

## Brainstorming Messages & Scripture

April 13- May 4, 2014

March 17, 2014

The month long message series will be based on the places in the Easter Story. It includes the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service of Holy Week in addition to Sunday services.

RSVP's are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office at 213-798-2181.

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### April 13, 2014: "Stations of Holy Week: The Road to Jerusalem

**Synopsis:** As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the scene along the road offers a commentary on both Jesus and the crowd watching the parade.

**Metaphor/visuals:** Re-creation of the road.

**Media possibilities:**

- "Palm Sunday: God's Way." Length: 2:01. Cost: \$15. Synopsis: Fast food restaurants tell us that we should have it our way. But, at the heart of the Christian faith is a willingness to surrender our will and say, Thy will be done. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/15111/palm-sunday-gods-way>.
- "Palm Sunday" (1529 Productions). Length: 1:40. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: This is a depiction of the events that happen on Palm Sunday with scripture passages to tell the story. Preview it at <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/30077/Palm-Sunday>.

**Drama possibility:** "The Colt Owner: A Palm Sunday Drama" by Dirk Fuller (last used in 2006)

**Music suggestions:** 280 All Glory, Laud, and Honor; 277 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna; 277 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

**Prayer of Confession?**

**Scripture:** Mark 11:1-11 (The Message)

<sup>1</sup>When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions:

<sup>2</sup>"Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'"

<sup>4</sup>They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. <sup>5</sup>Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup>The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. <sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

<sup>8</sup>The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Running ahead and following after, they were calling out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! <sup>10</sup>Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in highest heaven!"



<sup>11</sup>He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

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**April 17, 2014: "Stations of Holy Week: The Upper Room and Garden" Maundy Thursday**

**Synopsis:** The Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane are each places that remind us both of the holiness of Jesus and our own failings.

**Metaphor/visuals:** Re-creation of the Upper Room in the sanctuary. Portion of service outside in the Memorial Garden?

**Communion**

**Media possibility:** "The Last Supper: A Meditation" (Vertical Hold Media) to be played during communion. Length: 5:45. Cost: \$14.95. Synopsis: A beautiful pictorial meditation on the Last Supper. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/30520/the-last-supper-a-meditation>.

**Music suggestions:** 616 Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast (v. 1,4,5,); 290 Go to Dark Gethsemane

**Scripture:** Mark 14:12-42 (Contemporary English Version)

<sup>12</sup>It was the first day of the Festival of Thin Bread, and the Passover lambs were being killed. Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?"

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to two of the disciples, "Go into the city, where you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him, <sup>14</sup>and when he goes into a house, say to the owner, 'Our teacher wants to know if you have a room where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.'<sup>15</sup>The owner will take you upstairs and show you a large room furnished and ready for you to use. Prepare the meal there."

<sup>16</sup>The two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17-18</sup> While Jesus and the twelve disciples were eating together that evening, he said, "The one who will betray me is now eating with me."

<sup>19</sup>This made the disciples sad, and one after another they said to Jesus, "You surely don't mean me!"

<sup>20</sup>He answered, "It is one of you twelve men who is eating from this dish with me. <sup>21</sup>The Son of Man will die, just as the Scriptures say. But it is going to be terrible for the one who betrays me. That man would be better off if he had never been born."

**The Lord's Supper**

<sup>22</sup>During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this. It is my body."

<sup>23</sup>Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples, and they all drank some. <sup>24</sup> Then he said, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many people, and with it God makes his agreement. <sup>25</sup>From now on I will not drink any wine, until I drink new wine in God's kingdom." <sup>26</sup>Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Peter's Promise**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus said to his disciples, "All of you will reject me, as the Scriptures say, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'<sup>28</sup> But after I am raised to life, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

<sup>29</sup>Peter spoke up, "Even if all the others reject you, I never will!"

<sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "This very night before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me."

<sup>31</sup>But Peter was so sure of himself that he said, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never say that I don't know you!"

All the others said the same thing.

### Jesus Prays

<sup>32</sup>Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he told them, "Sit here while I pray."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus took along Peter, James, and John. He was sad and troubled and <sup>34</sup>told them, "I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me."

<sup>35-36</sup>Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed, "Father, if it is possible, don't let this happen to me! Father, you can do anything. Don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."

<sup>37</sup>When Jesus came back and found the disciples sleeping, he said to Simon Peter, "Are you asleep? Can't you stay awake for just one hour? <sup>38</sup>Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak."

<sup>39</sup>Jesus went back and prayed the same prayer. <sup>40</sup>But when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say.

<sup>41</sup>When Jesus returned to the disciples the third time, he said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of that! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. <sup>42</sup>Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here."

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**April 18, 2014: "Stations of the Cross"**

Good Friday Community Service

**Synopsis:**

**Metaphor/visuals:** Use images of traditional and modern/local places for the stations.

**Music suggestions:**

**Scripture:** Various

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**April 20, 2014: "Stations of the Resurrection: The Empty Tomb"**

Easter

**Synopsis:** The empty tomb is a symbol for God's gift of hope in all the ways that it comes to us.

**Metaphor/visuals:** Re-creation of the empty tomb.

**Media possibility:** "Empty Tomb" (Lumo Project). Length: 3:27. Synopsis: Celebrate the unbridled joy of Easter morning as the followers discover that the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive! Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/34218/the-empty-tomb>.

**Music suggestions:** 304 Easter People, Raise Your Voices; 307 Christ Is Risen; 315 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

**Scripture:** Mark 16:1-8 (Contemporary English Version)

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James bought some spices to put on Jesus' body.

<sup>2</sup>Very early on Sunday morning, just as the sun was coming up, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>On their way, they were asking one another, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?” <sup>4</sup>But when they looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. And it was a huge stone!

<sup>5</sup>The women went into the tomb, and on the right side they saw a young man in a white robe sitting there. They were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>The man said, “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn’t here. You can see the place where they put his body. <sup>7</sup>Now go and tell his disciples, and especially Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.”

<sup>8</sup>When the women ran from the tomb, they were confused and shaking all over. They were too afraid to tell anyone what had happened.

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**April 27, 2014: “Stations of the Resurrection: The Locked Room”** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Synopsis:** As the disciples huddle in the locked room, it becomes a symbol for our fear and doubt. As Jesus breaks in, it becomes a place that shows us the power of the Resurrection.

**Metaphor/visuals:** Re-creation of the locked room.

**Media possibility:** “Empty: The Story” (Big Book Media). Length: 3:54. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: Visual liturgy.

**Music suggestions:** 2206 Without Seeing You; 308 Thine Be the Glory; 2086 Open Our Eyes; “Empty” from Music Inspired by the Story (5:55)

**Prayer of Confession?**

**Scripture:** John 20:19-31 (Contemporary English Version)

<sup>19</sup>The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them <sup>20</sup>and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

<sup>21</sup>After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, “I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.”

<sup>22</sup>Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don’t forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven.”

#### **Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup>Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn’t with the others when Jesus appeared to them. <sup>25</sup>So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said, “First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won’t believe unless I do this!”

<sup>26</sup>A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples <sup>27</sup>and said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas replied, “You are my Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!”

#### **Why John Wrote His Book**

<sup>30</sup>Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life.

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**May 4, 2014: “Stations of the Resurrection: The Road to Emmaus”** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Synopsis:** The road to Emmaus is a symbol for any time we do not recognize Jesus’ presence with us on life’s journeys.

**Metaphor/visuals:** Re-creation of the Emmaus road.

**Communion**

**Music suggestions:** 310 He Lives; 309 On the Day of Resurrection

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-27 (New Living Translation)

<sup>13</sup>That same day two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup>But God kept them from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, **“What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”**

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”

<sup>19</sup>**“What things?”** Jesus asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

<sup>22</sup>“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup>They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup>Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

<sup>25</sup>Then Jesus said to them, **“You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup>Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”** <sup>27</sup>Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

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Apostle’s Creed  
Pulpit