

Palm Sunday Parade to Good Friday Sorrow



based on Matthew 21:1-11

For many days, Jesus and the disciples had been walking on their way to Jerusalem. Now they were near the city of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives.

Jesus told two of the disciples, "Go into the village. As soon as you get there, you will see a donkey and a colt tied up. Bring them to me. If someone asks what you are doing, tell them that the Lord needs them."

The two disciples did as Jesus said. They found the donkey and the colt. When someone said, "What are you doing?" the disciples answered, "The Lord needs them."

They took the donkey and the colt to Jesus. The disciples laid their clothes on them. Then Jesus sat on the donkey and headed for Jerusalem.

People lined the road and laid their clothes on the road. Some people cut palm branches and laid them on the road. Crowds of people were all around Jesus. They shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

"Who is this man?" people asked.

"He is the prophet Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee," shouted the crowd.



based on Matthew 27:45-61

Jesus died on the day Christians call Good Friday. Darkness covered the earth from noon until about three o'clock. The curtain in the sanctuary at the temple split into two pieces. A Roman soldier who was guarding the cross where Jesus was praised God and said that Jesus was a holy man. Some of Jesus' followers, including women who had come from Galilee, stood where they could watch all these things.

Joseph, who lived in Arimathea and was a member of the Jewish council, had spoken against the plans to capture and put Jesus on trial. He went to Pilate and asked to bury Jesus' body in a tomb he had that had never been used. Pilate agreed.

After Jesus died, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in linen cloths and laid it in a tomb cut out of the rock. The women who had come from Galilee watched where Joseph took the body so they could anoint it with sweet-smelling herbs and oils.

But this was the day before the Sabbath when everyone rested, according to God's law. All the work such as cooking usually done had to be done today. The next day, the Sabbath, no work was done, so the women could not anoint Jesus' body until the following day.

Remember and Celebrate Holy Week



Sunday

Celebrate Jesus' entry in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1–10). Sing a lively song of praise.



Monday

Remember how Jesus' friends helped prepare the Passover meal (Matthew 26:17–19). Challenge family members to surprise one another with acts of kindness.



Tuesday

Celebrate the last meal that Jesus ate with his disciples (Matthew 26:20–28). Serve some foods Jesus and his disciples might have eaten, such as lamb, flatbread, grapes, yogurt, cucumbers, figs, almonds, or olives.



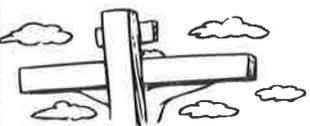
Wednesday

Remember Jesus praying in the garden (Matthew 26:36–38). Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer across one's chest. Shape bread dough (homemade or prepackaged) into pretzel shapes. Beat one egg. Brush each pretzel with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake according to the recipe or package instructions.



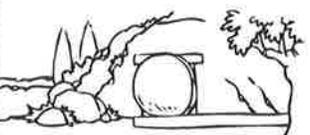
Thursday

Remember Jesus praying about the hard thing he had to do (Matthew 26:38–46). Give each person a stone. Invite each person to pray silently, asking God for help in doing the things he or she finds hard to do. Place the stones in a bowl.



Friday

Remember Jesus' death (Matthew 27:32–50). Draw and cut out cross shapes from cardboard. Paint white glue over the cardboard. Tear up pieces of colored paper or tissue paper, and cover the crosses with them. Allow crosses to dry, and display them on the door to your home.



Saturday

Remember Jesus' burial (Matthew 27:57–61). In a darkened room, light a candle and talk about the hopes the disciples must have had when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Blow out the candle, and talk about what it is like when things go terribly wrong. Remind one another that Saturday was a very sad day for Jesus' friends, but it wasn't the end of the story.