# Holy Week Boxes: A Little Liturgy



**Materials:**

Cardboard gift box (varies sizes)
Wooden peg person
Wooden Thimble
Neutral sprip of felt
Twine
Black, Brown, and White Felt Squares
Black, White, and Green construction paper
Red molding clay
Natural Clay
Scissors and Glue
Holy Week Images and Scripture Cards printed on cardstock.

# Palm Sunday

Jesus is arriving in Jerusalem in The Story of His Life as we remember it today. He rides in on the back of a donkey and the people lay out their cloaks and palm fronds to prepare His way.



Select the Palm Sunday scripture (Matthew 21:1-11) and the Palm Sunday icon card. Read the scripture. Open your box and take out the Jesus peg person.
Decorate Jesus, if you want - eyes, mouth, hair, cloak, sandals, and a tunic made of felt. What else might Jesus need on the final days of this journey?

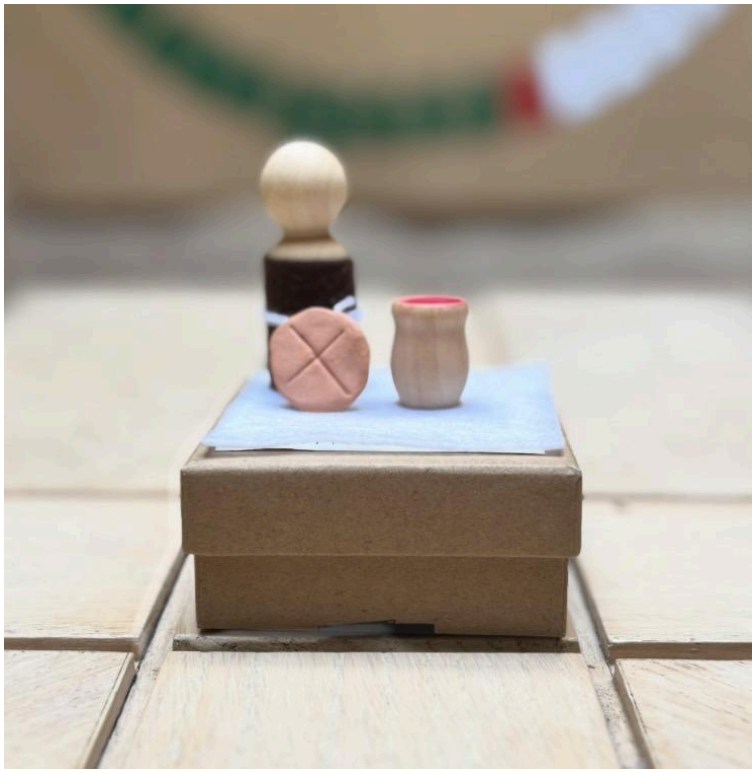
Using green construction paper, cut out two palm fronds to lay in Jesus' path into Jerusalem. Stand the box in the background. Imagine you are part of the story you read in the scripture. Where would you be? What would you say?




*Almighty and everlasting God, whose love sent God's Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take on our flesh and to suffer death on the cross, that all people could follow the example of Jesus' great humility: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of Jesus' patience, and also be part of Jesus' resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Friend, who lives and guides with God and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

# Maundy Thursday

Every Sunday, we remember this event during Eucharist. This week we remember it in a special way as we are walking through Jesus' final days - the first time he said these words - "This is my body…"



It's time to set the table.
With a small amount of natural clay form a loaf of bread or a small round flat loaf.
Fill your wooden thimble with red clay to resemble the cup of wine.



Using your box as the table, lay the white felt square on the top of the box.
Find your Last Supper Scripture (Matthew 26:26-28) and the Last Supper icon.
Open a Book of Common Prayer to p. 361 and go through the Eucharist together.

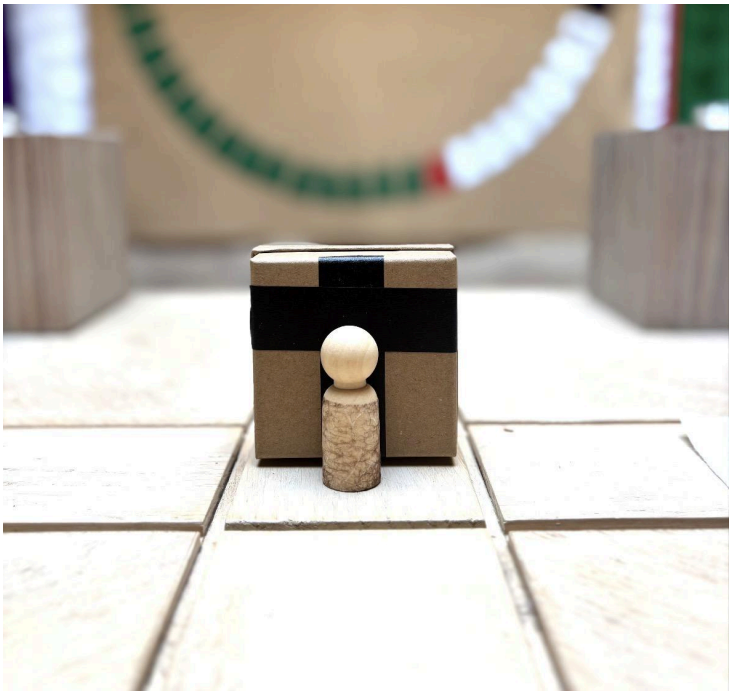
Consider reading the scriptures on your Garden of Gethsemane, Arrested, and Crown of Thorns cards,

too. After the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went away, so Jesus could pray. In memory of Jesus' night in the garden praying, we will sit, watch,  and wait with Jesus. As dawn broke and Jesus and the disciples were concluding their vigil, Judas betrayed Jesus, and the soldiers arrested Jesus.

*Almighty God, whose dear Son, on the night before the ultimate suffering, did institute the Sacrament of the Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same Sacrament in remembrance of Jesus who in these holy mysteries gives us a promise of eternal life, the same as Jesus Christ our Beloved; who now lives and guides with You and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.*

# Good Friday

Why is today called Good Friday? What does it mean to Crucify someone? Does anyone still get crucified? Have people other than Jesus been crucified?



Turn your box face down and using black washi tape, create a cross on the bottom of your Holy Week box.  Remove Jesus' felt tunic and stand the Jesus peg person against the cross.
Read the Crucified scripture (John 19:17-22) and display the crucified icon with Jesus and the cross box.

*Jesus Christ, Child of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with God and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Wrap your peg Jesus in white felt and place him in the box. Create a stone with black felt or foam and glue it onto the inside of the Holy Week Box lid. After placing the shrouded Jesus in our box, seal the tomb with the stone facing outward.

# Holy Saturday



Yesterday, Jesus was crucified and was buried in Joseph's tomb. He's there today. Dead. Wrapped in funeral linens. The women of Jesus' group of disciples will head to the tomb tomorrow to anoint Jesus' body as they continue in the 7-day ritual of shiva. Perhaps the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested, fearing for their own lives. Perhaps they are doing as men of their time would have and simply allowing the women to do the work of mourning and tending the body. Perhaps they have actively moved on to the work Jesus assigned them. Today, though, the tomb is still sealed.

Sit in silence. Turn all the lights off. How long can you sit still and quiet in the dark? What does it feels like to be still. To be quiet. What did you think about while you were being still and quiet? Why do you think some people like to sit still and quiet when they pray?

*O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your only Child was laid in the tomb and rested on the holy Sabbath, so we may await with Jesus the coming of the third day, and rise with Jesus to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

# Easter Sunday




**Easter Sunday**
**Χριστός ἀνέστη**
**Christos anesti**
**Christ is Risen!**

Turn your box into an open tomb. In what ways can you demonstrate the empty tomb with this box? Where will you put your Jesus peg person? How will you demonstrate the women at the tomb and their shock at Jesus' body not being there?

*O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of Jesus Christ's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship You in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate, who lives and guides with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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# Icons and Scripture Cards





Jesus and two others were crucified at the place of the Skull. Jesus was in the middle of the three. Pontius Pilate had a notice fastened to the cross that read JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

*John 19: 17 - 22*

**Crucified**



A man named Joseph asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance.

*Matthew 27: 57 - 60*

**Buried**



After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. There was a violent earthquake. An angel came down from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here, He has risen from the dead!"

*Matthew 28: 1 - 7*

**He is Risen**



**Buried**



**He is Risen**



The disciples went and did as Jesus instructed them. They brought a donkey and a colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A crowd spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

*Matthew 21: 1 - 11*

**Palm Sunday**



As Jesus and the disciples were eating, Jesus took bread and gave thanks, and said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup and gave thanks, and said, "Drink from it, this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

*Matthew 26: 26 - 28*

**Last Supper**



Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He told his disciples that he was going to pray. Jesus fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

*Matthew 26: 36 - 46*

**Garden of Gethsemane**



Later Judas, one of the twelve, arrived with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. Judas, the betrayer, kissed Jesus so the soldiers knew who to arrest. Jesus was arrested because he claimed to be the Son of God.

*Matthew 26: 47 - 68*

**Arrested**



After Jesus was arrested, the soldiers stripped him, put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They spit on him, struck him, mocked him and led him away to be crucified.

*Matthew 27: 27 - 31*

**Crown of Thorns**