

**Palm Sunday – Welcome Jesus!**

**April 5, 2020**



palm  
Sunday



# THE GOOD NEWS

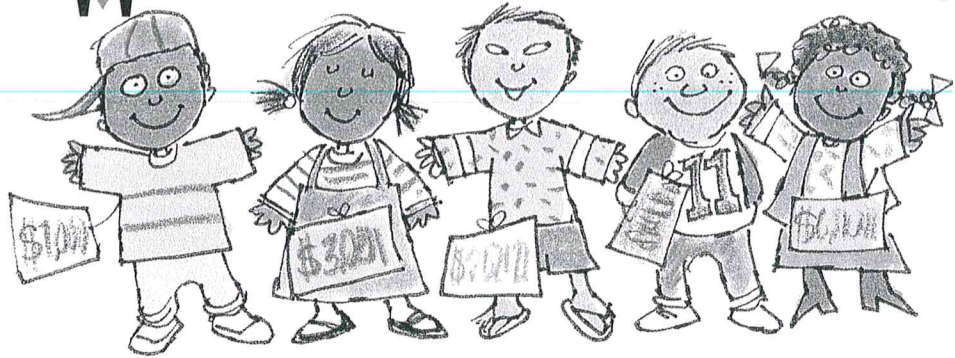
WEEKLY  
Palm Sunday (A)  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54  
April 5, 2020

## GOSPEL THEME

Jesus wants us to have the courage to be good friends with one another.



## WHAT DOES FRIENDSHIP COST?

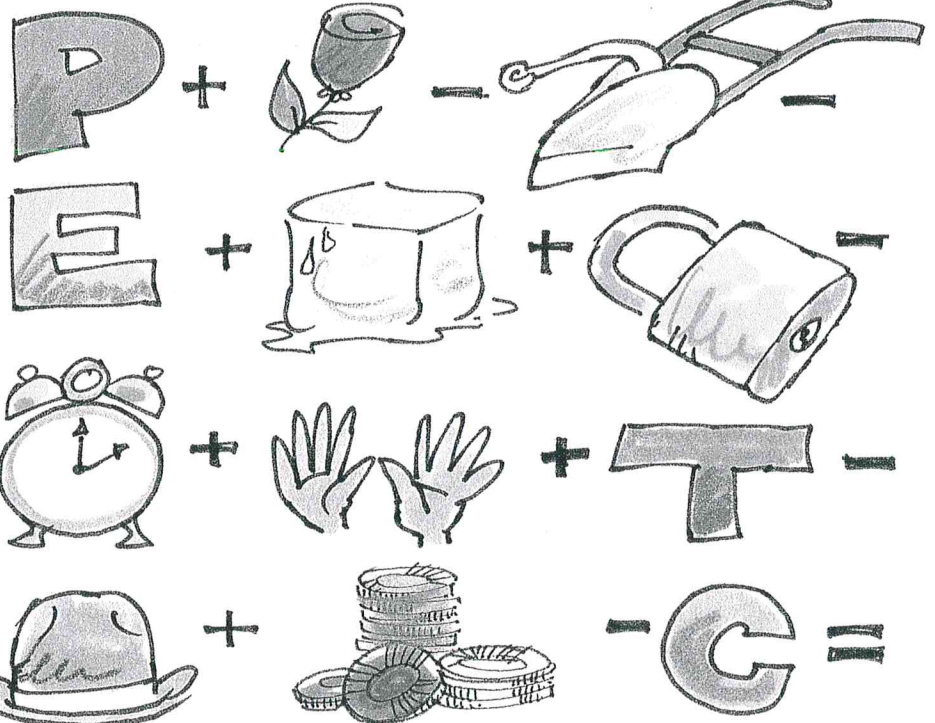


Do you have a best friend? How much would you be willing to pay for your friendship?

- Would you speak up when others are saying bad things about your friend, even if you knew it would make you unpopular?
- Would you be willing to give up special plans to keep your friend company if he or she was sick in bed?
- Would you let your friend borrow your most precious possession (your bike, your favorite cassette tape, your new sweater)?
- If your friend started doing something bad (like drinking, smoking, or taking drugs), would you try to talk him or her out of it?
- You and your friend plan to go to the movies on Saturday. If the most popular person in your class asked you to a special party that night and didn't invite your friend, what would you do?

## Treasure Hunt

Solve the rebus to discover a priceless treasure.

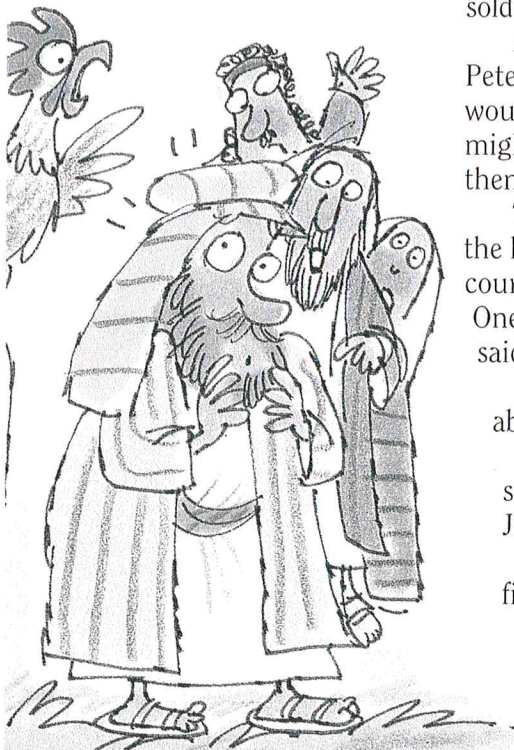


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Answer to Treasure Hunt: P + FLOWER + BLOW - E + ICE + LOCK - CLOCKS + T - HAT + HANDS + TOP = PRICELESS



# PETER'S FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS GETS TESTED



Jesus loved Peter very much, and Peter loved Jesus too. At the Last Supper, Jesus told Peter, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you know me."

"Never," Peter said. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny knowing you."

That night in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter's love for Jesus was put to the test. Soldiers came and arrested Jesus. Peter tried to stop them, but Jesus held him back. The soldiers dragged Jesus away.

All the other disciples ran away, but Peter followed the soldiers, making sure he would not be seen. Peter feared the soldiers might hurt him if they saw him following them.

The soldiers took Jesus to the home of the high priest. Peter sat out in the courtyard, hoping to hear news about Jesus. One of the servants came over to him and said, "You were with Jesus."

"I don't know what you're talking about!" Peter replied.

Then another woman saw him and said to her friends, "This man was with Jesus."

"I don't know him," Peter said firmly.

A little later some men came over to Peter and said, "You are certainly one of them!" They were accusing him of being one of Jesus' followers.

Then Peter really got angry. He yelled, "I don't even know the man!"

At that moment, a rooster crowed and Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter left the courtyard and cried bitterly. His friendship with Jesus had been tested...and he had failed.

## Think About It!

Suppose you were Peter. You love Jesus very much but you are afraid that if people learn you are Jesus' friend, you will be arrested and beaten. What would you have done?

Your love for Jesus will be tested often and sometimes, like Peter, you may fail him. Always remember that Jesus forgave Peter and made him the head of his Church.

Don't be ashamed to follow Jesus.

## SHARING the GOOD NEWS Activity for Class or Family

Answer  
each  
statement  
true or  
false.

1. I don't mind when people misuse God's name or tell jokes about religious matters. Sometimes the jokes are really funny and people don't really mean anything by it.
2. When I go out to eat in a restaurant, I always say grace before the meal.
3. If I had a friend who's not Christian, I'd avoid talking about religion around that friend. That's because I think my friend might not understand or would laugh at me.
4. I am happiest when I am with people who are not afraid to talk about their love for God.
5. When I am on vacation, I don't feel it is really necessary to go to Mass.
6. Our family prays regularly together.
7. My prayers are very private. I pray when I am alone but never with others, except in church.
8. I love to discuss my faith with others.
9. If I were Peter, I would have done exactly as he did. It was a matter of survival.
10. I spend some time every week reading the Scriptures because it makes me feel closer to God.

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When push came to shove, Peter was afraid to admit that he was a disciple of Jesus. He didn't want to pay the price. This incident, of course, happened before the descent of the Holy Spirit, who gave courage to all the disciples.

Ask yourself how brave you are in proclaiming your love for Jesus. How public are you with your faith? How proud are you to be called Catholic? Here is a simple test of your friendship with Jesus.

To score yourself, the even numbers should be true and the odd numbers false. How did you do? What kind of a friend are you to Jesus?



# Jesus Obeys His Father

Jesus was the best of Sons, and his Father the best of Fathers. Whenever the Father asked Jesus to do something that seemed just a bit hard to do, Jesus said, YES I WILL DO IT, because he trusted the Father's love.

Even when Jesus came to his time of trial and suffering and death, he knew his Father had a special plan to turn his suffering into joy.

But not only the suffering of Jesus was to be turned into happiness. This plan of the Father's was also a never-dying promise to us.

So Jesus walked the long, sad walk that led him to his cross so you and I could really see that death is not the end.

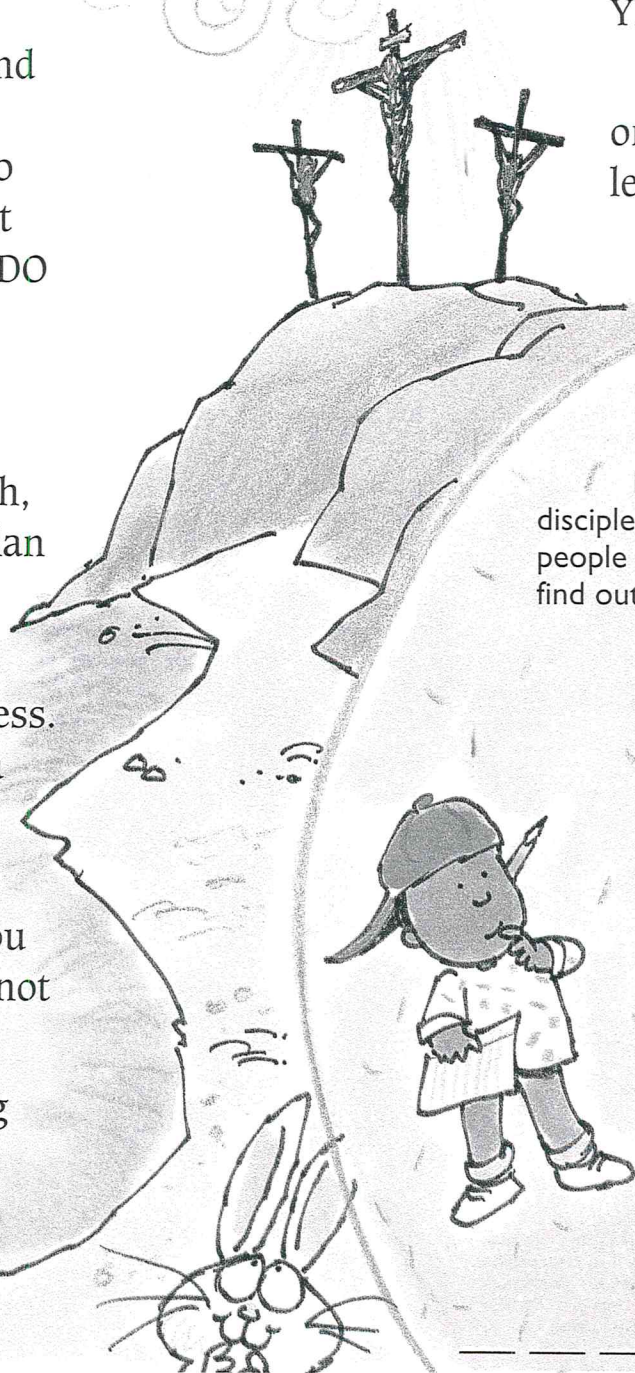
We know that Jesus is waiting with the Father in heaven today to greet us all with love and joy when our life on earth is done.

When you are asked to do things that seem just a bit hard to do, remember Jesus' long, sad walk and the joy that came with his YES!

Trust in the love of God, for God wants only the best for you. Follow the way that God lead's you; at the end you will find the joy.

## RING OF LOVE

Before Jesus was arrested, he shared a meal with his disciples. At that meal, he explained that he would be with his people forever. Starting at the arrow, read every other letter to find out what we call that special forever Presence of Jesus.





# Family Page

A beautiful way to remember the sufferings of Jesus during Holy Week is to share with your children what it means to make the Way of the Cross. This prayer form is still very much a part of our Catholic tradition. Here are some ideas to make this week truly holy and to deepen the whole family's understanding of Jesus' love.

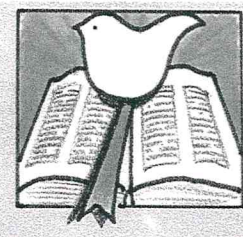
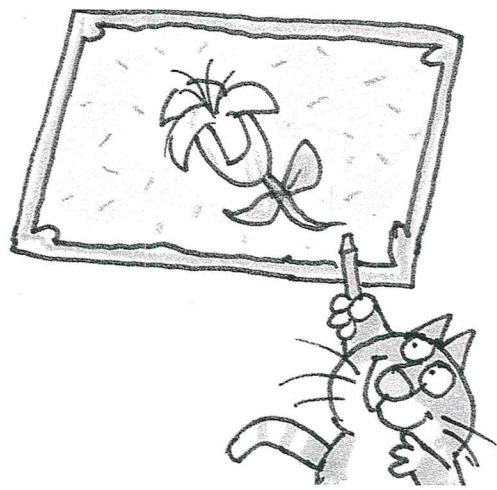
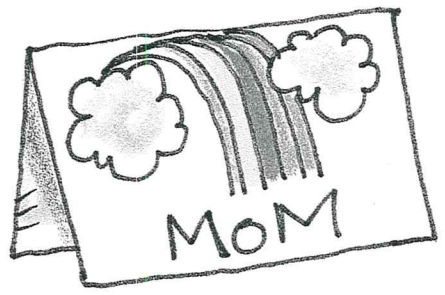


1 If your parish is having the Stations on Good Friday, go as a family. Help the children to follow what is happening and to pray each Station.

2 If there is no formal saying of the Stations, take the children to church and pray the Stations of the Cross with them. Or set aside a little time at home to read the story of Christ's Passion together.

3 As you become aware of how much Jesus loves you, consider ways that you can walk the road that Jesus walked and help others who are suffering — like smiling when you feel like crying, being kind to someone who has hurt you, or obeying rules that seem hard or unfair.

4 Start work on Easter placemats or name cards to use on your table next Sunday. Use pictures that represent new life (lily, rainbow, butterfly, and so forth) to decorate the mats or cards.



# explaining GOD'S WORD

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## A LONG, SAD WALK

When Jesus carried his cross to the hill at Calvary, it was a sad journey. But Jesus knew this was what his Father wanted. At the end of his long, sad road, Jesus knew the joy of the Resurrection.

During Holy Week, you are sorry that Jesus is sad. But at the end of the week comes his Easter joy! Starting with a big J for Jesus, solve the rebus and turn your SORRY into his JOY.

J + Sorry - S + 

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Answer to Rebus: J + Sorry - S + INK - R = JOY