

PALM SUNDAY

MERCIFUL JUDGE

As our Lenten journey comes to an end, we turn our eyes to Christ's passion. By His self-offering on the cross, He made our salvation possible. The cross is the source of our hope. The cross reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice and is a symbol worthy of veneration. Sunday's readings can be found [here](#).

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Jesus died on a cross but rose from the dead.

Jesus died by crucifixion, a penalty typically reserved for the worst criminals, even though He was innocent. In the early Church, there were many who believed that Jesus did not truly die, but that He merely appeared to die. The Church rejects this notion. Jesus died, just as we will one day.

Scripture Resources: [Philippians 2:6-8](#), [Luke 23:44-49](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 624-628](#)

The cross is a sign of hope for us.

If not for Christ's resurrection, the cross might very well be a symbol of defeat. But because it is through the cross that Jesus conquered death, the cross has become a symbol of hope for us.

Scripture Resources: [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#), [1 Peter 2:24](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 550](#), [CCC 1182](#)

We make the Sign of the Cross to remember this hope.

The Sign of the Cross is a simple prayer that recalls both the mystery of the Trinity and the salvation won for us through Christ.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 28:19](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 1235](#), [CCC 2157](#)



PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.) so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

01 Jesus died on a cross but was raised from the dead.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- How did Jesus die? Can you make the shape He died in with your arms?
- What happened after Jesus died? (He rose again.)

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- What do you think it was like for Jesus to accept death on a cross?
- How should we respond to Christ's death for us?
- How can we share in Christ's resurrection? (by following Jesus; by being a disciple of Jesus)

02 The cross is a sign of hope for us.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Do you know anyone who wears a cross or a crucifix? Who?
- Why do you think they wear it?
- We say the cross is a symbol of hope. Why does the cross give hope?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- Crucifixion was a punishment for criminals in the Roman Empire. Can you think of something like that in our time?
- Does that punishment seem like a good symbol of hope? Why or why not?
- Why is the cross a symbol of our hope?

03 We make the Sign of the Cross to remember this hope.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Why do we make the Sign of the Cross?
- What does it remind us of?
- When do we make the Sign of the Cross?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- When do you make the Sign of the Cross?
- Why do you make it then?
- Are there other times when the Sign of the Cross would make a good prayer? When?

FATHER,

INTO YOUR HANDS

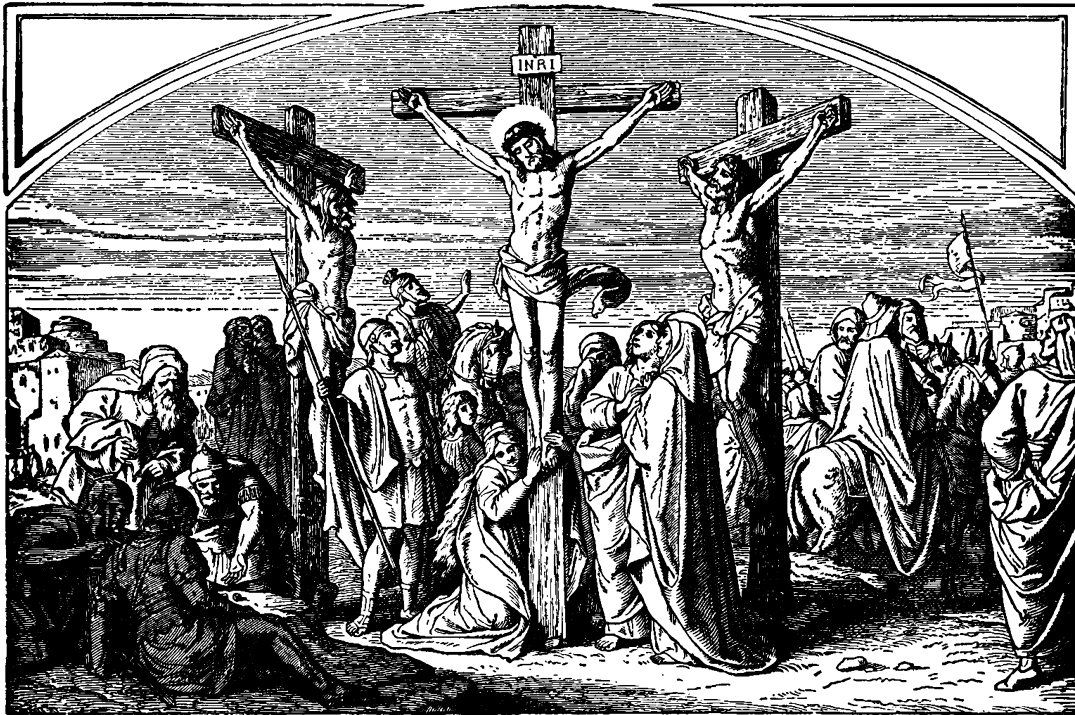
I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Read the passage listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Philippians 2:6-11](#) - Jesus' selflessness



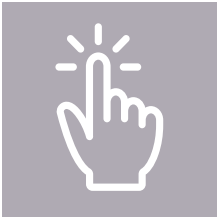
PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Practice learning the **Sign of the Cross** located in the Prayer Guide.

FOR THE FAMILY:

Practice meditative prayer as a family. (Here is a great [guide to meditative prayer with children](#).) Use the Sign of the Cross as the invocation. Consider playing a quiet background song like, "Lift High the Cross."

**ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME**

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Draw a large outline of a cross and invite your child to decorate it with words and pictures of hope to remind him or her of the hope the cross gives us. Hang it in a place of prominence.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Jesus traveled to Jerusalem even though He knew that He would suffer and die there. Think of something in your own life that you have been putting off because it will be difficult. Commit to completing it this week. Pray for Jesus' help if you struggle.

FOR THE FAMILY: Do you have a cross or crucifix hanging somewhere in your house? Some families have a cross or crucifix over the door to each bedroom. Can you draw or obtain crosses or crucifixes to put in special places in your home to remind you of Christ and His sacrifice for us on the cross?

