

**Holy Week at Home**

**(April 8th – April 12th, 2020)?**

Welcome to Holy Week at Home! This week during the church year is a/t the heart of what we believe, yet we are not able to gather as a church community in one place during this time. Therefore, we have created a way for us to learn, worship and celebrate together. In the attached packet, you will find scripture, activities and prayers for each milestone during Holy Week. You will notice that we have provided materials for different family structures. Please use the one that is most appropriate for you! Additional scriptures, materials and links to videos that you can use at your discretion throughout the week are also enclosed. As you complete the activities throughout the week, please take a picture to share with us! You can post pictures in the following ways:

ORLC Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemersLutheranChurch/>

ORLC Instagram <https://instagram.com/ourredeemershelena?igshid=nyzdl7wb0bw7>

If you would like to stay off *social media* you can send it to Liz or Jackie (emails listed below.)

If you have questions about the material, please do not hesitate to contact us. Email is the best way to reach us right now. You will find a link to this document on our website, in order to more easily access the website links! Don’t forget to join us for online Holy Week worship at <https://www.ourredeemerlives.org/live>.

In Christ’s Service,



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**Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 5, 2020)**

**Adults/Teens**

***Materials:***Green construction paper or paper and markers or crayons, Palm Branch Instruction Sheet.

***Scripture:*** Mark 11:1-11 – While listening/reading the story, wave your home-made palm branch!

***Devotional:*** The crowds welcomed Jesus on the way to Jerusalem with palms and branches as one would a king.  But this king was riding on a donkey.  Anybody could have said, “That’s no king or anybody of any consequence, riding on a donkey like that with a bunch of screaming kids following him.”  The Master was making his way to Jerusalem, where he would soon suffer and die on the cross.  He was fulfilling his role as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, as John the Baptist had proclaimed.  God, in his love for humanity – in his love for you and me – provided us with a lamb

***Activity:***

1. Foldable palm – Use the attached directions and some green construction paper to make your very own palm for home.

***Questions to Ponder:***

1. Why is it significant that the donkey had never been ridden?
2. The donkey was created in this story for a specific purpose, to be ridden by Jesus into Jerusalem.
3. Do you know what your purpose is? If not, how can you find out? If you have never taken a Spiritual Gifts assessment, click on this link –
4. This story does not say anything about the owner being concerned about his donkey being used.
* What kind of example did the owner of the donkey show?
* How are you with your possessions? Do you have things that are not available for use by others, or by God?
* What if He asked you to offer the gifts that God has loaned you to serve Him?
* What is the "what if" that God is pressing upon your heart?
1. Since Jesus will not leave us nor forsake us, He is with us always. (Hebrews 13:5)
* Where are you bringing Him? Into light or darkness?
1. What gifts can you offer to here and now
2. How can you share your gifts at this time?

***Prayer:*** O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**Maundy Thursday (April 9th, 2020)**

****Washing of the Hands/Feet for Adults/Teens**

***Materials:* Large Bowl, Hand Towel, and Soap.**

***Scripture:***  John 13:1-17
***Devotional:***  Washing guests’ feet was a job delegated to the lowest servant. Think about it: they only wore sandals, so their feet were exposed to everything, including mud, dust, animal droppings, and even raw sewage. No one wanted to be the foot-washer…can you blame them?! By washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus, the only human who has ever been perfect, humbled himself to the lowest place and demonstrated that to be human was to serve others.
***Activity:*** Get out a large bowl and cloth and as you are comfortable, wash someone else’s hands or feet. If they want, they can also wash yours. Determine to try to serve one another, just as Jesus humbly served his disciples.

***Questions to Ponder:***

1. What were you thinking while you washed his/her feet?
2. How did you feel?
3. Why do you think you thought/felt that way?
4. What were you thinking while having your feet washed?
5. How did you feel?
6. Why do you think you thought/felt that way?
7. How does it make you feel that Jesus would wash our dirty feet?
8. Why do you think Jesus wants us to do this?

***Prayer:*** Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Maundy Thursday (April 9th, 2020)**

**Remembering the Last Supper for Adults/Teens**

***Materials:***Baking Ingredients Listed on Communion Bread Recipe Sheet.

***Scripture:***  Luke 22:7-23 (also Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26)
***Devotional:*** {“Maundy” comes from the Latin mandatum, which means commandment, and refers to John 13:34 where Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.} During the Passover meal, he also breaks the bread and tells his disciples, “This is my body given for you,” and the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” The parallels here are undeniable. They are sitting here celebrating the Passover, a feast to remember when God protected the Israelites during the final plague in Egypt (Exodus 11 & 12) by having them slaughter a lamb and paint the lamb’s blood on the sides and top of their doorframes so that they would be “passed over,” and their firstborn son would survive. In the same way, Jesus’ blood is about to be shed so that all who believe in Him are “passed over,” spared from an eternity separated from God.
***Activity:***  Using the attached directions, make a batch of communion bread together and share things that you are thankful for.

***Questions to Ponder:***

1. Jesus was celebrating Passover, a Jewish celebration of God saving his people, with his disciples. Throughout the Bible and throughout Church history, God’s people gathered to celebrate his faithfulness over meals. What are some times we do that together today?
2. We remember Jesus’ words at the Last Supper every time we take communion. What you do when you take communion and what you remember about Jesus?

***Prayer:*** Lord Jesus, you draw us together through the sharing of a meal. Through the sacrament of you strengthen us for service, draw us together as your people and show us your love and forgiveness. We give you thanks for this extraordinary gift of grace. Amen.

**Good Friday (April 10th, 2020)**

**Adults and Teens**

***Materials****:* Play Dough, Toothpicks, Sharpie/Pen, Lighter/Matches and Candle.

***Scripture:***Mark 14:43-15:32 (also found in Matthew 26:47-27:44, Luke 22:47-23:43, John 18:1-19:27)

***Devotional:*** To the disciples and everyone who loved Jesus, this must have been the most horrible, traumatic day that they could have ever imagined. There was absolutely nothing good about that day. The evil in this world had prevailed. But thank God that wasn’t the end of the story…that Sunday came, and Christ demonstrated his power over death. Because of his sacrifice and resurrection, Friday is good in so many ways. Our sins are covered, and we have been made clean through his sacrifice.

***Activity*:**

1. Make a crown of thorns out of play dough (we have attached a recipe for homemade playdough) and some toothpicks. Talk about the fact that Jesus was willing to endure all that pain and eventually death in order to save us.
2. Make a cross out of play dough. Set it out so it can be a reminder until Sunday that Jesus died for us. Let it dry while sitting out.
3. Light a candle and sit in silence to remember that Jesus died today for us.

***Questions to Ponder:***

1. What purpose did Jesus’ death serve?
2. Jesus’ death paid a price we could never pay on our own. We can never earn God’s love—it is freely, graciously given. Is this a difficult concept for you to understand?
3. Do you sometimes feel like you have to earn God’s love, or get all the “rules” right?
4. What does this teach us about Jesus and his love for us?
5. How can you share that good news with others?

***Prayer:*** Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Holy Saturday (April 11th, 2020)**

***Teens/Adults***

***Materials:* Scavenger Hunt Instructions.**

***Scripture:*** Mark 15:33-47 (also found in Matthew 27:45-61, Luke 23:44-56)
***Devotional:***  After Jesus breathed his last breath, the curtain of the temple, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, was torn in two. Previously, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies into the presence of God once a year; the curtain denoted a separation between God and men. Now that Jesus had given himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, there was no longer that separation. We can access God directly because Christ erased our sins when he died for us.
***Activity:***

1. Using the handout included, walk around your yard and in your house to see if you can find the items on the list or something to represent the item.
2. Take a few minutes today and think about ways this Easter story means something to you. Draw a picture or write down some of your thoughts to answer these questions. Where do you see Christ in your life? Who do you know that has shared the good news of Jesus with someone? How can you share the good news of Jesus with someone?

***Questions to Ponder:***

1. What is open and uncertain in my life?
2. Where am I grieving? What losses am I living with?
3. How am I living with uncertainty?
4. Where am I experiencing God in the meantime?

***Prayer:*** O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Easter Sunday (April 12th, 2020)**

***Adults and Teens***

***Materials:* Playdough Cross, Markers, Glue, Glitter/Sequins, Ingredients Listed on the Dole Whip Recipe and Sidewalk Chalk.**

***Scripture:*** John 20:1-18 (also found in Matthew 27:62-28:10, Mark 16:1-19, Luke 24:1-12)
***Devotional:*** Christ is Risen!! He is Risen Indeed!! Because Jesus left the tomb empty and conquered death, we can live for eternity in Heaven! Like the women, we share this story with others because it is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. Jesus—the Son of God, the Messiah—suffered on our behalf, entered into death and overcame death with life. No matter how dark our situations, God’s love is more powerful. Jesus is victorious. We hear his voice telling us not to be afraid, calling us into joy. We too can hear the good news and worship the risen Lord.
***Activity:***

1. **Celebrate that “Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed.”**
2. Take your cross from Friday and decorate the outside with markers, glitter and sequences to share that Christ shines through us each and every day!
3. *It’s so Sweet to let your “SON”-shine!* Using the attached recipe, make some Dole Whip just like in Disneyland to enjoy!
4. Take some sidewalk chalk outside today and write an uplifting message on your cement about Jesus’ resurrection, for others to see!

***Questions to Ponder:***

(The women felt fear and joy at the angel’s news.)

1. Why were they afraid?
2. Why were they joyful?
3. Can you identify with their feelings in your own journey these past couple of weeks?

(Imagine the women coming to you and telling you the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.)

1. How would you respond?
2. What questions would you ask?
3. What action would it prompt you to take?
4. What does God’s forgiveness because of Jesus’ shed blood mean to you?
5. How has Jesus’ resurrection influenced your life?
6. What does Jesus’ resurrection tell you about God’s power? Why?
7. Choose three words that describe your feelings about Easter. Explain.

***Prayer:*** God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Honey Communion Bread**

Mix in a large bowl
   5 cups whole wheat flour
   5 tsp baking powder
   2 ½ tsp salt

Blend together
   2/3 cup milk
   2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

Add the milk and olive oil to your dry ingredients

Blend together in a 2 cup measuring cup
   2/3 cup honey
   2/3 cup warm water

Add honey/water to other ingredients until it reaches a kneadable texture

On a floured surface, divide into 10 balls.

Flatten with a rolling pin to 3/16”

Bake
    400 degrees for 10-15 minutes.

Or if you want to try a different recipe:

**Buttermilk Communion Bread**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

1 C    buttermilk                                2T olive oil

¼ tsp baking soda                  1 C.  whole wheat flour

¼ C   sugar                                       1 ½ C white flour

Put baking soda into warmed buttermilk and let sit for a few minutes.

Add oil, sugar and stir.  Add flour to make a soft dough

Roll to 3/8” to ½” and cut into 6 8” rounds

Lightly score into intinction size pieces

Bake for 8 minutes, flip loaves and bake for 5 minutes.

Brush with butter after cooling a few minutes.

WARNING:  it is easy to over bake.

**Homemade Playdough**

BOIL:

 4 cups water

 4 Tablespoons vegetable oil

 Food coloring

MIX DRY INGREDIENTS TOGETHER WITH A WHISK:

 2 cups salt

 4 cups flour

 4 teaspoons cream of tartar

After water boils, add dry ingredients and stir. Kneed to thoroughly mix.

* You can add food coloring or glitter to your play dough for more fun!

**Frozen Dole Whip**

Supplies needed: food processor or Blender, bowl, spatula, and willing test subjects

    Prep Time: 10 Minutes

    Cook Time: 10 Minutes

Ingredients:

    4 cups (16oz/450g ) small chunks frozen Pineapple \*Must be frozen

    1 cup (8oz/225g) of low-fat coconut milk (or milk of choice, almond, regular)

Instructions:

    Place the coconut milk and frozen chunks of pineapple into a food processor or high powered blender. (the pineapple has to be frozen)

    Turn on the food processor and blend until the consistency becomes creamy.

    You will have to stop several times and scoop down the pineapple.

    Keep blending until all of the pineapple chunks are gone and the mix is smooth.

    Enjoy immediately as it is ‘soft serve’ and should be eaten straight away.

    If you want to freeze a little you can, just know it does freeze solid once frozen and is no longer soft.

\*You can also add raspberries, lime, strawberry, or any other fruit to re-create some of the special flavors they sometimes release.



