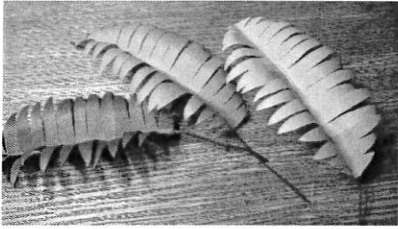


Holy Week and Easter at Home 2021

This resource is intended to support faith formation at home. Readings and learning activities are offered with a focus on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.



Palm Sunday – March 28

~ Read Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40
or *Shine On: A Story Bible* pg 249 (provided)
Notice differences and similarities in telling the story.

~ Hosanna Parade - make (template provided) or find a palm branch; do your own palm parade around your home or take it outside and give the neighbours something to talk about. Record your palm parade and send it to BMC office@breslaumc.ca for use in worship on Palm Sunday (please send it by Tues March 23).



Maundy Thursday – April 1

Before the meal with his disciples, Jesus washed their feet. He told them that they should serve each other by washing each other's feet. We do this to remember Jesus' example of serving others.

The word "Maundy" refers to Jesus' commandment to the disciples to "Love one another as I have loved you."

~ Set the scene: Back in Jesus' time, people wore sandals. Roads were made of dirt, not paved like they are now. So imagine: if you were wearing sandals and walking on dirt roads all day, what would your feet look and feel like at the end of the day? Usually, a servant of the house would have the lovely job of washing everyone's feet.

Imagine the disciples' surprise when Jesus washed their feet.

~ Read John 13:3-17 or *Shine On: A Story Bible* pg 260 (provided)

~ Your turn! Wash the feet (or hands) of others in your household. If you are alone in your house, consider doing a different act of service of your choosing. (Do this as it works for you, it is easier to do if the person whose feet are being washed is seated. Take turns washing each other's feet. Young children may want to do it over and over again. Let them lead the way.)

~ Spend some time noticing how you feel. What was it like to have someone else wash your feet, or to wash someone else's? Were you uncomfortable? Interesting? Did it tickle?

I wonder if the disciples and Jesus felt any of the things you're feeling?



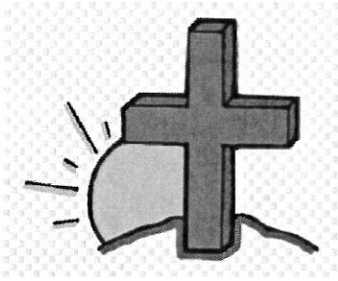
Good Friday – April 2

Depending on the age of your child and your own comfort in sharing this account:
Read Luke 22:1-28 or *Shine On: A Story Bible* The Last Supper pg 264 (provided)
Read Matthew 26:36-27:54 or *Shine On: A Story Bible* Jesus' arrest pg 267 (provided)
Read Matthew 27:55-66 or *Shine On: A Story Bible* Jesus' death pg 269 (provided)

Consider lighting or turning on a candle before you read and then at the end of the reading, blow out or turn off the candle and say, "It is finished." Or at the end of the reading turn out the lights for a while. It is important to remember this is not the end of the Easter story.

~ If you have experienced the death of a loved one, consider sharing a remembrance of that person.

All followers of Jesus from around the world remember the sad story of Jesus' death on this day.



Easter Sunday – April 4

Christ is Risen!

Here Comes the Sun (a sunrise ritual)

- ~ Wake up just before dawn or first thing as you wake up. Check to see what time sunrise is in your area, and get your household up a few minutes before sunrise.
- ~ Grab your Bible, bundle up, and go outside. If you aren't able to go outside where you live, go to window where you will see the sun.
- ~ Watch for the sunrise.
- ~ Read John 20:1-18 as the sun comes up. Read it a couple of times, maybe taking turns reading it or acting out the story. Or read *Shine On: A Story Bible* pg 270 (provided)
- ~ Celebrate! Make some noise, sing a song, dance, run laps around your yard. Get silly and joyful in whatever way works for you!

Easter Sunday Activities

- ~ Go on a "new life" treasure hunt around your yard. Take pictures or draw the pictures of new life you see.
 - ~ Taste of Easter: Here are a few ideas of things you can eat today in your celebration: hot crossed buns, paska, Easter cheese with maple syrup . . .
- Look up "Easter food" online to find all kinds of Easter foods from around the world. Your family may have some Easter food to prepare and share today!
- Eggs are a symbol of new life. Enjoy decorating or eating them!

Palm Sunday – Good Friday – Easter Sunday worship with BMC online www.breslaumc.ca



God be with our family,
from the youngest to the oldest.
God be with everyone
all around the world,
weaving love into our work,
our rest and our play. Amen.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–40

This story is similar to the ending of the previous story. The same story is told a bit differently in each Gospel.

Jesus and his disciples were heading toward Jerusalem.

Near the city Jesus told two of his disciples, “Go into the village ahead of us and you will see a donkey colt tied up. Untie it and bring it back with you. If anyone asks what you are doing, say to them, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it right back.’”

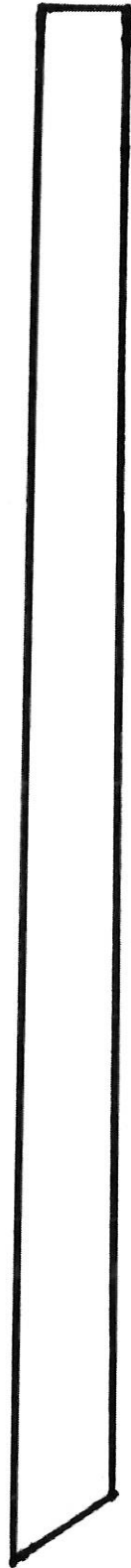
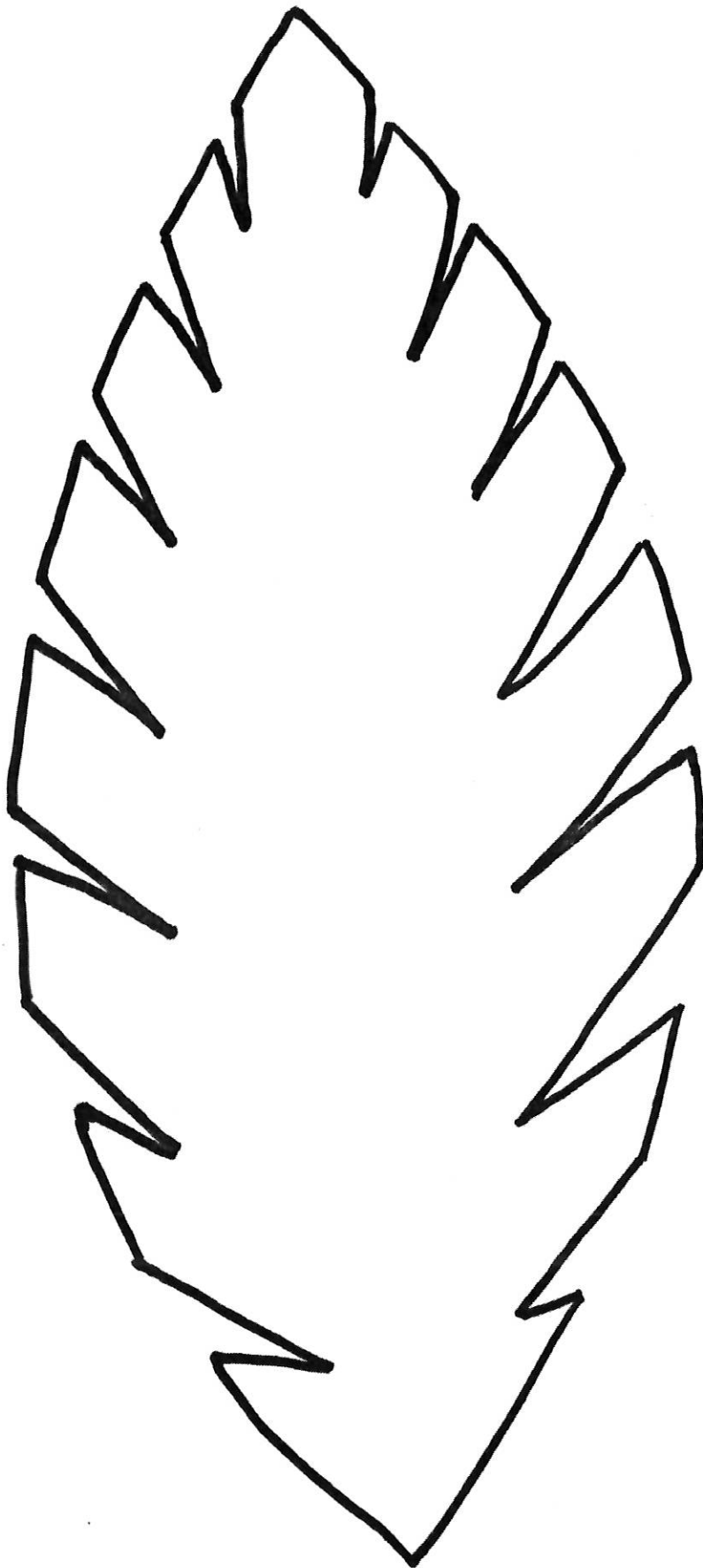
The disciples found the colt just as Jesus had said, and brought it back to Jesus. They spread their cloaks on the colt and Jesus sat on it.

So Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on the colt. Some people were so happy and excited about his coming that they spread their cloaks on the road before him. Others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road. Everyone shouted,

“Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said, “Teacher, order these people to be quiet.”

Jesus answered, “If I silenced these people, the stones themselves would shout out.”



Jesus washes the disciples' feet

John 13:1–20

Jesus knew that soon he was going to die while he was in Jerusalem. Having loved the people in the world he was determined to love them to the very end.

One evening, he was eating supper with the disciples. During the meal, Jesus got up from the table and took off his outer robe. He tied a towel around his waist. He poured water into a basin. Then Jesus began to wash the feet of each disciple, drying them with the towel.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter exclaimed, "Lord, you will never wash my feet."

Jesus said, "If you want to remain my disciple, then I must wash your feet."

"Then Lord," said Peter, "don't wash just my feet; wash my hands as well! Wash my head, too!"

Jesus told him, "A person who has already bathed is clean, except for the feet."

After he had washed their feet, Jesus sat down again and said, "Do you understand what I have done? I am your Lord and Teacher, and I have washed your feet like a servant. I did this to show you how you should serve others."

He went on, "Servants are not greater than their masters. Messengers are not greater than the one who sends them. Do the things I have taught you here and you will be blessed. Whoever serves a person I send, serves me. Whoever serves me, serves the one who sent me."

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:1–5, 14–30; Mark 14:1–2, 10–26;
Luke 22:1–28

It was getting close to the time of the Passover festival in Jerusalem. The temple leaders were looking for a way to put Jesus to death because of the way the people were flocking to him. They were happy when Jesus' disciple Judas came to them with an offer. In return for money, he would tell them when they could find Jesus with no crowds around.

Jesus sent Peter and John to arrange for the Passover festival. "Listen," said Jesus, "once you are in Jerusalem, you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters. Say to the house's owner, 'The teacher needs a room to eat the Passover meal with his disciples.' He will show you a large room upstairs."

Peter and John went and found everything as Jesus had said. Together, they prepared the Passover meal.

That evening, Jesus and the disciples ate their Passover meal together. Jesus said, "I have been looking forward to this Passover, the last Passover before my great suffering." Then he held up the bread and thanked God. He broke off pieces for everyone. Then he said, "Take this bread and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you."

Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He thanked God for it and then shared it with the disciples. Jesus told them, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many. When I die, there will be a new covenant between God and all people."

The disciples wondered why Jesus was talking about suffering. Then Jesus said, "One of you here is planning to betray me."

All the disciples except Judas were upset at hearing this. Each one asked him, "Surely, I am not the one, am I?"

Following the Passover tradition, when they finished the meal, they sang a hymn of praise together. Then they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus' arrest

**Matthew 26:36–75; Mark 14:32–72;
Luke 22:39–65; John 18:1–27**

Jesus and the disciples walked across the valley to the garden of Gethsemane where they often met. He told his disciples, "Sit here and stay awake while I go to pray. I feel very sad."

Jesus went a little distance away and he prayed to God for a way out of the terrible things to come. "But I will do what you want me to do," he said.

But the disciples could not stay awake. Three times Jesus asked them to stay awake. Three times they went to sleep instead of waiting for Jesus.

Judas came with a crowd of soldiers and temple police. They came with torches and carried swords and clubs. Jesus asked, "Who are you looking for?" The soldiers answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am Jesus." The soldiers immediately stepped back and fell to the ground.

Once more, Jesus asked who they were looking for. Again, the soldiers said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. "I told you that I am Jesus. So if you are looking for me, let my friends go free," said Jesus.

So in the dark of night, they bound Jesus and arrested him. First they took him to Annas, father-in-law of the high priest, and then to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest. Most of the disciples ran away but Peter followed from a distance.

Caiaphas held a sort of trial, where people told lies about Jesus. Jesus was silent until the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am." The temple leaders cried angrily, "He deserves to die."

Meanwhile, Peter sat outside the high priest's house. He was afraid and told everyone he did not know Jesus. When a rooster crowed, Peter remembered that earlier that evening Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter wept bitterly.

Jesus' death

**Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23;
John 18:28–19:42**

In the morning, the temple leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. After listening to Jesus, Pilate did not think that Jesus had done anything wrong. But the crowd shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" So Pilate handed Jesus over to be killed. Pilate's soldiers beat Jesus and mocked him. Then the soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two bandits.

Jesus forgave those who were crucifying him, saying, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

As Jesus was dying he cried out, "Where are you, God? Are you there? Are you still with me?" Then Jesus died.

When Jesus breathed his last breath the sun went dark from noon to three. A Roman soldier stood there watching and hearing everything. He said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene, Salome, Mary the mother of James, and other friends watched the terrible things that happened to Jesus.

Later that day, Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus down from the cross. Another follower named Nicodemus brought scented spices of myrrh and aloes. They wrapped Jesus' body in linen cloth and laid it in a tomb. It was Friday afternoon. Sabbath rest would begin at sundown. They rolled a stone in front of the tomb.

For Jesus' friends, all hope seemed gone.

Jesus is risen!

Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12

This same story is told a bit differently in each Gospel account. In the Gospel of Mark there is only one person in a white robe. In Mark, the women were so afraid they didn't tell anyone right away.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women got up while it was still dark. They carried their spices toward the tomb as the sun lit the eastern sky. The women were on their way to anoint the body of their dear friend Jesus. They had watched Joseph of Arimathea put Jesus' body into a tomb on Friday afternoon. Now it was the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath.

They said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But when they got to the tomb they found the stone rolled away. They did not find Jesus' body. Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. The bright figures said, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here! Do you remember? He told you while he was still in Galilee that on the third day he would rise again."

The women ran to tell Jesus' other friends.

The disciples didn't believe it. It seemed like a made-up story. Peter got up and ran to the tomb. The stone was rolled away. He stooped and looked inside the tomb. Sure enough, there were the linen cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. But Jesus' body was not there. Peter went back home, amazed at what had happened.