Holy Week
Worship at Home

2021 Holy Week/Easter-Worship at home Offered by Rev. Donald Schaefer, Northern Region Mission Engagement Facilitator
Greetings to you in these holy days of Lent moving to Easter. This resource has been prepared to assist our families and household of faith in their preparation and devotional life, especially during the days of Holy Week. May God overflow in you as you reflect, remember, and share this gift of grace - new life through Jesus who gave His life for us.

Blessings,
The Southeastern District, LCMS

For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

~ John 3:16 NLT
Getting Started:

Designate a gathering place for worship. Leader should read through all of the suggested devotions and gather the following items:

- Bible
- Five votive candles
- Large piece of paper and markers
- Washable ink stamp pad
- Character Cards noted in many of the devotions (last two pages)
- Colored scarves or ribbons
- Food items for Maundy Thursday and perhaps Easter Sunday
- Google suggested resources for more information
- Flower bulbs, blank cards, small plastic bags
- Google recordings of the suggested hymns or ones that you choose to be played at the end of each devotion.
Palm Sunday

Jesus Enters Jerusalem Like a King

Jerusalem, Israel at sunset
Palm Sunday

- Begin with prayer below or your own:

  Faithful Jesus, whose entry into the holy city was shrouded in humility, hear our prayers of Hosanna and inspire in us the courage needed to be a living witness to your love. Amen

Light one candle

- Read Mark 11:1-10 out loud, taking turns at reading each verse

- Talk about parades you have seen. What was the occasion for the parade, and what things in it do you remember?

- If children are present, hand out different colored scarves and parade through the rooms of the house, shouting

  “Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest”.

- Hand out cards to each individual each labeled differently

  o Roman Soldier
  o Pharisee
  o Passover Tourist
  o Street Beggar
  o Follower of Jesus

- Taking turns, have each person I character reflect on what they saw and felt in being spectators when Jesus entered Jerusalem

- Have conversation about how people might react today if Jesus entered their town or community. Discuss how you would react.

- If someone were to ask you why follow Jesus, what would you say? Take 15 minutes to write an answer using the following guidelines:

  o Make your answer succinct
  o Don’t quote bible verses assuming the hearer knows them
  o Be honest with your own faith struggle in moments of wondering
  o Do not judge the hearer or make them fearful
  o Let the joy of faith in your heart shine through your words
- Share the answers with each other, allowing each other to respond with questions that a non-Christian might ask

- Close with prayer, listening to a recording of and sing “All Glory, Laud and Honor” or a favorite Palm Sunday Hymn

Extinguish candle.
Maundy Thursday

The Last Supper

Leonardo Davinci’s Last Supper
Maundy Thursday

What does Maundy Thursday mean?

“Maundy” comes from the Latin word mandatum or Mandatum Novum, which translates into “commandment” or “a new mandate”. It refers to the commandment Jesus gave to His disciple while washing their feet, “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”

~ John 13:34-35

- Begin with prayer below or one of your own:

  Teaching Jesus, through word and deed you tried to help your disciples understand and experience God’s love. Open our hearts and minds to follow your example of servanthood through which your love is made known. Amen

  Light two candles

- Read Mark 14:10-72 out loud, taking turns at reading each verse

- Share a simple meal together (or use the symbolic Passover foods explaining their significance)

- Google a picture of Davinci’s Last Supper. Each person takes turns answering this question:

If you were one of the disciples in that picture, how would you have felt …

… being in a room inside instead of outside on the street?

… when Jesus washed their feet? (Read John 13:5-17, 34-35)

… when Jesus blessed the food as His body and blood?

… when Jesus said that one of them would betray Him?

… when they left the room and entered Gethsemane?
... as Judas kissed Jesus and temple guards arrested Jesus?

... as Peter denied even knowing Jesus and suspicions grew?

... as trials progressed during the night?

- Close with prayer, listening to a recording of and sing “What Wondrous Love is this” or a favorite Maundy Thursday Hymn.

Extinguish candles.

Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem, Israel
Good Friday

The Crucifixion of Jesus
Good Friday

Why do we call it “Good Friday?”

It is called Good Friday because, by Jesus’ death, He became the final, complete sacrifice for our sins. We could not have erased our sins, but because Jesus traded places for us, He broke the bonds of death and sin, and through the Grace of God, we are saved.

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- Begin with prayer below or one of your own:

  Willing Jesus, who allowed the forces of power to put you on the cross, help us to live sacrificially, so that through us others may catch a glimpse of your ever redeeming love. Amen

  Light three candles

- Read Mark 15 out loud, taking turns with each verse

- Hand out a card to each individual with one of the following characters:
  
  o Pilate
  
  o Priests
  
  o Roman soldier
  
  o Passover Tourist
  
  o Male follower of Jesus
  
  o Female follower of Jesus
  
  o Barabbas

- Ask each to in character, to reflect on what they saw and experienced on Good Friday

- Draw a large cross on a piece of paper
o Invite each individual to put their thumb on a stamp pad and then put their thumbprint on the cross.

o Discuss what it means to say, “Jesus died for me” and how that impacts our living and dying.

- Close with prayer, listen to a recording of and sing “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?” or a favorite Good Friday Hymn.

Extinguish candles.
Holy Saturday

Baptized in Christ
**Holy Saturday**

- Begin with prayer below or one of your own:
  
  **Resting Jesus, Help us to learn how to walk through moments when all seems lost. Remind us of our being baptized into you and the hopefulness that comes in being your own. Amen**

  Light four candles

In the early church those who wanted to become Christian went through instruction during Lent and were finally allowed to be baptized on Holy Saturday evening. They entered a darkened room with a water pool, removed all their clothes and jewelry, were anointed with the oil of exorcism, and finally baptized (children also) by the bishop. Only after being baptized were they allowed to fully participate in worship and receive communion on Easter Sunday morning. (For more details, Google “Apostolic Tradition-Hippolytus”)

- Discuss what you remember or were told about your baptism, where it was, who was there, and when it happened.

  (If you don’t know the date, at some point call the church where you think you were baptized. Churches usually have a parish register and can confirm if you were baptized there and when that happened)

  o Discuss how important it is to remember baptism not as an event but as the beginning of your faith journey with Christ

  o Discuss how baptism is an identity given to you that no one and no thing in the world can ever change (Read Romans 8: 31-39)

- Close with prayer, listen to a recording of and sing “**My Song is Love Unknown**” or a favorite Holy Week hymn.

  Extinguish candles.
Easter

He is Risen!
Easter

- Begin with prayer below or one of your own:

  Risen Jesus, whose resurrection caught the whole world by surprise, help our hearts to be joyfully amazed at what you did and what that means for both our living and our dying. Amen

  Light all five candles

- Google “traditional foods around the world eaten on Easter.”

  o Which ones are a surprise to you and which ones did you know about?

  o Were there any particular foods your family ate on Easter?

  o You might buy (or make beforehand) Hot Cross Buns or another Easter food and share in eating them

- Ask each individual to describe a time when they were totally surprised

  o What happened, who was involved, why it was a surprise, how did you react?

- Read Mark 16:1-9 out loud (then read the other two possible endings to Mark’s gospel which may be included in your translation)

  o Why were the disciples surprised?

  o How were their reactions different?

- Discuss what Easter means to you as an individual.

- Discuss how to share Easter’s good news with people around you

- Walk outside and each person plant one flower bulb

  o How is a flower bulb a good image for understanding Easter?

  o Put flower bulbs into individual bags with a small note about Easter and give to neighbors and friends.
- Close with prayer, listen to a recording of and sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” or a favorite Easter Hymn.

Extinguish the five candles

be at peace+
Resources:

Lutheran Hour Ministries: Daily Devotions
https://www.lhm.org/lent/
No story in human history is like the narrative of Jesus’ Passion. In it we see God in the flesh, coming to seek and to save the lost. In *The Marks of Love*, we meet a Savior who endured life’s hardships, suffered our pain, and bore the weight of our sins. Each left its mark on Him as He pressed on to the cross, giving His life for ours, appeasing God’s wrath against sin, and rising victorious over sin, death, and the devil. (audio and print versions)

Visual Faith Ministries: Resources for Lent
https://www.visualfaithmin.org
Scroll to bottom of home page to see a number of resources for Lent for a number of resources to use in worship and with families. In the resource “Reflections for Lent”, readings start with Ash Wednesday. In addition to the “Reflections for Lent” resource we also encourage you to use the blank versicles to write and color your reflection on these passages using words and phrases from the passages that speak to you. Reflections for Lent: https://www.visualfaithmin.org/.../lenten-path-2021-by...

All Things Children’s Ministry on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/allthingschildrensministry/
Great resources prepared by Belinda Bost, Children’s Minister at Concordia Lutheran, Conover NC

15+ FREE Resources for Lent You Will Love
https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/bid/79007/resources-for-lent
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<th>Roman Soldier</th>
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