

Thursday

The Last Supper

On this night we commemorate Jesus' meal with his disciples where he says some special words and does some special things. Let's listen and see.



Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it."

They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparation for it?"

"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'"

"He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there."



So, they went and found everything as he had told them;



and they prepared the Passover meal.



When it was evening he came with the twelve.

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

“Take; this is my body.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

He said to them “This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many.”

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



I wonder if this table reminds you of anything? Have you seen it at church? What happens at this table?

I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus said those words at supper, take, eat, take, drink?

Do they remind us of anything we have heard at church?

Every Sunday when we gather the priest says these words of Jesus.

This is a gift from Jesus to us. How do you feel when you receive this gift?

I wonder if it reminds us that Jesus lives in us?

Is there anything you would like to say to Jesus?

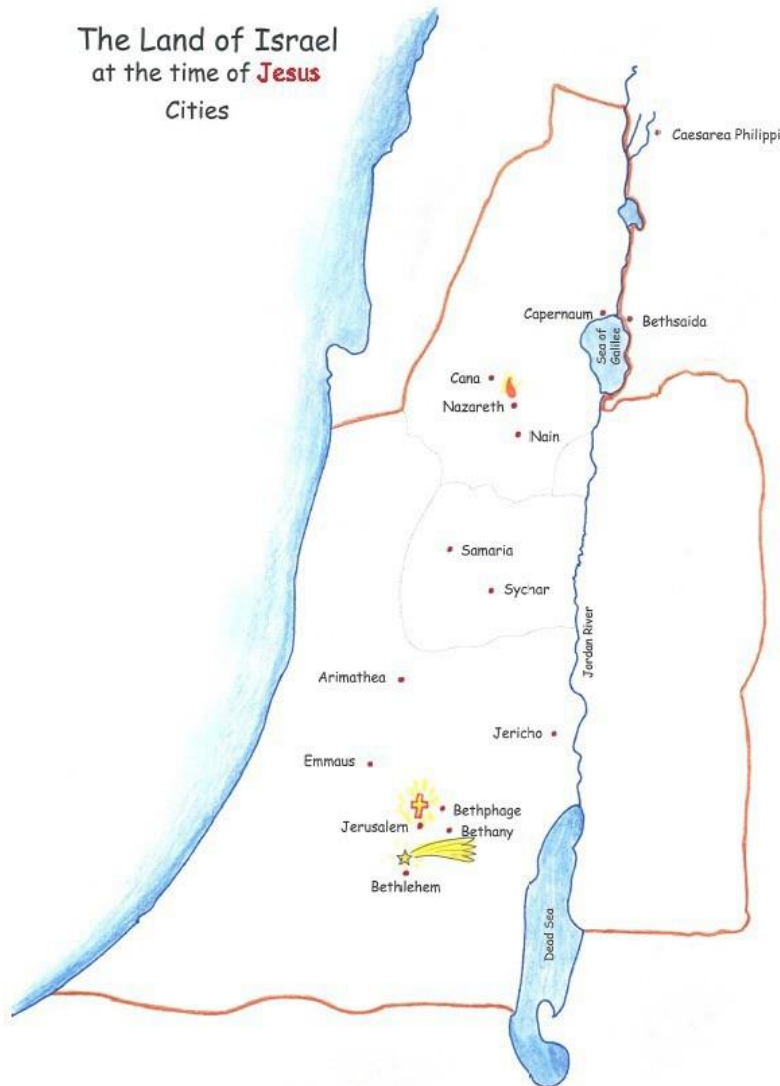
Would you like to draw a picture of the table?

Good Friday

The Events in Jerusalem

On this day we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Parents of younger, Level I children, will want to modify this presentation as appropriate for their children. The younger children have spent time with Jerusalem. The Jerusalem material was going to move into the Upper Atrium during Lent which did not happen. So the Upper Atrium children will not be familiar with this material but have worked with the maps of the regions and cities of Israel.

We name some of the significant locations of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus and realize that Jerusalem is an actual place where Jesus lived during a specific time.



Show the children the map of Israel showing the three important cities in Jesus' life. (Nazareth, the Annunciation to Mary, Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and Jerusalem where he died and rose again.)

Point out the city of Jerusalem and ask the children what happened there.

(Response---may say that is where Jesus died and rose again.). Jesus was often in the city of Jerusalem teaching and healing. It is in this city that Jesus spent the last days before his death.



Look at the picture of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was here in the City of Jerusalem for a special Jewish holiday, Passover.

He celebrated with his friends, his disciples, in a home, we call the cenacle or the upper room. Can you find it in the picture? (Gray building, bottom left)

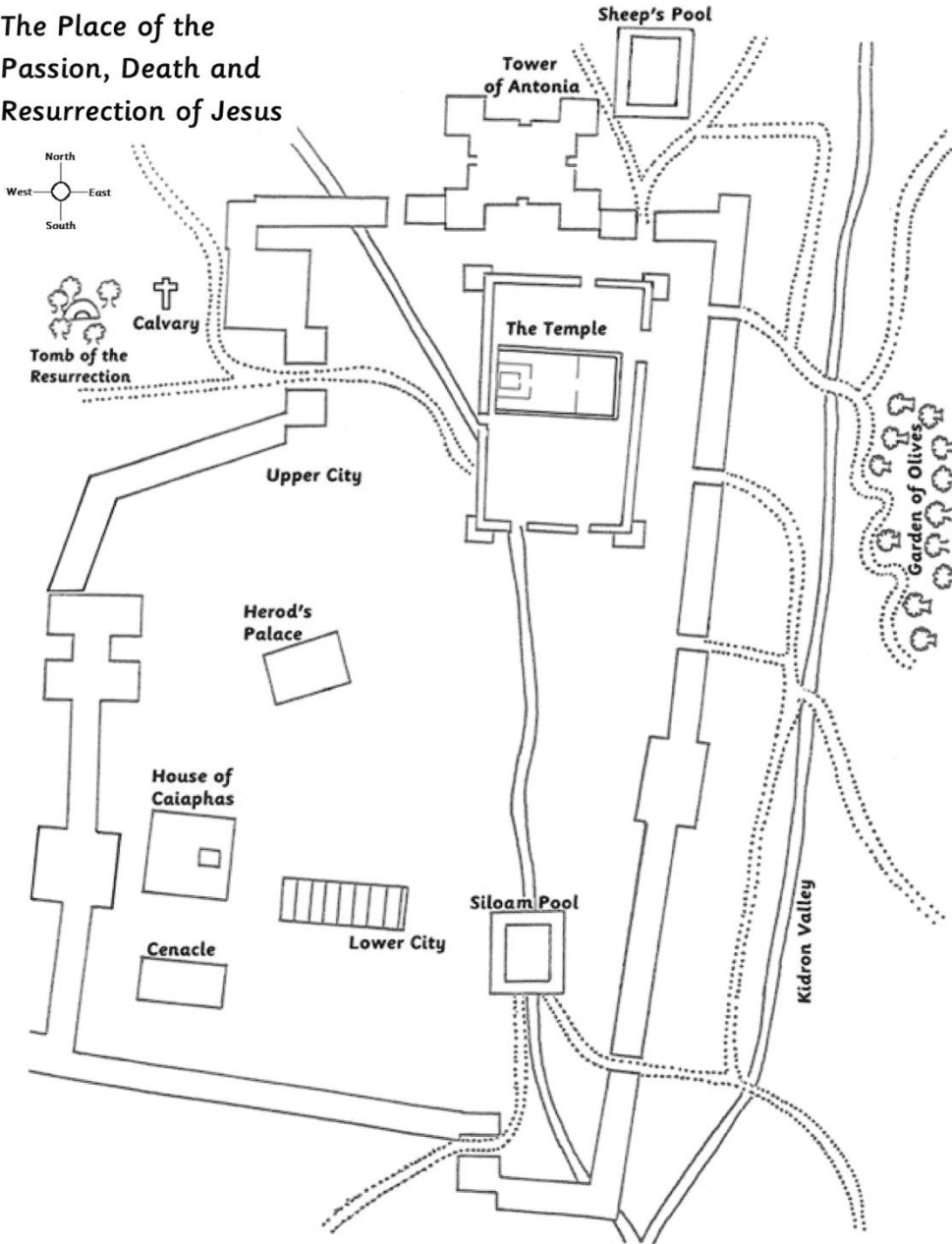


If you spent time with the meditation on the Cenacle yesterday, you are familiar with what happens here. He offers his body and blood to his disciples in love and asks them to continue to do this in remembrance of him.

After supper on Thursday, Jesus and his disciples left the city and went to the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is to the right outside the city.

Jerusalem

The Place of the
Passion, Death and
Resurrection of Jesus



The soldiers came and arrested Jesus while he was in the Garden and took him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. Can you find this in the picture? or on the map? It is the larger house right above or to the north of the cenacle. Although Caiaphas wanted to put Jesus to death, he did not have the authority to do that.

So the soldiers took Jesus to see Pontus Pilate who lived and worked in the Tower of Antonia Can you find this on the map? It is the part of the wall beyond the Temple, towards the top right. Pontus Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong.

So Pontus Pilate sent Jesus to Herod's Palace. Can you find this in the picture or on the map. It is the larger building between Caiaphas's house and the Temple. Again, Jesus was questioned, and again he was sent back to Pontus Pilate.

Pontus Pilate was going to release Jesus, but a crowd had gathered and they cried out and insisted that another prisoner, Barabbas be released and that Jesus be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus outside the city to Calvary and crucified him. Can you find this in the picture or on the map? It's the hill with the tomb, the cross, and the candle. This is where Jesus died for all of us.

Jesus's body was place in the tomb and sealed with a rock.

Did Jesus stay in the tomb? We know he rose again. But for now we need to wait.

All of this happened in the City of Jerusalem.

I wonder how Jesus' friends felt when they saw him arrested?

I wonder if Jesus' friends tried to stay with him or if they ran away?

It's very hard to wait to see what happens isn't it?

I wonder what you would say to Jesus if you could talk to him today.
(As a response, silence and quiet is always fine. We don't know how the children are reacting to these events. They may say something at a later time or express something in a drawing.)

Some possible work for the children: (Please, remember that personal work is a choice in the atrium, so these are only ideas, not requirements.)

- They may want to draw their own picture of the City of Jerusalem or of Calvary.

- They may want to write out the phrase, “Jesus died and He is risen” and decorate it as a prayer card.

- The older children may want to number the route that Jesus followed from the Cenacle to Calvary on a map of the city.

Holy Saturday

The Liturgy of the Light



On this day we prepare ourselves for Easter, and we light the new fire to proclaim that Christ has died and is risen.

If you have candles at home you can decorate one like the Paschal candle and others to light individually. You can use pins or tacks for the nails. Or you could make paper candles and decorate them appropriately.

(In the Liturgy of the light the various points on the cross are touched as each numbered blessing is read.)



Gathering Proclamation:

Leader: Today we join with the whole church to celebrate Easter, the greatest feast of all, the feast of Jesus' rising from the dead.

Blessing and Preparation of the Candle

Leader: The Pascal candle is a remembrance to us that Jesus has died, but is risen again. That he is...

1. Christ, yesterday and today
2. The Beginning and the End
3. Alpha
4. And Omega
5. All time belongs to Him
6. And to all ages.
7. To him be glory and power
8. Through every age forever.

All: Amen

Touching or inserting the Nails

1. Through his holy
2. and glorious wounds
3. may Christ the Lord
4. preserve us.
5. May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel
the darkness of our hearts and minds.

All: Amen

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Leader: Christ has died, but He is risen.

All: Alleluia

Solemn Procession with Paschal Candle

While processing stop three times and lift the candle saying:

Leader: The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Readings From Scripture

Isaiah 60:19

No longer will you need the sun or moon to give you light, for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light, and he will be your glory.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

All: Thanks be to God.

Praise Response---Exultet

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly hosts! Sing choirs of angels! Let all creation rejoice!

Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen!

All: Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen.

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor! Darkness vanishes forever!

Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen!

All: Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen.

Leader: Rejoice and be glad now, people of God's church! Let this place resound with joy!

Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen!

All: Jesus Christ, our Lord is risen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-7

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake: for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing

white as snow for fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead. And indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

Silent Lighting of Individual Candles

Leader: We celebrate that Christ is Risen and His Light and Life are stronger than death. We also celebrate that He came to share his Light and Life of the resurrection with us.

Each person comes forward to receive a lighted candle.

" _____, receive the light of Christ.

Everyone sits in silence. Shut off remaining lights.

Sing a song.

Gather the light by inviting everyone to one at a time place his or her candle by the Paschal candle.



Closing Prayer

Leader: Holy God accept the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the morning star who knows no setting, find it ever burning---he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen

The light is so beautiful. Did you notice in the picture of Jerusalem the stone was rolled away and the candle was lit? How did it feel when you saw that? I wonder how the women at the tomb felt when they heard the message of the angel?

I wonder, if we put out this light, would the light of Christ still be with us? Where would it be? Where might you see it? What might we say or sing or draw in response to this great gift?

Extensions for Upper Atrium Children Especially for Easter

These are scripture readings that may be used to support the older children's experiences with the Bible. I have included a scripture chart at the end. This chart is hanging in the Upper Atrium. The chart begins with Palm Sunday readings and continues through the Resurrection.

The children have been exposed to the Books of the Bible, that the Bible is made up of many books. **They have just begun finding citations.** We have talked about the fact that the New Testament is toward the back of the Bible coming after the Old Testament, which has many more books. They have made Kingdom of God charts that show the Old Testament covering

the time before Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, and the Old Testament covering the time of Jesus' life and the time after his resurrection.

There are different ways to use these scriptures.

- As we use Luke for the Jerusalem presentation, you may want to choose some of the Luke passages to read. The reading for the Resurrection, Luke 24:1-12 is a good way to celebrate Easter.

- As it is Year A in our Common Revised Lectionary, the children will be hearing the resurrection story in John 20:1-10 in church. You may want to read this with them.

- Throughout the next couple of weeks, you may want to read the other resurrection stories in Matthew and Mark.

Introduction

This is one of the stories of Jesus' resurrection that we find in the Bible. Would someone find the page in the Bible.

Light a candle if available. We light a candle when we read scripture as the Bible is a lamp that lights our path.

Take turns reading the passage.

Thoughts and questions to ponder:

- What did you hear?
- Who visited the tomb and received the good news?
- Who was the messenger of the good news?
- How do you think the visitors felt when they heard the good news?
- Did the person or people receiving the good news share it with others?
- How do you feel today receiving the good news of Jesus' resurrection?

If you read several of the resurrection stories, you might compare them:

- Who were visitors?
- How was the message given?
- Where did the visitors go when they left the tomb?
- Are there other elements that are the same or different?

Possible work of the children:

- The children might draw a picture of one of the empty tomb scenes
- The children might make a diorama of one of the empty tomb scenes

- The children might make a chart comparing two of the resurrection stories.
- The children might do a Reader's Theater of one of the scenes with different children taking different parts in the story: the messenger, one of the women, Peter

The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Messiah Enters Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-40	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-35	14:12-31	22:7-34	13:1-38
The Agony in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Jesus is Arrested	26:46-56	14:42-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus Before Caiaphas	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-71	18:12-27
Jesus Before Pilate: The First Time	27:11-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38
Jesus Before Herod			23:8-12	
Jesus Before Pilate: The Second Time	27:15-31	15:6-20	23:13-25	18:39-40 19:1-16
The Crucifixion	27:32-66	15:20-47	23:26-56	19:17-42

