

Our week started with Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem; people waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!". Yesterday we remembered Jesus and the disciples sharing in the Last Supper. Hopefully, you and your family also participated in this Holy meal together. Today is a sad day. Today we remember how Jesus died on the cross to save us.

For many years my children and I have met up with some friends at St. Gabriel's church at noon for Stations of the Cross. This has become an annual tradition. It is a wonderful way for me to remember Jesus's life and all He did for me. There are readers who tell the story while other youth act out the different stations. The people in attendance participate by responding to what the readers are saying. It is a very moving experience. I was sad last year that it didn't happen and am hopeful that this year it will return.

While you are in your quiet time today, please take a moment to reflect on why Jesus went to the cross to die for us. Maybe God will speak to you during this time. Maybe you will take this time to thank God for loving us so much that He sent Jesus to take away the sins of the world...my sins and yours.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, we are so grateful that You love us and sent Your Son to earth to save us. We know that we don't always live the way you want us to live, yet you love us anyway. Please help us to reflect on this today especially. We know that even when we make mistakes, You still love us. Thank You. We are forever humbled. Amen.

~Tammy Palermo

#### **Activity/Game: Calvary Hill Paper Plate Craft**

Cut out a half-circle in the center of the plate and fold it up. Color the paper plate to look like the hill. Fold the brown paper into thirds and draw a cross on one side. Cut out the cross and unfold the paper to make three crosses. Glue the crosses to the hilltop.



**Coloring Sheet:** Jesus Dies on the Cross

## **Mentor United Methodist Church – Lent 2021**

# **A WAY IN THE Wilderness**

**March 28, 2021 - 6th Sunday of Lent**

A Way in the Wilderness:

When the Unexpected Happens

Mark 11:1-11

**Devotion**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Mark 11:9b**

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. Holy Week is the week that leads us to Easter Sunday. I imagine you remember a time when we marched through the modern worship and then traditional worship waving our palm branches with me leading the way! It is one of my favorite things that we do together. But, do you know why we do this? We do this as a way to remember when Jesus rode through Jerusalem. As Jesus rode a donkey through the crowd, the people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Jesus' followers were so excited to see Him and were shouting to express their joy at seeing Him ride past.

Has there ever been a time that you experienced something that was not planned or that was unexpected? I remember when I was eight years old and my mother told me that she was going to have a baby. That was incredibly unexpected to me and my sister. We rather enjoyed being the only two children in our family. A few years ago, my husband surprised our son and me with tickets to go to Disney World to see our daughter march down Main Street. That was a big surprise to me!

This is our home stretch of Lent. We call it Holy Week. This is the week that Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey. Palm Sunday is a joyous day where we celebrate His arrival. When you are spending your quiet time with God, think about what it would have been like to be in the crowd watching Jesus ride by. Would you be surprised by this unexpected visit? Would you be joining the crowd in waving your palm branches?

**PRAYER:** Dear God, we thank You for this time to remember Jesus as He rode through Jerusalem. We remember and celebrate by waving our own palm branches. Please be with us this Holy Week

as we remember Jesus and His last week on earth. In Your name we pray. Amen.

~Tammy Palermo

**Snack Recipe:** Palms: pretzel rods as the trunk, green apple slices as the palms, blueberries as the coconuts

**Snack idea to buy:** Heart of Palm

**Activity/Game: Make Your Own Palm**

Using the green construction paper that is in your bag, trace each family member's hand and cut them out. Glue them to the enclosed wooden stick to create a palm branch.

**Coloring Sheet:** People Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem

### April 1, 2021 - Maundy Thursday

A Way in the Wilderness: Bread for the Journey  
Mark 14:1-26

#### Devotion

**22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."**

**23 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.**

**24 "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.**

**Mark 14:22-24**

Today we remember Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday. This is the day when we remember and celebrate Jesus's last meal which can be called the Last Supper or the Lord's Supper or communion. During this final meal with the disciples, Jesus wanted to have a way for them, and us, to always remember and honor Him.

We hear the word covenant one more time in this passage. Jesus is referring to His blood when he mentions the word. What in the world does this even mean? We know that a covenant is a special promise from God and that it is between God and His people. Well, you see, Jesus is part of this covenant.

When Jesus refers to the bread as His body and the wine, or juice, as His blood, He is preparing His disciples for what is about to come. Today when we gather around the communion table, we remember that Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us from our sins. During your quiet time today, think about the things that you have done that have made God sad. Ask God to forgive you for those

things. Hopefully, you have continued to set aside the things you really enjoy doing and have replaced that time with being quiet with God. He really loves when we spend time with Him.

I hope that you and your family will join our service tonight and take communion together.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, we come to you with thanksgiving and remembrance. We know that You loved Your Son, Jesus, so very much. We also know that You love us, too. You want to be in a relationship with us even when we do things we shouldn't do. You sent Your Son to come to earth to save us from our sin. We thank you. In His name we pray. Amen.



~Tammy Palermo

**Activity/Game:** Gather the elements needed for communion, bread and grape juice. Brainstorm special foods that are eaten during special occasions (birthday cake, turkey & stuffing, ham, etc.) Explain what the Lord's Supper is by sharing the following with your child:

The night before Jesus was crucified; he had a special last meal with his disciples. During the meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He passed it around to the disciples and told them to eat it saying: "Take this and eat it. This is my body." (Matthew 26:26 NIV). Jesus did not mean it was literally his body, but that the bread represented his body that was soon going to be broken on the cross when he would die for their sins. Jesus then took a cup of juice and passed it around. He told his disciples to drink it and said - "All of you drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many." (Matthew 26:27-28 NIV). Again, Jesus didn't literally mean the juice was his blood, but it represented his blood that would be shed on the cross to forgive all of our sins.

**Coloring Sheet:** Jesus Eats a Special Meal

### April 2, 2021 - Good Friday

A Way in the Wilderness: When Our Dreams Die  
Mark 15:1-47

#### Devotion

**With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.**

**Mark 15: 37**