

Station 1

Jesus' Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Instructions

Touch and/or wave the real palm branches that have been provided for you.

Think About

At this point, everyone was so happy to welcome The Messiah. In a few days, however, they would crucify him. What do you think made them change their minds? Have you ever “gone along with the crowd” in your life’s journey? What was the result?

Prayer

Merciful God, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.

Station 2

Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet

John 13:1-17

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. **12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Instructions

Take one wet-wipe and wash your hands with it, then dispose of it in the garbage can.

Think About

If you were in Peter's position, would you feel comfortable/uncomfortable having Jesus wash your feet?

Prayer

Oh kneel me down again
Here at Your feet
Show me how much You love humility
Oh Spirit be the star that leads me to
The humble heart of love I see in You

You are the God of the broken
The friend of the weak
You wash the feet of the weary
Embrace the ones in need
I want to be like You, Jesus
To have this heart in me
You are the God of the humble
You are the humble King

(Humble King by Brenton Brown)

Station 3

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-29

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Instructions

Bread and wine were served at The Last Supper.

We have provided you with an individual cup of grape juice (non-alcoholic) that has its own wafer on top.

After you've eaten/drunk, please put in garbage can.

Think About

Jesus is giving a new significance to a traditional, ritual feast (Passover). Is there something in your faith walk that has become ritualistic and lost its meaning? Is this a time to refocus on Jesus and the true purpose of why you do what you do?

Prayer

Dear Lord, I trust that you have the eternal life to give me. Let your blood and flesh make way for me and let me be known to you. I pray that your blood will cleanse and make me pure. Amen.

Station 4

Jesus Is Sentenced To Die

Matthew 27:15-26

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered.

²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "**Crucify him!**"

²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Instructions

Use the gavel provided to hit the wooden base, just as a judge does when they hand down a sentence.

Think About

Ponder the fact that Jesus is being sentenced to die without any guilt. Have you ever had someone pronounce a judgment on you when you were innocent? Have you ever wrongly pronounced a judgment on someone else?

Prayer

Look upon Jesus, sinless is He;
Father, impute His life unto me.
My life of scarlet, my sin and woe,
Cover with His life, whiter than snow.

Cover with His life, whiter than snow,
Fulness of His life then shall I know;
My life of scarlet, my sin and woe,
Cover with His life, whiter than snow.

Deep are the wounds transgression has made;
Red are the stains, my soul is afraid,
O to be covered, Jesus, with Thee,
Safe from the law that now judgeth me!

(Cover With His Life by F.E. Belden)

Station 5

Jesus Wears a Crown of Thorns

Matthew 27:27-29

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him.

²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him.

"Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

Instructions

Carefully touch the crown of thorns provided. It is a replica that was made in Jerusalem.

Think About

Imagine how painful it must have been for Jesus to be forced to wear a crown of thorns, all the while enduring being mocked. This was a fulfillment of what Hebrew scripture said that The Messiah would endure.

Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
your own Son bore the thorn of following you,
even to death on the cross.
You have called us to follow you,
to surrender our lives to you,
to love you above all else,
to love our neighbors more than ourselves;
We have sinned.
Forgive us, we pray.
By your Spirit continue to mold us
so that in everything we do,
we may surrender our all to you.
In our Savior's merciful name we pray, Amen.

Station 6

Jesus is Nailed to a Cross

Matthew 27:35-56

³⁵ The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then they threw dice to divide his clothes between them. ³⁶ The soldiers stayed there to guard him. ³⁷ They put a sign above his head with the charge against him written on it: " THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

³⁸ Two criminals were nailed to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁹ People walked by and shouted insults at Jesus. They shook their heads ⁴⁰ and said, "You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. So save yourself! Come down from that cross if you really are the Son of God!"

⁴¹ The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the older Jewish leaders were also there. They made fun of Jesus the same as the other people did. ⁴² They said, "He saved others, but he can't save himself! People say he is the king of Israel. If he is the king, he should come down now from the cross. Then we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusted God. So let God save him now, if God really wants him. He himself said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And in the same way, the criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also insulted him.

Instructions

We invite you to carefully take 1 nail and hammer it into the piece of wood provided, symbolizing nailing your sins to the cross.

Think About

Jesus was nailed to a cross so that we would be cleansed of our sins and sin's grip on us.

Prayer

Behold the man upon a cross

My sin upon His shoulders

Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice

Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished

His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished

(How Deep the Father's Love For Us – Stuart Townend)

Station 7

Jesus Dies

Mark 15:33-37

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").^[a]

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

John 19:28-30

²⁸ After this, Jesus, ^[a]knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Instructions

Jesus was offered wine-vinegar to drink. We have provided a bowl of (wine-free) vinegar and some individually-wrapped toothpicks. Unwrap 1 toothpick and dip it into the vinegar, then taste the toothpick. After you have finished, please put your used toothpick into the garbage.

Think About

In the Scriptures, wine was offered to Jesus 3x while he was on the cross. In some ways he was given it as a point of compassion – to numb his pain – but in others it was given to him in jest, to mock him further.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you came down from heaven to earth from your Father's side, suffered five wounds on the wood of the cross, and shed your precious blood for the forgiveness of our sins. At the day of judgment set us at your right hand, speak to us those sweet words, "Come, you who are blessed, into my Father's kingdom;" with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

Station 8

A Good Friday Prayer

Dear God, we remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely given, what you have done for us.

Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your huge sacrifice we can live free. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered and that your Power is everlasting.

Thank you that we can say with great hope, "It is finished..." For we know what's still to come. And death has lost its sting. We praise you for you are making all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Instructions

At the cross, on the altar, you will notice many glowing tea lite candles.

To symbolize the darkness that fell at Jesus' death, we ask that you take one candle and turn the switch on the bottom to "off."

At the end of today, all the lights will have been turned off to symbolize the darkness due to the Light of The World – for the time being – having been extinguished.

Thank-you for participating in today's "Journey to the Cross."

Please leave quietly.