Holy Week

During Holy Week we remember that Jesus gave his life for us. The Stations of the Cross help us to remember his sacrifice for us.

Prayer

Jesus, my Savior, help me to remember your sacrifice for us. Thank you for all that you did and continue to do.
Taking Up the Cross

After Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the apostles, he was arrested and was brought to trial before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.

Pilate found him to be innocent. Pilate asked the people, “What evil has this man done? I don’t think he should be put to death. I will have him whipped and released.”

But the people kept shouting for Jesus to be crucified. Finally Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be put to death.

As they led Jesus away, they met a man named Simon of Cyrene. He was coming in from the country. They laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

adapted from Luke 23:22–26

Being Like Simon

Simon of Cyrene, a person who never met Jesus, helped him to carry the cross. We can help Jesus too. Like Simon we are called to do what is right in our lives, even if it is hard. We can comfort someone who is sad. We can help at home without complaining. Jesus said that when we do something to help someone else, we do it for him.
Stations of the Cross

After Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, early Christians visited Jerusalem, the city where Jesus died, to walk in his footsteps. They stopped at different places along the way to remember what happened to Jesus. They marked the places where they stopped so that others could follow. These places became the Stations of the Cross.

Like the early Christians, we can pray the Stations of the Cross to remember all that Jesus did for us. At each station we stop, pray quietly, and thank Jesus for his great sacrifice.

A Message to Jesus

Imagine you are in the crowd as Jesus carries his cross. Write what you would say to Jesus.

Jesus, 

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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Leader: Just as Simon helped Jesus, we can help lighten the burdens of others. Let us listen to what Jesus tells us.


Jesus said to all the people, “If any of you want to follow me, you must not think about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me.”

adapted from Luke 9:23

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: We ask Jesus to help us take up our daily crosses. We ask him to give us the grace to help others bear their crosses.

We adore you, O Lord Jesus Christ, and we bless your holy name.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
Easter

Jesus’ friends were very sad. Their best friend had died. When they went to anoint his body one last time, they were surprised to find the tomb empty. Jesus had risen from the dead!

On Easter we remember this special day. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We share in the joy that Jesus’ friends felt.

Prayer

Jesus, risen Lord, help me remember that you died and rose for me. I want to celebrate the miracle of your Resurrection by serving God and others.
Jesus Is Alive!

It was dawn on the first day of the week. Jesus' friend Mary Magdalene and several other women went to his tomb to serve him one last time. They brought spices to anoint his body. They found the tomb empty. Then two men in beautiful clothes came to them. The men said, "Why are you looking for Jesus among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised from the dead. Remember that Jesus told you he would rise on the third day." Upon hearing this, the women remembered Jesus' words.  

adapted from Luke 24:1–8

The News Spreads

After he rose, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. He appeared to Peter, to the disciples, and to many more people. After some time Jesus returned to his Father, where he lives today. We will someday be happy with Jesus in Heaven.
The Lord’s Day

On Sunday, the Lord’s Day, we remember that Jesus was raised to new life. On this day we celebrate Jesus’ living presence, especially in the Eucharist. Meeting Jesus in the Eucharist is important. The Church asks us to receive Jesus in Holy Communion often.

An Easter Message

After they found the tomb empty, Mary Magdalene and the other women told the disciples what they had seen and heard. We repeat their message on Easter.

Imagine you have a friend who does not understand why you celebrate Easter. In the spaces below, share the Easter message with your friend by answering his or her questions.

Friend: What happened on Easter?

You: __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Friend: Why is Easter so important?

You: __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Friend: What do you do to celebrate Easter?

You: __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Leader: As believers in Jesus’ Resurrection, we want to share the good news of Easter with others. Saint Paul wants his friends to share in the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection. Let us listen to his words.

Reader: A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

My friends, I want to remind you of the message I gave you that you believed. Through it, you are being saved. Jesus died for our sins. He was buried and was raised on the third day. All this was in keeping with the Scriptures.

adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us close by proclaiming the mystery of our faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Alleluia, Alleluia.
Pentecost

On Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Church was born on this day because that is when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. The Holy Spirit strengthens us to continue Jesus’ mission. We can use God’s special gifts to us, our special talents and abilities. The Holy Spirit calls us to share our gifts with the Church and community.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word that means “50.” Pentecost is seven weeks, or 50 days, after Easter.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to use my special gifts. I want to live as your disciple and continue your work.
One in the Spirit

Paul wanted his friends in Corinth to understand how the Holy Spirit works in each of us. He sent them this message.

There are different gifts, but one Spirit. The same God works in all of us. The Spirit gives each of us a different way to serve. If the Holy Spirit is in you, you will say, “Jesus is Lord.”

We are all different. We may be Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free persons. When we were baptized in one Spirit, we all became part of the one Body of Christ. The same Spirit helps us all.

adapted from 1 Corinthians 12:4–7,12–13

Paul tells us that each of us has special gifts. The Holy Spirit helps us use these gifts. What are your gifts? How do you use them?
**Finish the Story**

In this story the gifts of many people help make the church play a success. Finish the story by filling in the gifts listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kindness</th>
<th>singing</th>
<th>creativity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dance</td>
<td>joy</td>
<td>patience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Big Night**

Backstage the third graders were warming up for the church play. Marcos cleared his throat and practiced his ______________. Maria put on her shoes and practiced her ______________ steps. Everybody was filled with ______________. Months of hard work were paying off. So much had gone into this play. It took the ______________ of José and Brigitte to make the beautiful scenery. It took the ______________ of the local store manager, who gave the cast beautiful costumes to wear. If it weren’t for the ______________ of their director, Mr. Joyce, the third graders might never have learned their lines. Thanks to the gifts they all shared, they knew the church play would be a success.
Leader: Praise be to God, who fills our lives with love and joy.

All: Amen.

Leader: Jesus kept his promise to send the Spirit to be with us. Let us pray that we will live according to the Spirit.

All: Amen.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I will ask the Father to send you a helper. The Holy Spirit will come to you. He will stay with you always. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.

adapted from John 14:16–18

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Jesus, thank you for being with us.

All: Make us one with you and with one another. Amen.