a coffee after service some Sunday and encourage our membership to find a recipe from the cookbook to contribute. Can you think of any other ideas? We're very open to ideas. You can contact Wendy Stevenson or myself, Rhonda Billard, to let us know, either at church or through email or text. We're both in the address book.



Taken about 1957. Back: Melida Timm, Alfhilda Rode, Doris Blunt, Mrs. Oppetshauer, Greta Sommerfeld, Mrs. Werschner. Seated: unknown, Dora Zimmerman, Olga Haichert. Front: Lydia Seip, Anna Bieber, Natalie Appelt.

A LADIES' SPRING RETREAT

A time for rest and renewal in the Lord



They may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3, Amplified Bible
Classic Edition

HERE'S THE DETAILS!

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Aspira Hunter Village

250 Hunter Road

Donations to the Saskatoon
Pregnancy Options Centre
will be gratefully received.

Organized and hosted by
members of the LWML societies at
Faith Lutheran, Saskatoon and
St. Paul's Lutheran, Saskatoon

Whether you a student, in the workforce or retired,
Whether you are single, married, divorced or widowed,
Or a category we have missed,
Ladies, this special day is just for you.

Discover how God uses everything in our lives to make us into His people and to fulfill His plan and purpose for us. Even the bad things? you might ask. Yes, even the things we don't like, that happen to us. Come and learn of God's wonderful exchange, how creation depicts the glory of God, and how women of the Bible exemplify the strength of an oak.

PRESENTER
and one of the
four authors:
MIRANDA HEIDECKER
Middle Lake, Sask.

See next page for info about Miranda.



What you need to do —
PRE-REGISTER by April 3

- via sign-up sheet where available
- with Marion
phone: 306-343-7396
(may leave a message)
text: 306-292-2372
email: hollinger@sasktel.net

BRING:

- \$10 registration fee (includes lunch, materials and speaker)
- your Bible

STEWARDSHIP

CHERISH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands

and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a

gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

*Blessings and Peace
Board of Stewardship*

Meet Miranda Heidecker

Miranda Heidecker grew up on a farm near Middle Lake, Sask. She attended University in Saskatoon where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Applied Plant Ecology. She worked in the agriculture industry for three years as an agronomist but had always found working on the farm to be the most purposeful and fulfilling job. Last year, she decided to return to the family farm and is now farming full-time with her parents. Miranda believes farming has unique highs and lows that provide



opportunities to praise God, in both the struggles and the joys. She also enjoys attending Bible studies at church and singing with her sisters and with the St. Paul’s Chorus in Humboldt. Miranda was joined on the planning and writing committee by Pat Howatt from B.C. and Jill Munoz and Jane Jacob, both from Ont. with Rev. Dr. Jim Keller of Kitchener, Ont., serving as counsellor.

Oaks of Righteousness events have been held in locations from coast to coast. Now it’s our turn.

Elections coming in May

The time is here for St. Paul’s elections which are held for all positions on the boards and executive.

The online nomination form will be emailed from the church office. If you are unable to access the online form, there are paper copies provided on the ushers’ table.

Please complete the forms by May 12. In doing so, please prayerfully consider your vocation as a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and specifically supporting our mission by serving on the executive or on one of the boards.

*Thank you for your prayers.
The Nominating Committee*

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

COVERED!

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths . . . And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them” (Genesis 3:1-7,21 ESV).

After falling for Satan’s lies, Adam and Eve saw their nakedness and felt shame in it. They tried to create coverings for themselves and hid from God. But our loving LORD, who knows all things, called out to them, “Where are you?” and continued to ask a series of questions that gently guided the couple to confess what they had done. Along with consequences for humanity and Satan, God made for the couple garments of “skins.” For the first time, blood had been

shed in order to provide a covering for sin.

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (A Maskil of David: Psalm 32:1 ESV).

When David was inspired to write these words, the sin of God’s people was being covered through an intricate routine of sacrifices according to instructions God had given to Moses. Details recorded in the book of Leviticus have often left my head spinning! It is no wonder the people yearned to see the day when Messiah would come to fulfill His Father’s promise to the serpent: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15 ESV).*

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30 ESV); “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’” (Matthew 27:51,54 ESV)

It is the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed on the cross that has covered our sin once and for all. The tearing of the temple curtain into the “Holy of holies” signified that the separation between God and man had been removed. Christ’s resurrection on the third day confirmed the victory He won for us over sin, death, and Satan’s

power. No further sacrifices were required!

The prophet Isaiah had pointed to this ultimate covering. *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10 ESV).*

The apostle Paul expressed it this way: *“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:17-21 ESV).*

*Verla Schmirler,
Board of Evangelism
and Public Relations*



St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS A Chili Cookoff

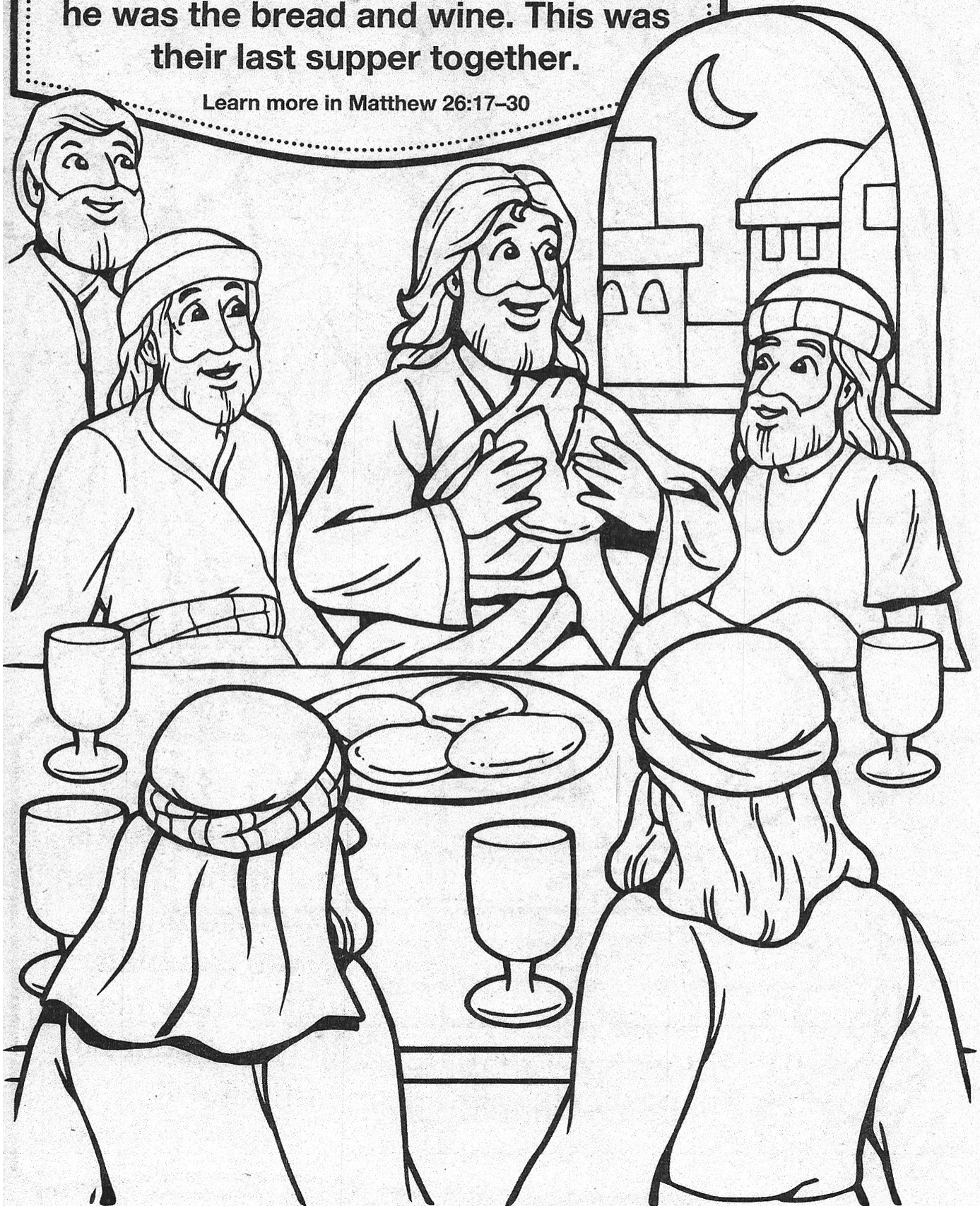
SOME OF THE JUDGES
AND
SOME OF THE WINNERS!
A good time was had by all.

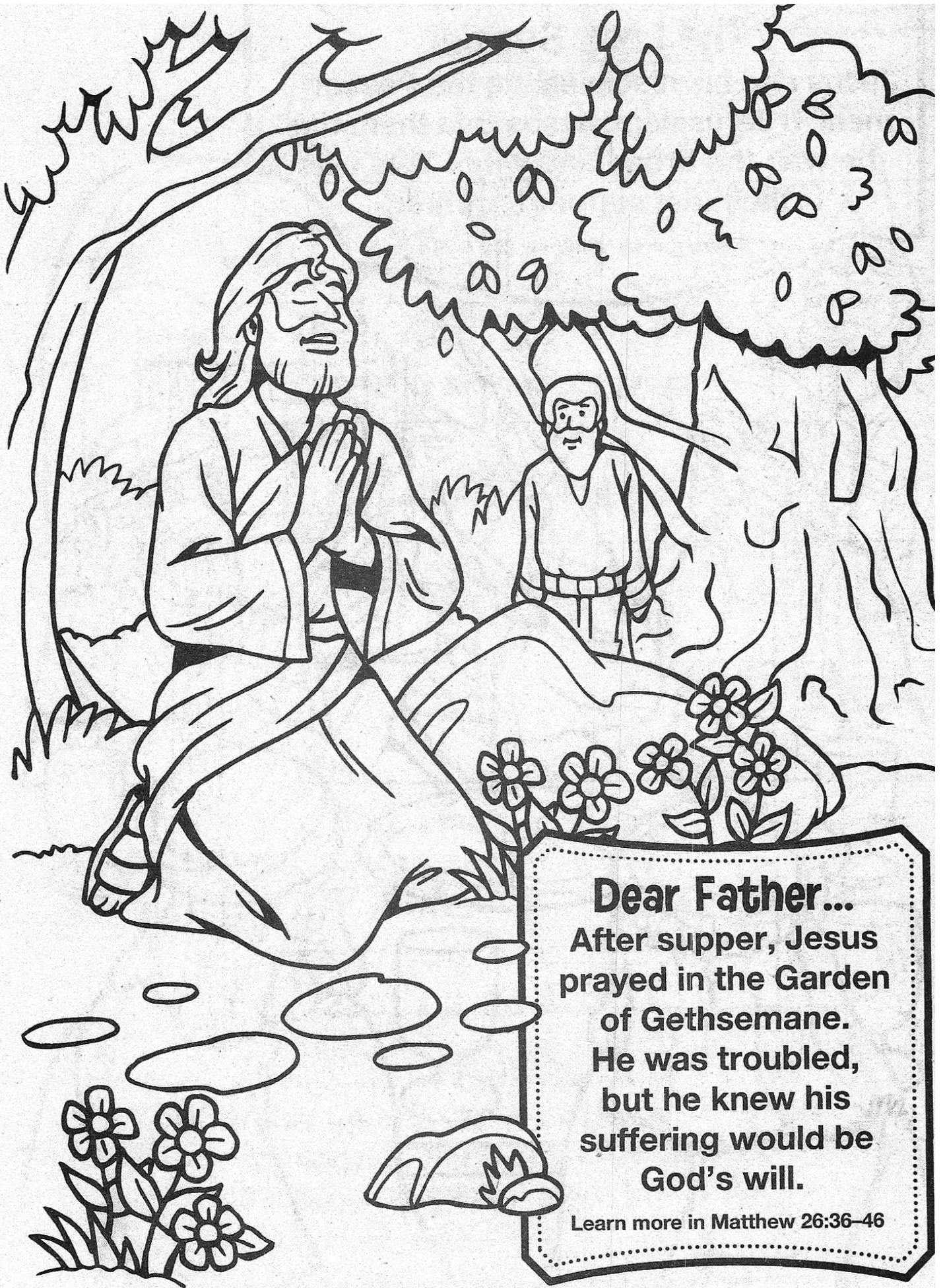


The Last Supper

Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover meal in Jerusalem. Jesus told them that he was the bread and wine. This was their last supper together.

Learn more in Matthew 26:17-30

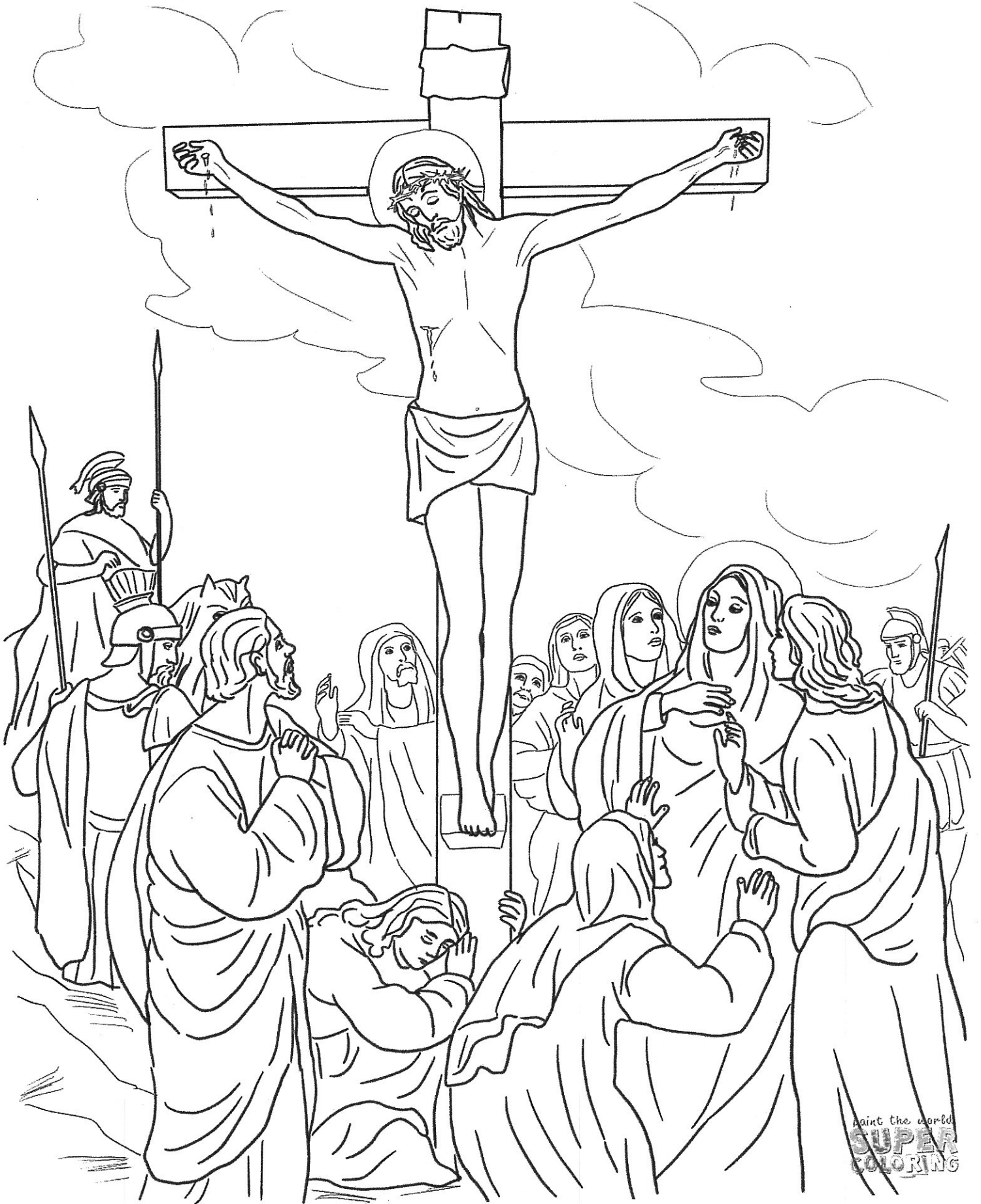




Dear Father...

After supper, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was troubled, but he knew his suffering would be God's will.

Learn more in Matthew 26:36-46



Paint the world
SUPER
COLORING