



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Introduction	pg. 4
Short orders of Service.....	pg. 5-6
Palm Sunday	pg. 7-8
Holy Monday	pg. 9-10
Holy Tuesday	pg. 11-12
Holy Wednesday.....	pg. 13-14
Maundy Thursday	pg. 15-16
Good Friday	pg. 17-18
Holy Saturday.....	pg. 19-20
Easter	pg. 21-22
Daily Litany	pg. 23-24
Coloring Pages for each day	pg. 25-32

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

Thank you for downloading/printing/picking up *Dinnertime Devotions: A Holy Week Vigil*! I'm hopeful that, during this unprecedented time of isolation and quarantine, we can still make use of the gifts God gives to us through His unchanging and almighty Word! From ancient times, the Church has "kept vigil" during the night before Easter. To "keep vigil" basically means...to wait. But it's not just any waiting—it's waiting with anticipation; waiting with a purpose; waiting for the most glorious words that have ever been uttered or heard: CHRIST IS RISEN! But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The historic Easter Vigil service traditionally contains a handful of Scripture readings (that essentially re-tell God's saving acts throughout the Old Testament), an opportunity for Baptisms and Confirmations, the proclamation that "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!" Finally, the Lord's Supper is celebrated, and the people depart to their homes, refreshed to have heard such glorious good news, where they sleep in the peace of Christ until a few hours later when they rise again to celebrate the full, joyous celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!

This year, on account of the unique circumstances under which we will be observing Holy Week and Easter, I'm inviting each of you to keep vigil with me. We will be emphasizing the Vigil readings as well as the events of Holy Week. The idea is to spread out a series of devotions over the course of Holy Week so that your waiting might have a sense of anticipation and purpose—so that you may be prepared to celebrate anew the Easter of our Lord!

In the following pages, you will find short orders of service (that can be used appropriate to the time of day your family chooses to gather), scripture readings, hymns, prayers, activities for families, questions for discussion, coloring pages for children to color while they listen, and an opportunity to wait with purpose!

Now, I know that this may seem like a daunting booklet. I know that many households don't currently have a formal time of devotions or scripture reading and prayer at their homes. If what follows is overwhelming or it feels like being "thrown in the deep end," then by all means, just use what is helpful! I wanted to have a wide variety of activities available because our congregation has a wide variety of households! And you don't have to gather around the dinner table for what follows, in case that was a concern!

If you have questions about anything in the booklet, or just want to talk, please don't hesitate to call, text, or send me an email. I'd love to catch up and to hear from each of you

Know that you are in my prayers. Know that, whether or not we gather in the sanctuary in the coming days, Christ has absolutely walked the lonely road that led to Calvary, that led to His death and burial, and that He Is Risen *for you!* May God bless you by His Word and Spirit during these days of pestilence and seclusion. And may God grant us to meet together, face to face, soon!

PASTOR

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

ORDERS OF SERVICE

MORNING

A candle may be lit. The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Psalm 5:3

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Psalm 71:8

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

See appropriate page in this booklet for the following:

Readings from Scripture

Hymn

Discussion/Activity

Litany/Lord's Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

Thanks be to God.

NOON

A candle may be lit. The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

Psalm 55:1–2a, 17, 22

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

See appropriate page in this booklet for the following:

Readings from Scripture

Hymn

Discussion/Activity

Litany/Lord's Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

Thanks be to God.

EARLY EVENING

A candle may be lit. The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

Joyous light of glory:

A 4th Century Hymn

**of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**

**We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.**

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

See appropriate page in this booklet for the following:

Readings from Scripture

Hymn

Discussion/ Activity

Litany/ Lord's Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSE OF THE DAY

A candle may be lit. The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,

Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1-2

See appropriate page in this booklet for the following:

Readings from Scripture

Hymn

Discussion/ Activity

Litany/ Lord's Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

Thanks be to God.

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

PALM SUNDAY

Notes: Today marks the first day of Holy Week. It's the day when our Lord entered His holy city in Triumph, when His opponents first began to realize that putting Jesus to death was the only way their power could remain intact. The first reading of the Vigil service is that of Creation, the very first gracious gift given by our God—namely, everything that has ever or ever will exist!

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:3; Matthew 21:1-11 (<https://tinyurl.com/ts3s4s6>)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

160

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem - er, King,
2 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem - er, King,
3 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem - er, King,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing Thee on high,
The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and Bless - ed One.
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent. A - men.

4 All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
To Thee, before Thy Passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

5 All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. In the story of creation, which part is your favorite? Why? What are some of your favorite things in creation?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people shouted, “Hosanna!” Hosanna is a word that means, “Save us now!” From what does Jesus save us? How does He do that?
3. Both of these accounts occur with the theme of God entering into His creation. What similarities or differences do you notice between Creation and the Triumphal Entry?
4. Notice the use of God’s Word in the account of Creation. What do we learn about the power of His Word? How might this be Gospel (good news) for us?
5. Read through the Triumphal Entry account again. List the various titles given to Jesus. How do each of these differently describe who Jesus is?

Activity:

Palm Sunday Magic Window:

<https://tinyurl.com/ukcb4e3>

<https://tinyurl.com/qvsujm2>

Folded Paper “Palm” Cross

<https://tinyurl.com/vonxasa>

Prayer for the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakes of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

HOLY MONDAY

Notes: On Monday of Holy Week, Jesus entered the Temple, His Father's house, to see it filled with merchants, moneychangers, and scoundrels—all seeking profit from the worship of God. In righteous anger, He overturned their tables, disrupted their livelihoods, and flooded the streets of Jerusalem with animals, chaos, and the judgment that this people had forgotten their God.

Readings: Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18, 8:6–18, 9:8–13; Matthew 21:12-22 (<https://tinyurl.com/vf8t8zh>)

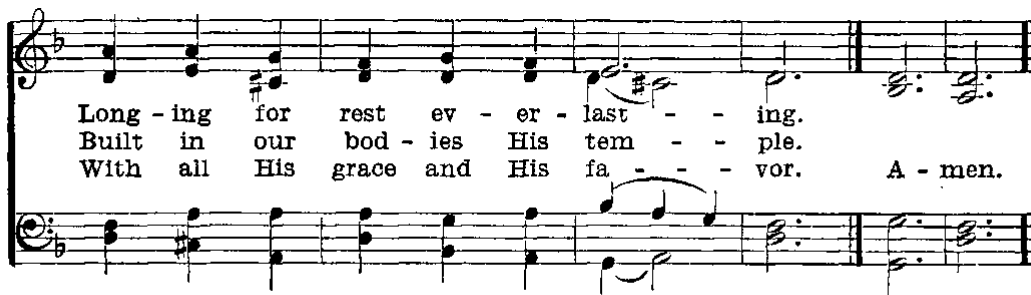
467 Built on the Rock the Church doth Stand

1 Built on the Rock the Church doth stand, E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands, God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Build - ed for

stee - ples are fall - ing; Crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land,
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His tem - ple stands,
His hab - i - ta - tion; He through bap - tis - mal grace us owns

Bells still are chim - ing and call - ing, Call - ing the young and
All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet He whom heav'n's can -
Heirs of His won - drous sal - va - tion. Were we but two His

old to rest, But a - bove all the soul dis - trest,
not con - tain Chose to a - bide on earth with men,
name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell,



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>4 Now we may gather with our King
 E'en in the lowliest dwelling;
 Praises to Him we there may bring,
 His wondrous mercy forthtelling.
 Jesus His grace to us accords;
 Spirit and life are all His words;
 His truth doth hallow the temple.</p> | <p>6 Here stands the font before our eyes
 Telling how God did receive us;
 The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
 And what His table doth give us;
 Here sounds the Word that doth proclaim
 Christ yesterday, today, the same,
 Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.</p> |
| <p>5 Still we our earthly temples rear
 That we may herald His praises;
 They are the homes where He draws
 near
 And little children embraces.
 Beautiful things in them are said;
 God there with us His covenant made,
 Making us heirs of His kingdom.</p> | <p>7 Grant, then, O God, where'er men roam,
 That, when the church-bells are
 ringing,
 Many in saving faith may come
 Where Christ His message is bringing:
 "I know Mine own, Mine own know Me;
 Ye, not the world, My face shall see.
 My peace I leave with you." Amen.</p> |

Discussion Questions (*The first question may be more appropriate for children*):

1. What promise does God make Noah after the flood? Does that promise still apply to us?
2. Today's texts help us to acknowledge God's righteous judgment against sin. How do the wages of sin still affect us today? How do we find relief from such a burden?
3. Note when the cursing of the fig tree takes place; how is this symbolic of the cleansing of the Temple? What was missing in the Temple? How do Jesus' words to the disciples in verses 21-22 give us hope?

Activity:

Cleansing of the Temple Booklet:

<https://tinyurl.com/wtxcvbb>

Noah's Ark Two by Two

<https://tinyurl.com/t4n8bjx>

Prayer for the Day: Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

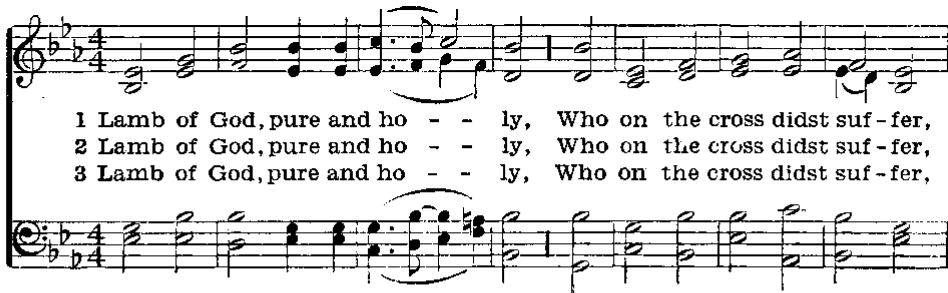
HOLY TUESDAY

Notes: Tuesday of Holy Week was a day of testing for Jesus. As He was tested by the devil after His baptism, so is He now tested and tried by each of His opponents in Jerusalem. This was also the day in which the Jews were required to examine the lambs that each household would be slaughtering for their observance of the Passover.

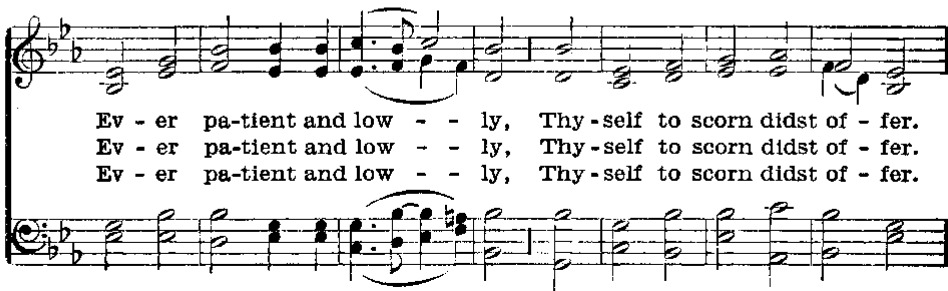
Readings: Genesis 22:1-18; Matthew 21:23-46, 22:1-40 (<https://tinyurl.com/ttt2qgr>)

146

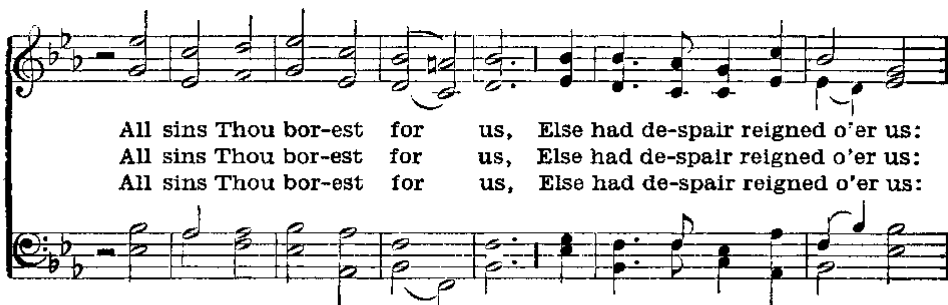
Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa-tient and low - - ly, Thy-self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa-tient and low - - ly, Thy-self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa-tient and low - - ly, Thy-self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus! A-men.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. In the end, God didn't let Abraham sacrifice Isaac. God provided a sacrifice instead. God had promised Abraham that Isaac was going to be the
2. When Jesus says, "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," what did He mean? How does that affect how we live our lives?
3. What do Abraham's words in vs. 8, "The Lord will provide for Himself a lamb" tell us about the nature of God? How does He ultimately fulfill these words of faith?
4. Notice the different opponents Jesus meets in the Gospel accounts for today. What challenges are they bringing before Him? (e.g. Why are they asking what they're asking?)
5. Jesus' parables today are clearly spoken against His opponents. Are there any parts of the parable that don't make sense to you? Work through each one and explain what it means.

Activity:

"Render Unto Caesar" Coin Cleaning/Inspecting/Making

<https://tinyurl.com/wmztlme>

Prayer for the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

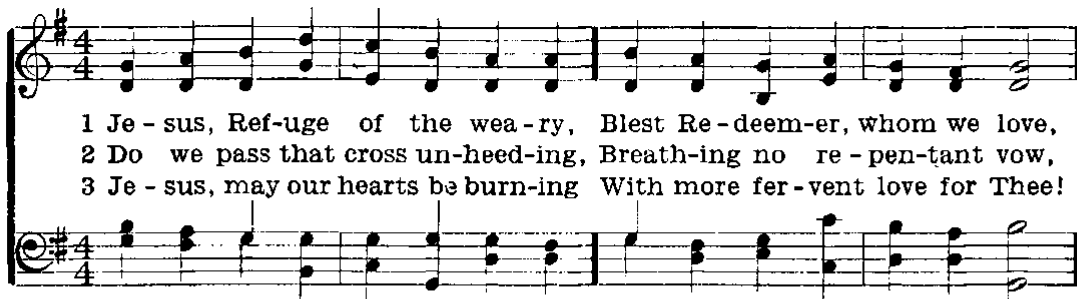
HOLY WEDNESDAY

Notes: Wednesday of Holy Week is a bit of a mystery. On every other day, Jesus was busy teaching and preaching, but apparently, we have no record of Jesus' activity on Wednesday. This is potentially the day in which Judas agreed to betray Jesus, but Jesus' own activities are unknown. Today, we have three readings from the Vigil.

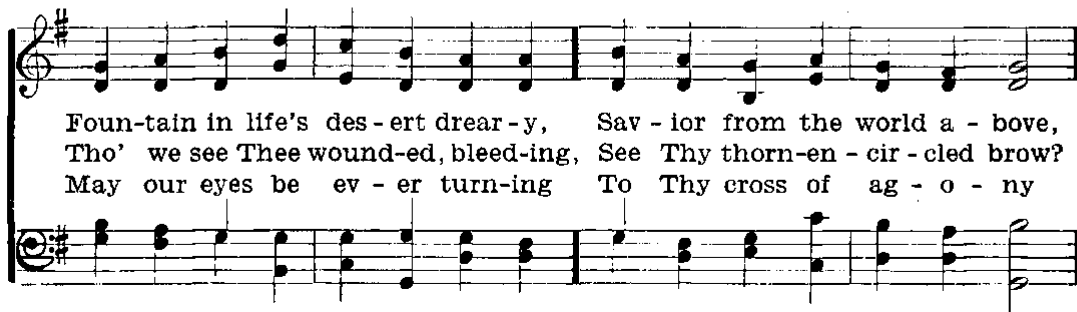
Readings: Isaiah 55:1-11, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Zephaniah 3:12-20 (<https://tinyurl.com/szk9wyz>)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

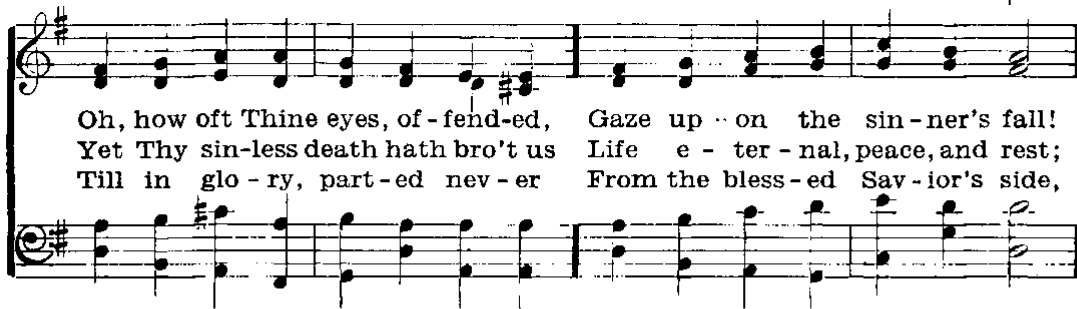
145



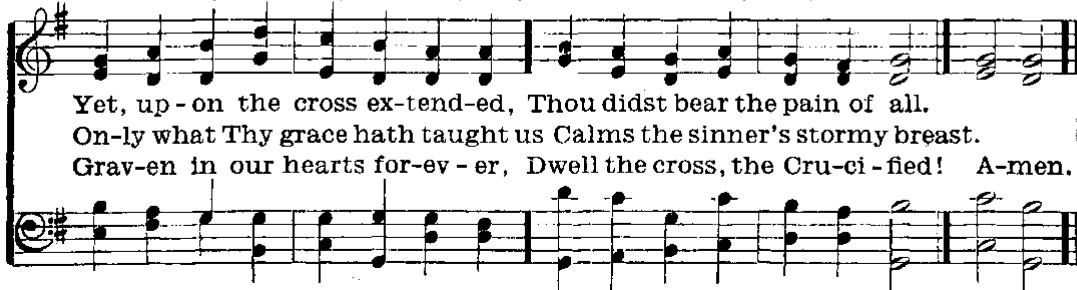
1 Je - sus, Ref-uge of the wea-ry, Blest Re-deem-er, whom we love,
2 Do we pass that cross un-heed-ing, Breath-ing no re-pen-tant vow,
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn-ing With more fer-vent love for Thee!



Foun-tain in life's des-ert drear-y, Sav-ior from the world a-bove,
Tho' we see Thee wound-ed, bleed-ing, See Thy thorn-en-cir-cled brow?
May our eyes be ev-er turn-ing To Thy cross of ag-o-ny



Oh, how oft Thine eyes, of-fend-ed, Gaze up-on the sin-ner's fall!
Yet Thy sin-less death hath bro't us Life e-ter-nal, peace, and rest;
Till in glo-ry, part-ed nev-er From the bless-ed Sav-ior's side,



Yet, up-on the cross ex-tend-ed, Thou didst bear the pain of all.
On-ly what Thy grace hath taught us Calms the sinner's stormy breast.
Grav-en in our hearts for-ev-er, Dwell the cross, the Cru-ci-fied! A-men.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. Reread Isaiah 55:10-11. With what does God compare His Word? And how is His Word like that?
2. Ezekiel 36 talks about God giving us a new heart and Spirit. What else does God give us that's new?
3. What do Isaiah 55:1-3 tell us about God's favor? What do we do to earn His love?
4. Reread Zephaniah 3:16-20. Notice the shift in who's talking as these verses unfold. How is it significant that God is talking? What is He saying?
5. Theologians have noted that Jesus' actions on Holy Wednesday aren't recorded in scripture. In what ways can a time of solitude or silence benefit you spiritually?

Activity:

Play a game of old-fashioned Hide and Seek ("Seek the Lord while He may be found!")

Yarn-wrapped heart Project ("I will give you a new heart")

<https://tinyurl.com/t6wsj84>

Prayer for the Day: Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Notes: Today is the beginning of the Holy Triduum—The “Holy Three Days.” Maundy Thursday is called “Maundy” on account of the Latin word, “mandatum,” from which we get the word mandate. Jesus tells His disciples, in the upper room, “A new command (mandate) I give to you; love one another.” Thursday of Jesus’ final week was spent celebrating the Passover, and adding something new...a new covenant—His body and His blood.

Readings: Exodus 14:1-15:1; Matthew 26:17-29; John 13-16 (<https://tinyurl.com/ulcqyhi>)

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

342

1 Chief of sin-ners though I be, Je - sus shed His blood for me;
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High-er than the heav'n's a - bove,
3 Je - sus on - ly can im-part Balm to heal the smit - ten heart;

Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might nev - er die.
Deep - er than the depths of sea, Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;

As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
Love that found me, -wondrous tho't! - Found me when I sought Him not.
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that E - noch trod. A - men.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife,
He sustains the hidden life.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. Who did God save His people from when they crossed the Red Sea? How did He do that?
2. In the scripture lessons today, one group of people's feet stayed dry, and one group of people's feet got wet? Which is which? And how does the idea of washing someone's feet make you feel? How do you think it made Jesus feel?
3. God saved His people through the waters of the Red Sea. Christians have traditionally looked at this as a foreshadowing of Baptism. How does the Red Sea Crossing correlate to Baptism?
4. It may have been a while since you read the Upper Room Discourse from John's Gospel. Reading it in one sitting, did anything surprise you? There are a number of significant and memorable verses in these chapters. Which verses have added significance, given the fact that, in less than 12 hours, Jesus will be crucified?
5. Pay special attention to John 15:1-11. What does it mean to be "connected to the vine?" When we are permitted to gather again as a congregation, how might we further emphasize our need to be connected to Jesus?

Activity:

Footwashing and Prayer:

While washing someone else's foot doesn't have the exact same significance as it did 2,000 years ago, it's still an uncomfortable idea for most of us. Get a towel and some warm, slightly soapy water. Wash the feet of someone in your family. While you wash their feet, pray for them (out loud) We can show kindness and humility for people and learn from Jesus to love each other.

LEGO Last Supper:

If you have LEGO building bricks (or some other kind), look at a picture of the Last Supper and try to build one yourself! Here's an example: <https://tinyurl.com/r32ok6c>

Bake Unleavened Bread:

<https://tinyurl.com/u7lqqze>

Prayer for the Day: O Lord, in the wondrous Sacrament of the Altar You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY

Notes: A day in which the sun refused to shine. A day of somber sadness and deep reflection. God's Son hangs on a cross, dying for the sins of mankind. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This day, and the days that follow, serve as a guide for all Christians—that by Christ's death, we might learn to die in faith; and by His Resurrection, we might learn to live in Him forever!

Readings: Jonah 3, John 19 (<https://tinyurl.com/tp4n2bx>)

Perfect Life of Love!

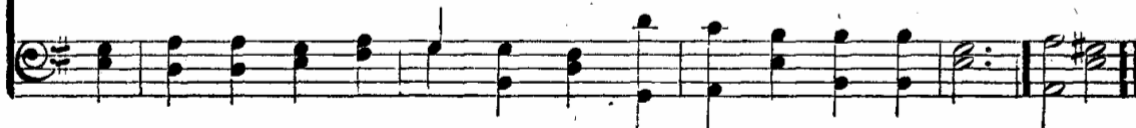
170



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scriptures have ful - filled.
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that tender heart. A - men.



4 And on His thorn - crowned head
And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid
That He might make us whole.

5 In perfect love He dies;
For me He dies, for me.
O all - atoning Sacrifice,
I cling by faith to Thee.

6 In every time of need,
Before the judgment - throne,
Thy works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
Thy merits, not mine own.

7 Yet work, O Lord, in me
As Thou for me hast wrought;
And let my love the answer be
To grace Thy love has brought.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. Why did Jesus have to go to the cross?
2. Just before Jesus died, He said, “It is finished.” What was finished? What does that finishing mean for us?
3. The Gospels record seven words of Jesus from the cross: Luke 23:34; Luke 23:43; John 19:26–27; Matthew/Mark 15:34; John 19:28; John 19:30; Luke 23:46. What do each of these say about our Lord’s love for us?
4. When Jesus says, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” what does it mean that God forsook His Son? What comfort does that give us?
5. Consider your own sins. Our sins sent Jesus to the cross. They were dire enough that the life of God’s Son was the only acceptable sacrifice. How is the cross God’s law? How is the cross God’s gospel?

Activity:

Good Friday Candle Experiment:

<https://tinyurl.com/sykjb3c>

Prayer for the Day: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

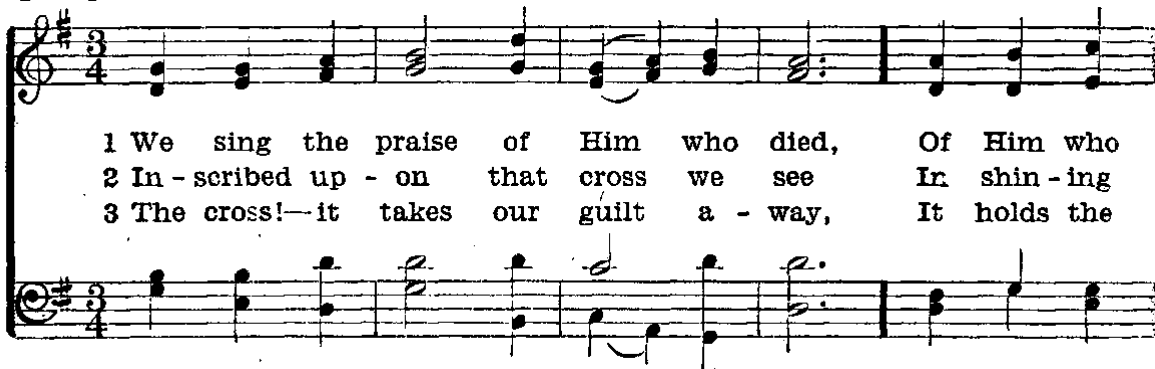
HOLY SATURDAY

Notes: "And the seventh day, God rested." Having paid for the sins of the whole world by the shedding of His blood, Jesus rested in the tomb. The disciples' hearts were broken. Everything they had come to believe had been undone over the last 24 hours. The same seemed true for ancient Israel in Ezekiel's day. Would God still redeem His people?

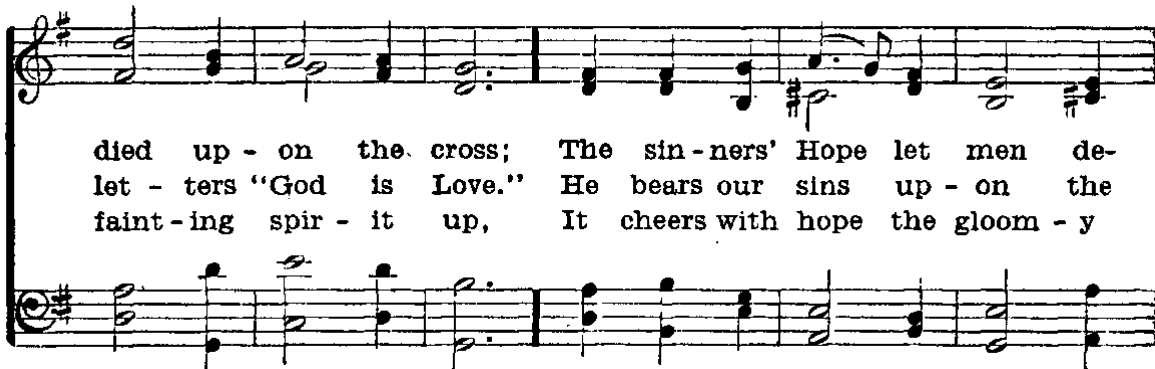
Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 27:57-66 (<https://tinyurl.com/ukgplyd>)

178

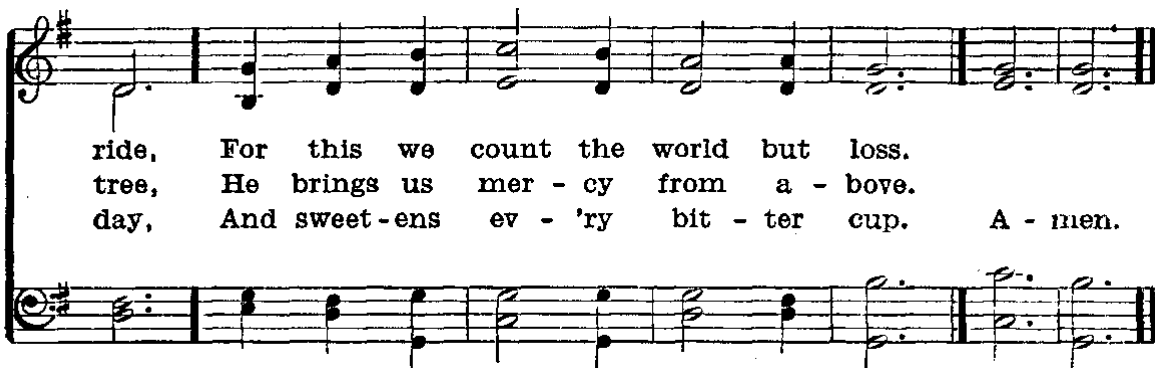
We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died



1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who
2 In - scribed up - on that cross we see In shin - ing
3 The cross!—it takes our guilt a - way, It holds the



died up - on the cross; The sin - ners' Hope let men de -
let - ters "God is Love." He bears our sins up - on the
faint - ing spir - it up, It cheers with hope the gloom - y



ride, For this we count the world but loss.
tree, He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.
day, And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup. A - men.

4 It makes the coward spirit brave
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes all terror from the grave
And gilds the bed of death with light.

5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinners' refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heaven above.

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. In the Bible, the 7th day of the week is the day of Rest, called a Sabbath. Jesus rested in the tomb part of Friday, all day Saturday, and until Sunday morning. Is rest important in our lives?
2. Why does it say that they “made the tomb as secure as was possible?” What were they worried about?
3. Whose bones were in the Valley of Dry Bones in Ezekiel? What does their identity and their words mean for the people of God in Ezekiel’s day? For Christians?
4. People often ask how Jesus was in the tomb 3 days if He died on Friday and rose on Sunday. The ancient world used “inclusive time,” so that a day was counted if any part of that day was in the group of days being discussed (as opposed to our thinking of days just as 24 hour increments). Jesus’ died around 3 in the afternoon on Friday and was raised sometime before sunrise on Sunday. How has “keeping vigil” been a meaningful experience for you? Has there been a sense of anticipation building over the course of the week? What reflections do you have over the past 6 days?

Activity:

Tinfoil Crosses:

<https://tinyurl.com/tekkk6h>

Prayer for the Day: O God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

DINNERTIME DEVOTIONS

A Holy Week Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

Notes: Christ is Risen! Have more glorious words ever been spoken? Death is defeated; Satan has lost. Christ has emptied His tomb with the promise that one day, all the tombs of the faithful will likewise be empty. Today is the reason we are Christians. Today is the pinnacle of God's saving acts throughout all time. He is the author of life, and today is the climax of the wonderful story of faith and love that He has given us.

Readings: Daniel 3:1-30; Job 19:23-27; John 20:1-18 (<https://tinyurl.com/qkuab2r>)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

193



- 1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day," Sons of men and an-gels say.
- 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat-tle won.
- 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
- 4 Lives a-gain our glo-rious King; Where, O Death, is now thy sting?



- Raise your joys and tri-umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and, earth, reply.
Lo, our Sun's e-clipse is o'er; Lo, He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for-bids His rise; Christ has o-pened Par-a-dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic-to-ry, O Grave? A-men.



- 5 Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

- 6 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Discussion Questions (*The first two may be more appropriate for children*):

1. Jesus didn't stay dead. He is Risen! If Jesus rose again from the dead, what does that mean for people who trust in Jesus for salvation?
2. Who, in your life, needs to hear that Jesus died and rose for them? Can you think of a way to tell them this great news?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15. What is the relationship between Jesus' resurrection and ours? How insistent is Paul that Jesus really rose from the dead?
4. How does Jesus reveal Himself to Mary? What promise does He give her that has implications for you and for me? What are those implications?
5. In some ways, every Sunday is a "little Easter," a time to reflect upon the newness of life that Jesus brings to us. The historical fact that Jesus rose bodily from the grave has real implications for us as Christians. In the midst of this time when we are unable to gather as a congregation, in what ways can we still celebrate Jesus' Resurrection? How can we remember and reflect His victory over death every day of our lives?

Activity:

Resurrection Roll Recipe:

<https://tinyurl.com/s6jpbra>

Hunt for Resurrection Eggs

Explain to your children the reason that we Hunt Easter Eggs! We play the part of Mary Magdalene, who thought that someone had taken Jesus' body and hidden it somewhere. So also, we run around the yard or the living room searching for something sweet—and the sweetest thing of all is knowing that Christ is Risen!

Tie-dye Crosses:

<https://tinyurl.com/smfvfye>

Prayer for the Day: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit;; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Litany as printed in *The Lutheran Hymnal*

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

Hear Thou us.

O God the Father in heaven,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost,

Have mercy upon us.

Be gracious unto us.

Spare us, good Lord.

Be gracious unto us.

Help us, good Lord.

From all sin; from all error; from all evil;

Good Lord, deliver us.

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; from pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and rebellion; from lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death;

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of Thy holy incarnation; by Thy holy nativity; by Thy baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Thine agony and bloody sweat; by Thy cross and Passion; by Thy precious death and burial; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter;

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of Judgment;

Help us, good Lord.

We poor sinners do beseech Thee

To hear us, O Lord God,

And to rule and govern Thy holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Thy Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word and in holiness of life; to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived; to beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Thy harvest; to accompany Thy Word with Thy Spirit and grace; to raise up them that fall and to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted and the distressed;

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations peace and concord; to preserve our country from discord and contention; to give our nation perpetual victory over all its enemies; to direct and defend our President and all in authority; and to bless and keep our magistrates and all our people;

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

To behold and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect all who travel by land, air, or water; to preserve all women in the perils of childbirth; to strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to set free all who are innocently imprisoned; to defend and provide for all fatherless children and widows; and to have mercy upon all men;

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve to our use the fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers;

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

We beseech Thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Grant us Thy peace.

O Christ,

Hear Thou us.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

Have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Then may be prayed one of the following:

1

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.

Neither reward us according to our iniquities.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his evil way and live, we beseech Thee graciously to turn from us those punishments which we by our sins have deserved and to grant us grace ever hereafter to serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

2

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy name.

Deliver us and purge away our sins for Thy name's sake.

Almighty and everlasting God, who by Thy Holy Spirit dost govern and sanctify the whole Christian Church, hear our prayers for all members of the same and mercifully grant that by Thy grace they may serve Thee in true faith; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

3

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.

Neither reward us according to our iniquities.

O God, merciful Father, who despises not the sighing of a contrite heart nor the desire of such as are sorrowful, mercifully assist our prayers which

we make before Thee in all our troubles and adversities whensoever they oppress us, and graciously hear us that those evils which the craft and subtlety of the devil or man worketh against us may by Thy good providence be brought to naught, that we, Thy servants, being hurt by no persecutions, may evermore give thanks unto Thee in Thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

4

O Lord, enter not into judgment with Thy servant. **For in Thy sight shall no man living be justified**

Almighty God, Who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright, grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

5

Call upon Me in the day of trouble

I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.

Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins, and though by our continual transgressions we have merited Thy punishments, be gracious unto us and grant that all those evils which we have deserved may be turned from us and overruled to our everlasting good; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

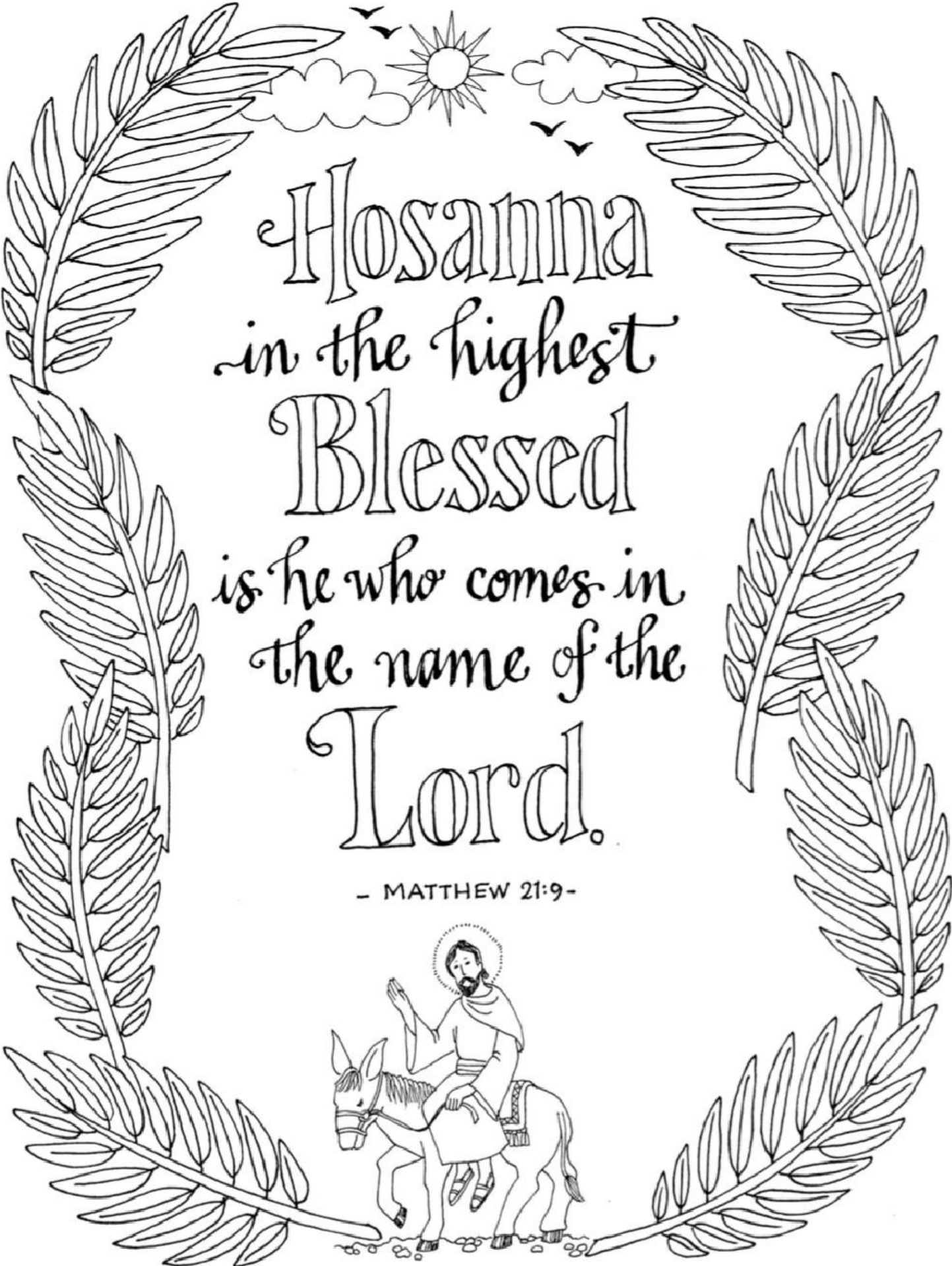
6

FOR PEACE

The Lord will give strength unto His people

The Lord will bless His people with peace.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended by Thee from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

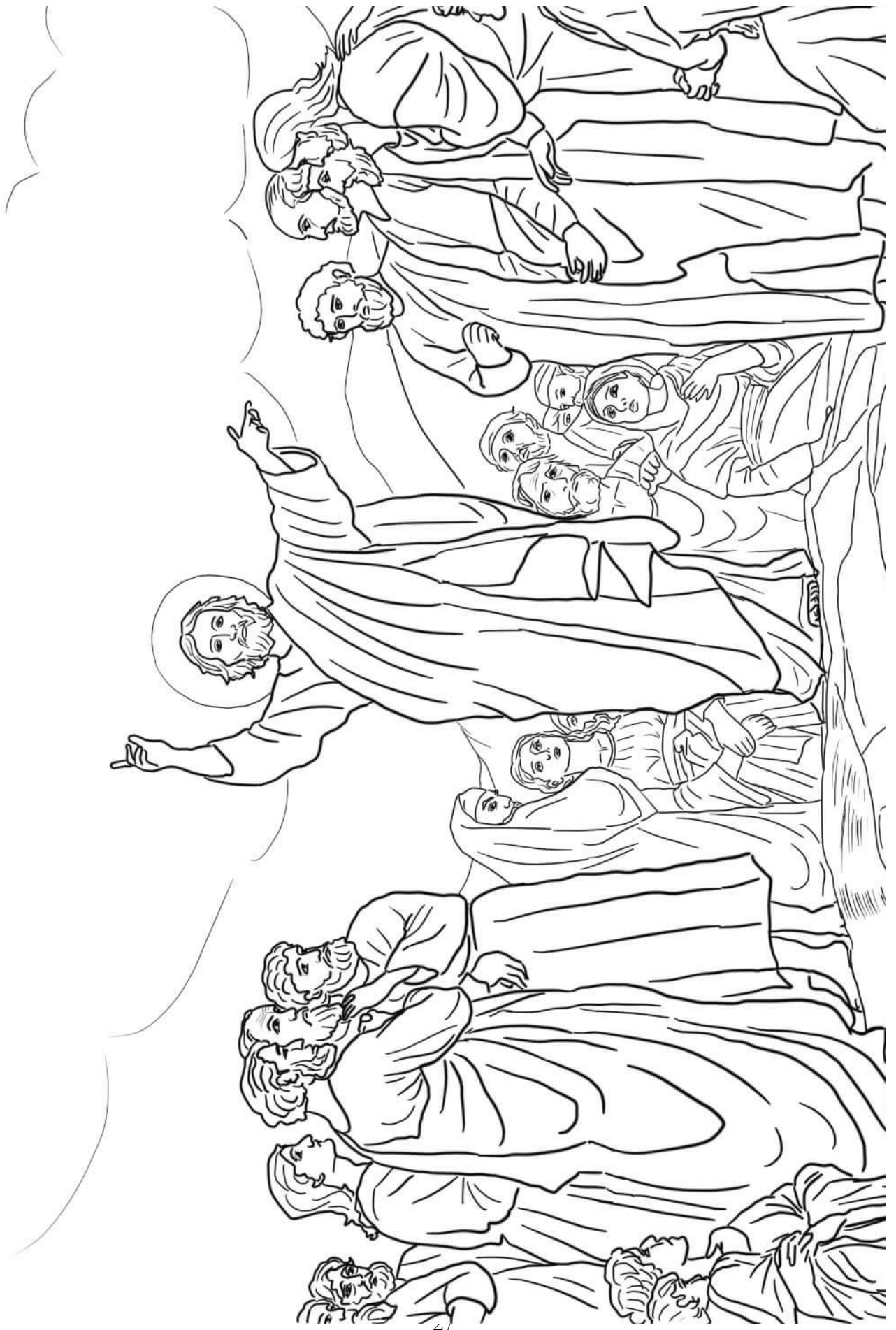


Hosanna
in the highest
Blessed
is he who comes in
the name of the
Lord.

- MATTHEW 21:9 -





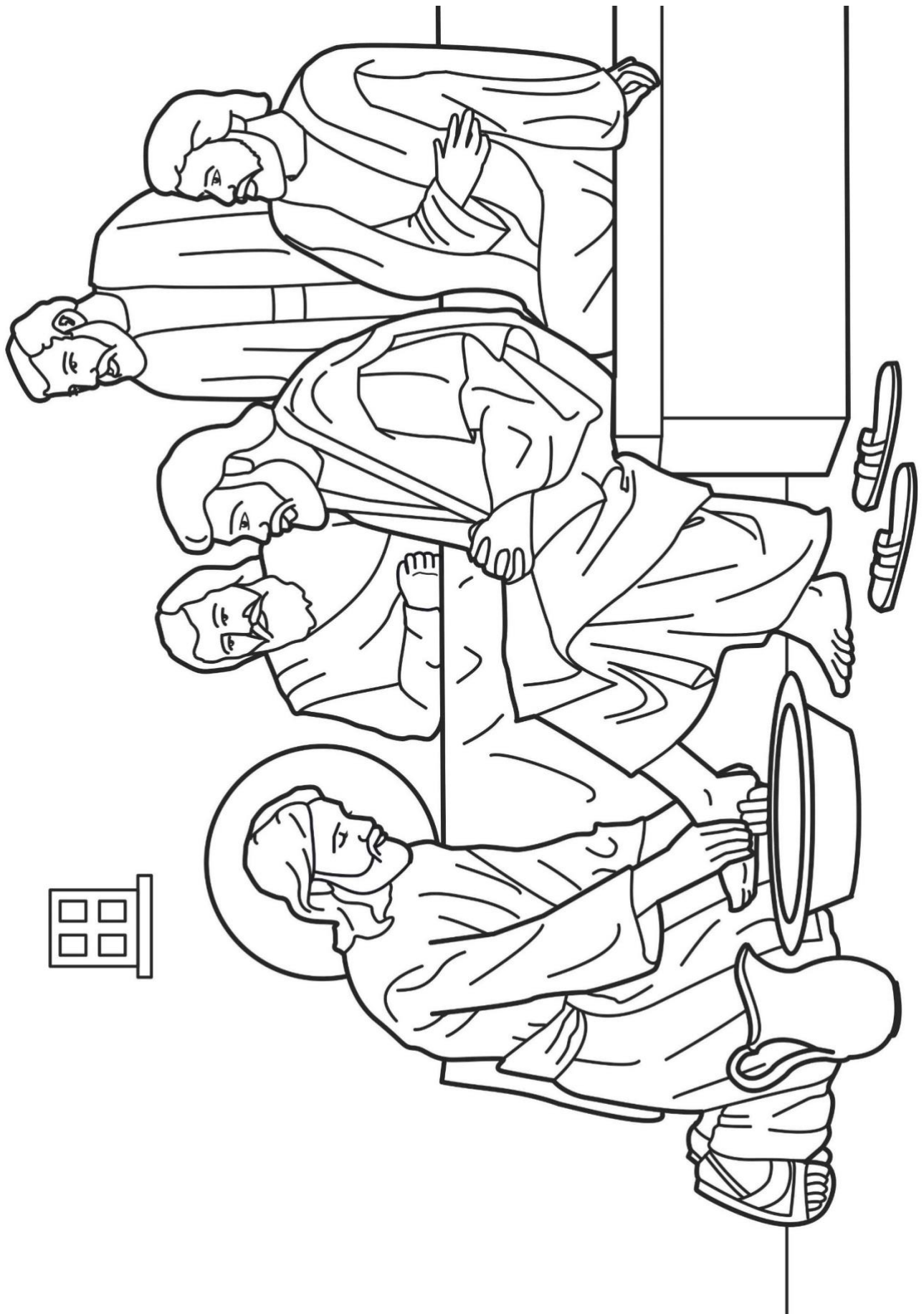


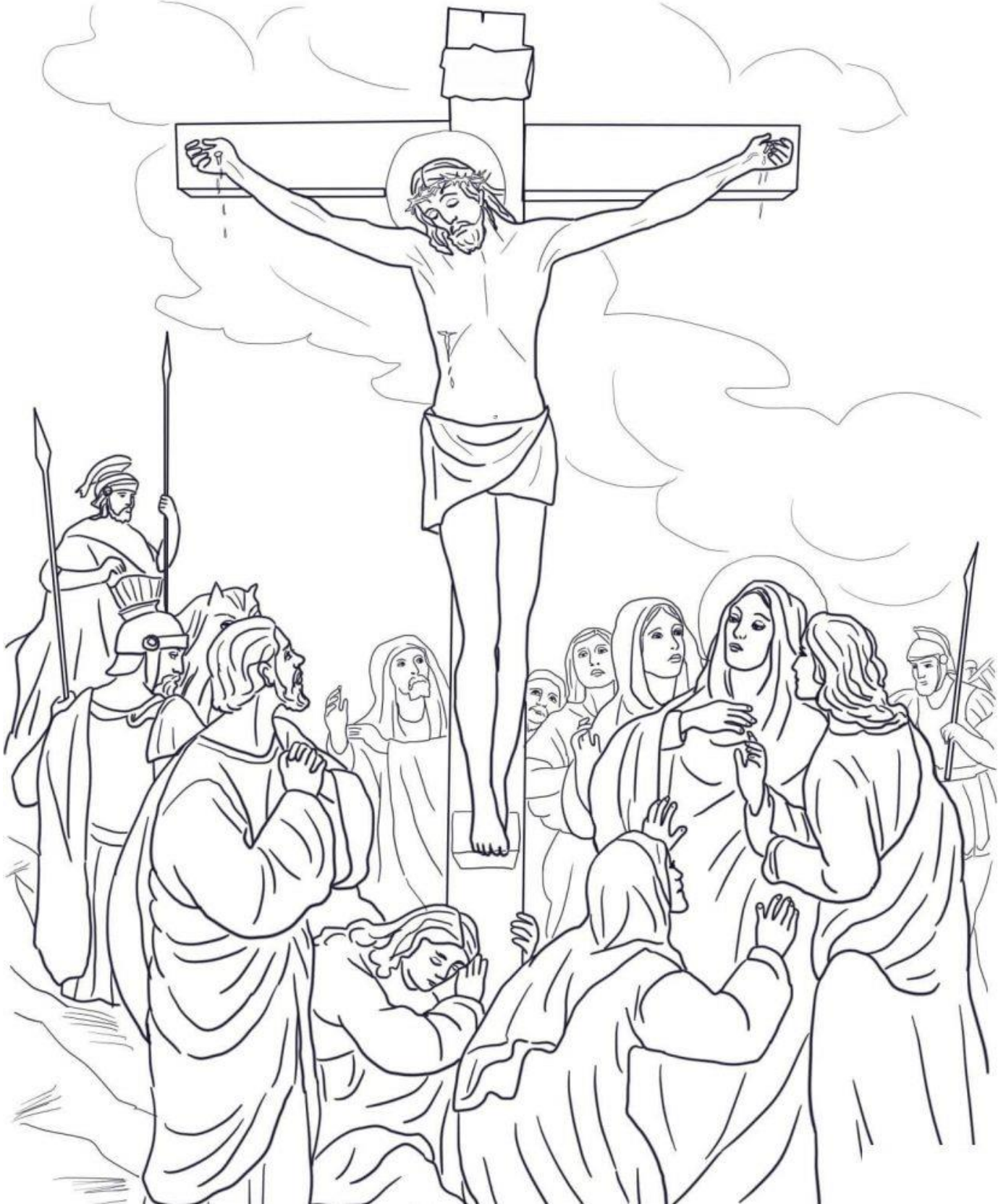
I AM A

CHILD

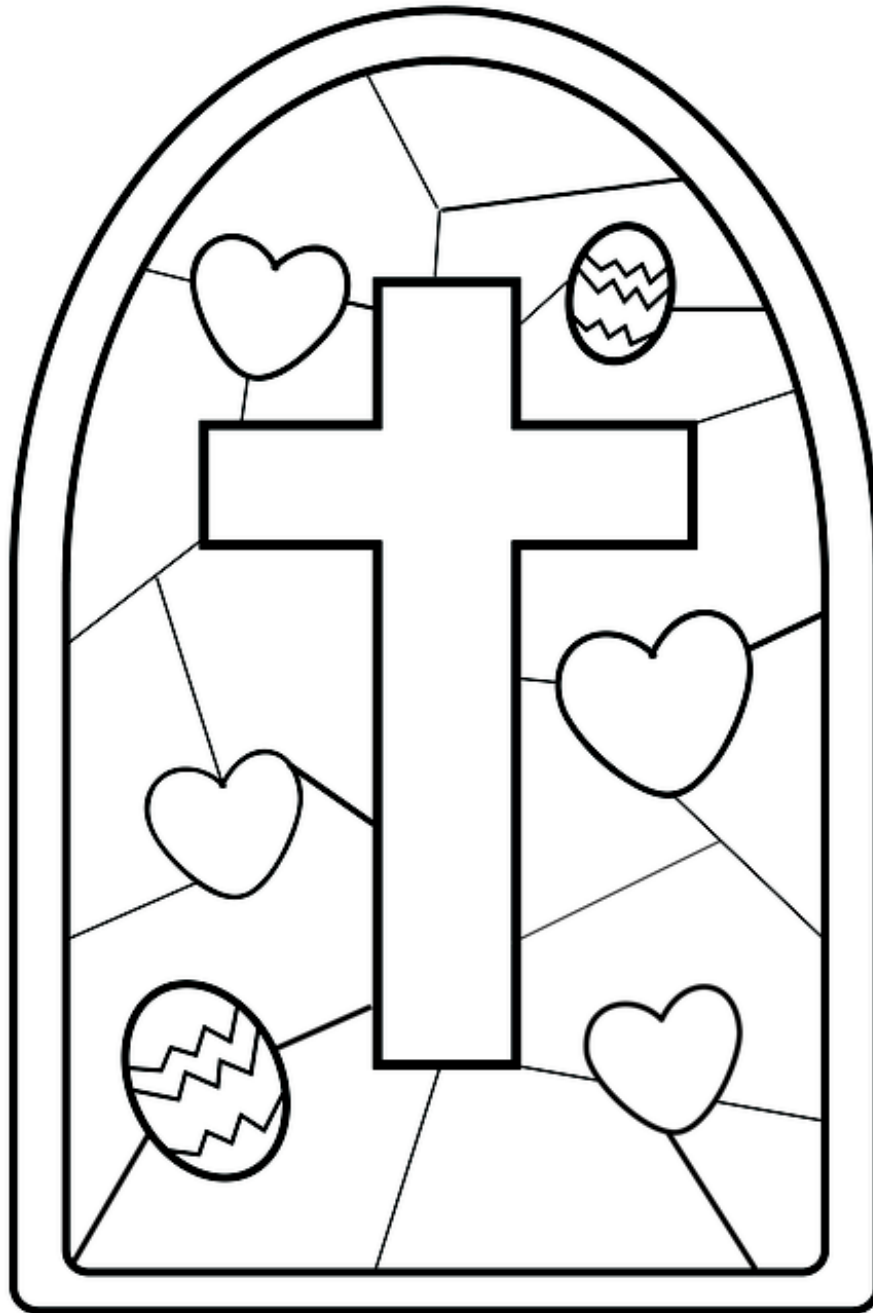
OF

GOD.





JESUS DIED FOR YOU!



Alleluia

