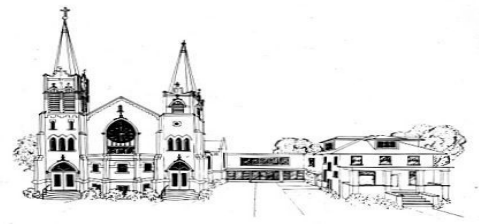


Faith At Home

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday



Confession and Forgiveness

A family practice

Each family member can read the confession. Take turns reading the words of forgiveness to each other:

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my family, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

Unified in our baptism, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Praying

A family practice

Have every member of the family write a prayer to God, naming one of the following themes:

Creation

Those who are sick

Those dealing with the fears of the pandemic

Those dealing with the loss of loved ones

Those serving in the military

Those serving in positions of leadership

Are there other concerns you need to name?

After you write these prayers share them aloud with one another.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

This Week In God's Word — Palm Sunday

Hearing God's Word

Take time as a family to open the Bible and read these stories together. Take turns reading. Do not be afraid of words, like names, that you are unfamiliar with. Say it like you mean it.

The First Reading Zechariah 9:9-13

Zechariah offers hope to a people looking for a Savior. A sign is given on how to identify him, riding on a donkey, on a colt of a donkey.

The Psalm Psalm 118:22-29

The Second Reading 2 Peter 2:4-9

Peter identifies clearly that Jesus is the cornerstone named in the ancient psalm

The Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem, just as Zechariah predicted many years earlier. Riding a donkey as the crowds lift up a song of praise and prayer.

A time of blessing

When you have spent your time together, praying and listening to God's Word, take a moment to bless one another:

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Family Check-In Time

Give each other time to share

What normal life routine do you miss the most right now?

What new thing have you been doing that makes you happy?

Insights from Scripture

This is Palm Sunday, a day we normally celebrate by parading around our sanctuary while singing All Glory, Laud, and Honor and waving Palm branches. We can still celebrate the entry of Jesus into our world today. What leaves around your house do you have that your family could parade around and rejoice as you cry out "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

Talk about memories of favorite worship moments, when you really felt like Jesus was in your midst.

Talk about how you still experience Jesus today, even in a time of social distancing.

If Jesus entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey, what might Jesus ride into Monmouth today, to show that he is the Savior of the World?

Remembering Jesus when we eat

On Sunday, when you gather as a family for a meal, it can be appropriate to remember Jesus as you eat. This is not a replacement of Holy Communion, but telling the story reminds us that Jesus is with the whole Church, even as we are not gathered at the altar in our sanctuary.

Read these verses, say your dinner prayer, then eat in the joy of the Lord's presence.

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."