

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1: 3b-5 (NRSV)*

How are you doing? We are praying you are well and that you are staying healthy. After three weeks of navigating online school and sheltering at home, we're sure spring break will be a welcomed vacation. Only in our case, we might have to enjoy a "stay-cation" and find some fun things to do in our homes.

The final week of our Lenten journey is called Holy Week and it begins Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday. (It is the last purple tile on the liturgical calendar before the white tiles of the season of Easter.) Holy Week recounts the events of Jesus' life around the city of Jerusalem including the Last Supper, his death and resurrection when His light and life overcomes darkness and death.

This week you can walk alongside Jesus using the book, *City of Jerusalem*, your *Bible*, and the map of the City of Jerusalem as a guide. There are also more ideas for you on the back of this letter. Can you imagine entering the city through the large gate and walking the stone streets of Jerusalem? Can you find the upper room, known as the Cenacle, where Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples or praying in the garden on the Mount of Olives? When did this all happen during Holy Week? I wonder...

The Journey of Holy Week – use the book, the map, and these notes to follow what happened to Jesus

Palm Sunday - Jesus, riding a donkey, made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" I wonder which **gate** He used to enter the city and where it was located on the city wall. I wonder why Jerusalem was surrounded by walls.

Where did the city of Jerusalem get its water? There are two pools; one called the **Pool of Siloam** and one called the **Sheep Pool**. What was the difference between the two pools and where are they located in the city? Which one was for people and which one was for animals? Jesus performed a miracle at the Pool of Siloam. Out of mercy and compassion, He healed a man who was born blind (John 9:1-12).

Holy Monday - Jesus arrived at the **Temple**. The Temple was the most important building in Jerusalem and is where the Jewish people came to pray and worship God. Jesus was Jewish and would have worshiped and celebrated holidays in the Temple. Do you remember Jesus visited the Temple as a baby and was recognized by Anna and Simeon (Luke 2: 21-39)?

Maundy Thursday - Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Passover in an upper room called the **Cenacle**. We call this the Last Supper. Jesus spoke words that had never been heard before when he took the bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you" and he took the cup and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20). He also said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." After supper, He left the city and went to the **Mount of Olives** to pray. I wonder what Jerusalem would have looked like from up there. He was later arrested and brought back into the city to the **house of Caiaphas**, a high priest and Jewish leader. Caiaphas accused Him of blasphemy (insulting or speaking against God) and sent Him to the **Tower of Antonia**, the headquarters of the Romans. There, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, found Jesus not guilty.

Jesus was then sent to **Herod's Palace** to see King Herod, the ruler of all of Judea. Herod Antipas had wanted to see Jesus for a long time, hoping to observe one of the miracles of Jesus. However, Jesus says nothing in response to Herod's questions so Herod sent him back to Pontius Pilate.

Good Friday - Easter - Jesus was forced to carry a cross to Calvary where he was crucified. He offered his life as he said, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) Jesus died on the cross at **Mount Calvary**. He was brought down from the cross and buried in a tomb, which would later be known as the **Tomb of Resurrection**. The women arrived at his tomb on the third day to anoint His body, but they found the stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty! **Jesus is risen!**

Let us remain united in the Lord, Jesus, who is the source of true life and light.
May the peace of Christ be with you and your family,

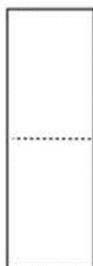
Here are some other ways to walk these last days of Lent:

- Perhaps as a family, read and reflect on the Bible verses mentioned in a slow, thoughtful manner, and maybe in the presence of a lit candle. Usually, a short verse we read twice, like Lectio Divina, and then talk about what we hear in the verse. This can be brief.
- Copy and illustrate one of the Bible verses, write or draw a response to the verse. In writing the words from the Bible or in illustrating them they sink into our spirit.
- Make a booklet of the events of Holy Week (directions below).
- Using a journal or small notebook, write how you are doing during this time, or what you are thankful for, or maybe create your own prayer.
- Walk the journey of the Triduum and mark the Paschal events by finding a simple object in your home that could represent each day from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Add these objects to a prayer table or a table in your home. For example, find an object for the following days.
 - The Last Supper (on Maundy Thursday) - when Jesus said words that his disciples had not heard before when he took the bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you" and he took the cup and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." Luke 22:19-20
 - Jesus' Crucifixion (Good Friday) - find a cross
 - Jesus' Burial (Good Friday – Holy Saturday) - find an object to help you think about the tomb where Jesus was buried with a small rock to cover the entrance.
 - Jesus' Resurrection (Easter Sunday) - Then on Easter Sunday roll away the stone. The tomb is empty. He is risen! Alleluia!

How to Make a Six-Page Book With One Sheet of Paper!



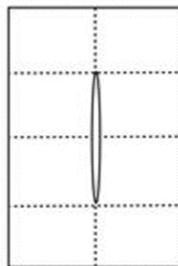
1. One sheet of white paper. 12" X 18" is a good size to use.



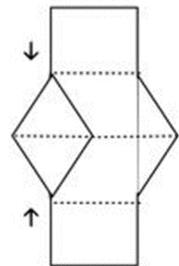
3. Fold in half again.



6. Unfold everything. Now it is a big sheet of paper with lots of fold lines.



8. Unfold your sheet of paper. It should look like this with an open slit in the middle. Fold it in half length-wise again. (Hotdog Fold.)



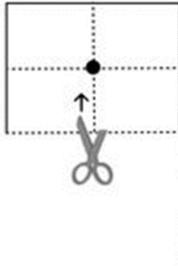
10. Keep pushing edges together until diamond becomes a slit again, perpendicular to folded edges.



2. Fold in half lengthwise. Also known as a "Hotdog Fold".

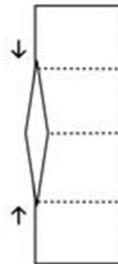


4. Fold in half again.

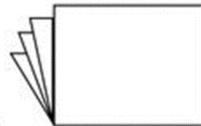


5. Now you have a very small folded sheet of paper. But it isn't a book yet.

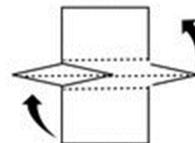
7. Fold in half in the middle- this time a "Hamburger Fold". Make a mark with your pencil in the center of the folded sheet. Take your scissors and cut from the folded edge to the center dot. Stop cutting at the dot!



9. Push folded edges towards center allowing the slit to open up into a diamond shape.



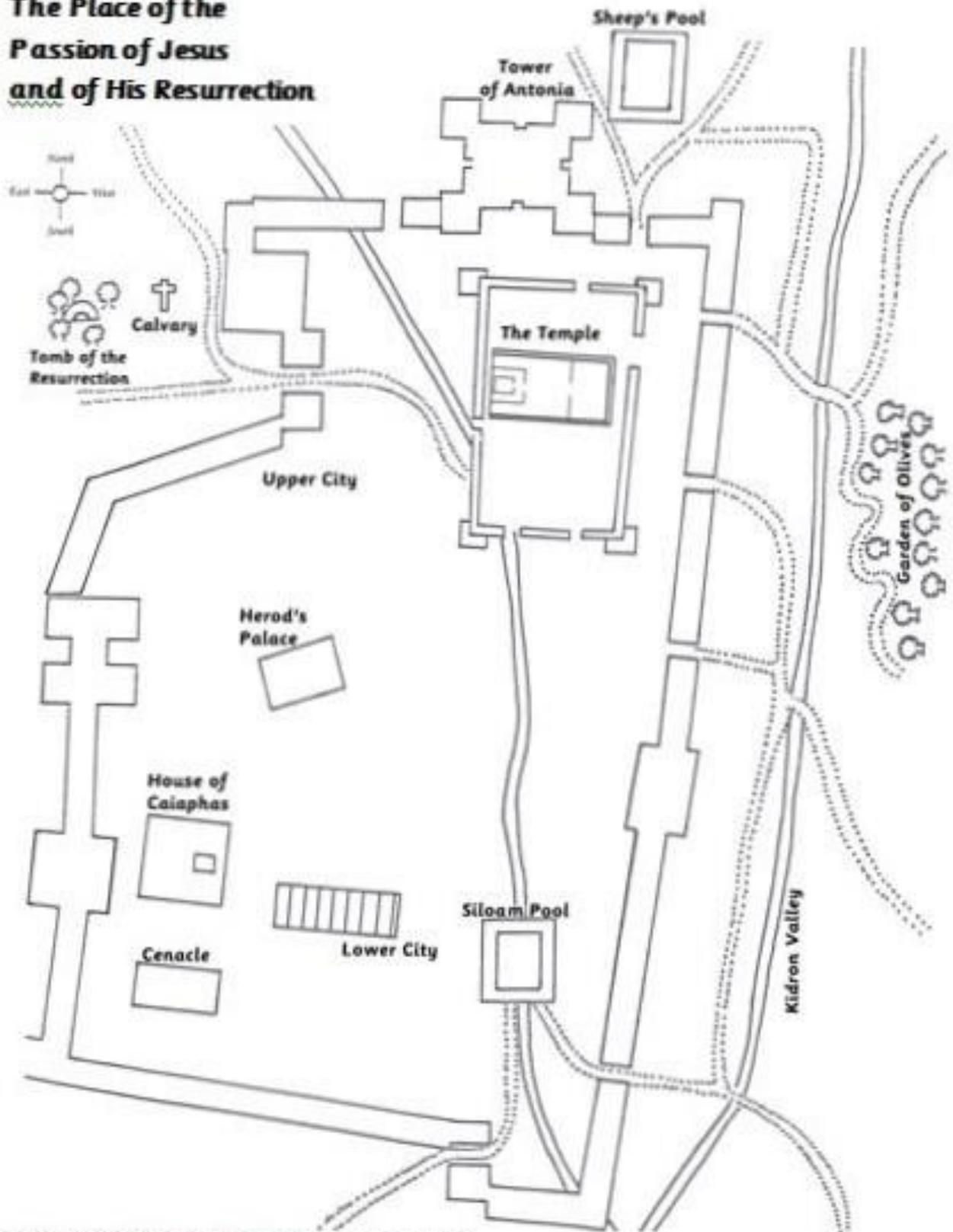
12. Be sure to go over the creases to make them sharp. Now you have a small six-page book!



11. Fold one edge toward slit and the opposite slit toward folded edge.

Jerusalem

The Place of the Passion of Jesus and of His Resurrection



The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Messiah Enters Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-40	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-35	14:12-31	22:7-34	13:1-38
The Agony in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Jesus is Arrested	26:46-56	14:42-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus Before Caiaphas	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-71	18:12-27
Jesus Before Pilate: The First Time	27:11-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38
Jesus Before Herod			23:8-12	
Jesus Before Pilate: The Second Time	27:15-31	15:6-20	23:13-25	18:39-40 19:1-16
The Crucifixion	27:32-66	15:20-47	23:26-56	19:17-42
The Resurrection	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-10