



Welcome to LAM4Kids Holy Week resource for families for 2024.

This booklet has

- a Bible story,
- comments for discussion,
- prayer and activity suggestions

Holy Week:
from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday

Leeds Anglican Ministries
Stronger Together in Christ



Parents/Guardians/Care-givers:

While the language in this resource is simplified from original sources, you may still want to simplify it further or add explanations as appropriate for your family.

As you engage the daily resources, we encourage you to also make use of the felt craft that lets you re-create the whole drama as you go along.

Please cut out the individual bible characters and other pieces on the supplied piece of felt and use them to tell the story on the blue and green felt storyboard. You can also use the other pieces of felt to cut out shapes for a tomb, rocks, trees and more.

**I will follow you, Jesus, by following love,
and earth will grow closer to heaven above.
When we serve others and do good deeds,
when we show people kindness and care for their needs,
earth will grow closer to heaven above
when we follow you, Jesus, when we follow love.
Amen.**

(www.stjamesmtairy.org)

(Resource adapted from Canadian Bible Society biblesociety.ca 'The Word for Families' booklets: Jesus Enters Jerusalem, Jesus Cleans The Temple, The Perfume Offering, The Plot Against Jesus, The Last Supper, Peter Denies Jesus, The Crucifixion, The Empty Tomb)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY - on this day we remember the Palm Procession as Jesus entered the city and was greeted by the crowds, and we also remember the whole story of his Passion - his suffering and sacrifice for us.

See Luke 19:28-40

Jesus went towards Jerusalem. As he was getting near, he sent two of his disciples on ahead. He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

They went off and found everything just as Jesus had said. While they were untying the donkey, its owners asked, "Why are you doing that?" They answered, "The Lord needs it." Then they led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back and helped Jesus get on. And as he rode along, the people spread clothes on the road in front of him. When Jesus was setting off, his large crowd of disciples were happy and praised God because of all the miracles they had seen. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God." Some religious leaders in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!" But Jesus answered, "If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting."

The final week of Jesus' life arrives. Because of Jesus' wonderful deeds, teaching and healing people, he has a hero's welcome into Jerusalem on the day we now call Palm Sunday. People line the streets, waving palms and throwing their clothes on to the road to make a sort of red carpet for a new king. They shout out in welcome, believing that Jesus has come to rescue them from the Romans. Their words about peace and glory are almost an echo of what the angels sang on the night Jesus was born, but, just as the arrival of the king then as a helpless baby was unexpected, so this arrival takes everyone by surprise too. He chooses to ride a donkey, not a fine white stallion, which would have better suited a great king. Jesus is a different sort of king; even so, he recognizes that this is a day of rejoicing because an amazing rescue is about to happen, one that the crowds cannot begin to imagine.

Prayer Idea

Use the 'palms' of your hands to show different sorts of prayer:

- Wave the palms of your hands in praise of Jesus
- Hold up your palms, asking Jesus to be king of your life this day
- Turn over your palms to let go of all that is bad
- Press together the palms of your hands and ask God to help you to be ready to say "yes"
- Stretch out your palms to bless each other in the name of the Lord

Activity Idea

Have your own Palm Procession:

Carefully cutting open the bag this came in so that it lies flat, or using another piece of paper, trace handprint 'palm leaves', colour them, cut them out and attach them to sticks, or gather local branches (try to use ones that have fallen on the ground).

Have a parade, inside or out, saying or singing "Sing Hosanna to the King!"

You can find a version of the song here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzYcG0HuqTE&ab_channel=TheMark10Mission



Jesus Cleans The Temple

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

See John 2:13-22

Not long before the Jewish festival called Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. He found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw people exchanging different sorts of money. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the money-changers and scattered their coins.

Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a market place." The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle will you perform to show us why you have done this?" "Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" The leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?"

But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

To worship at the temple in Jerusalem for one of the great festivals was a high point for any Jewish believer, especially the annual Passover celebrations, which remembered the time when God rescued the Jewish people from being slaves in Egypt. Thousands of people arrived and crowded into the outer areas of the temple, eager to buy the necessary animals – mainly sheep or doves – to use in the special ceremonies. The religious leaders set up market stalls and also, because the use of Roman coins was forbidden in the temple, a place to change money into the right kind to spend. In fact, it had become a huge money making event – that is, until Jesus appeared.

When he visited the temple as a young boy, Jesus told his mother, Mary, that this was his father's house, and these words are heard again as he drives out all those who are buying and selling. When challenged by the authorities, he replies with what seems to them to be a riddle, claiming that, should the temple be destroyed, he will rebuild it in three days. Only much later did his disciples realize what he had been saying. He was predicting his resurrection; however, the Jewish leaders took his words literally and stored them up as evidence to use against him when they put him on trial for insulting the temple and their God.

Prayer Idea

For each of the different things in the story, create a prayer. For example, "May we not be like sheep and wander from you"; "May we not be like foolish cattle and miss hearing your voice"; "May we be like doves, always knowing how to fly home back to you"; "May we not be like coins spent on things that take us away from you."

Activity Idea

As you think about Jesus 'cleaning' the temple, are there things you could help cleaning inside or outside your own home?

Maybe when you are cleaning up you might want to look for clothes, toys or other things that you don't really need anymore that you could share with somebody else. Discuss how to do this with your family.

Colour me!



The Perfume Offering

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

See Mark 14:1-9

Two days before Passover the religious leaders and teachers were secretly planning to have Jesus arrested and put to death. They were saying, "We must not do it during the festival, because the people will riot."

Jesus was eating at a friend's home when a woman came in with a very expensive bottle of sweet-smelling perfume. After breaking it open, she poured the perfume on Jesus' head. This made some of the guests angry, and they complained, "Why such a waste? We could have sold this perfume for more than three hundred silver coins and given the money to the poor!" So they started saying cruel things to the woman.

But Jesus said: "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. And whenever you want to, you can give to them. But you won't always have me here with you. She has done all she could by pouring perfume on my body to prepare it for burial. Wherever the good news is told all over the world, people will remember what she has done. And they will tell others."

It seems that Jesus didn't stay in the city overnight but returned with his disciples each evening to Bethany, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. In this story they are dinner guests of a man called Simon when a woman appears with expensive perfume to pour over Jesus' head. She may be Mary or Martha from nearby, or possibly another woman called Mary, nicknamed 'Magdalene', who came from Galilee and whom Jesus had dramatically healed. The guests are angry that so much costly perfume is being wasted. It could have been spent on those in need.

As so often, Jesus' response is a surprise. He knows that he's going to die soon, and perhaps the woman is the only other person in that room to realize this. What she is offering him is a very special gift indeed; here is someone who cares for and understands him. It is an act of kindness that everyone should hear about, Jesus tells them all, and his words have come true: the woman's story has been told right around the world, including to you today.

Prayer Idea

The smell of incense (things that smell nice when they are burned) or perfume is used today by Christians in some church services, and by people of other religions too. It is both something beautiful for God and a picture of our prayers and worship. Put a little bit of the scented oil provided on the back of your hand and wave it around as you say a prayer. Pray that the good news of Jesus will spread like the fragrance of the perfume into every corner of people's lives and around the world.

Activity Idea

What are some of your favourite smells?

As a family, take a tour of your kitchen to smell spices, fruits and other things that have a nice smell.

Ask someone in your family if they would like you to rub nice smelling lotion, or the scented oil from the bag, on their hands.



The Plot Against Jesus (and Preparation for the Passover)

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

see Luke 22:1-13

The Festival of Thin Bread, also called Passover, was near. The religious leaders and teachers were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus, because they were afraid of what the people might do. Then evil thoughts came to Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve apostles. Judas went to talk with the leaders about how he could help them arrest Jesus. They were very pleased and offered to pay Judas some money. He agreed and started looking for a good chance to betray Jesus when the crowds were not around.

The day had come for the Festival. So Jesus said to Peter and John, "Go and prepare the special Passover meal for us to eat." But they asked, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" Jesus told them, "As you go into the city, you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house and say to the owner, 'Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.' The owner will take you upstairs and show you a large room ready for you to use. Prepare the meal there." Peter and John left. They found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Jesus' actions in the temple had shocked many people and convinced the religious leaders that Jesus was becoming an embarrassment to them and a risk, because it could provoke the Roman soldiers to come down heavily on the festival crowds. They were also fearful of losing their own position of influence and power. They could see no other solution than to have Jesus killed.

It is hard to understand what Judas' motives were in striking a deal with the leaders. In the meantime, it was clear that the one person really in charge was Jesus, who had arranged a place for them all to celebrate the special Passover meal. All they had to do was to follow a man with a water jar, which would have been an unusual sight in those days when women usually carried the water. It was an almost comical game of 'follow the leader' in what was otherwise such a tragic week.

Prayer Idea

Whatever we think about Judas, he is a warning to each of us to think about the choices we make. We all need help to discover the way ahead when faced by hard decisions. Use the letters of the name JUDAS to help you pray about this. For example, ask God to help you to **J**udge tricky situations properly; **U**nderstand the way to go; **D**ecide what will be good for other people, not just yourself; **A**dmit your need; and **S**eek God's will.

Activity Idea

Is your family planning to do something special to celebrate Easter? Have a conversation about how each member of the family can help to prepare for that celebration.

Using the construction paper provided and other craft supplies you have on hand, make placemats or name cards for the people who will be gathering for an Easter meal.



The Last Supper

THURSDAY IN HOLY WEEK - This day is often called 'Maundy Thursday' to remind us of the new rule or 'mandate' that Jesus gives us: To love each other as he loves us.

See Luke 22:14-23

All Jewish people used to get together with their families for the Festival of Passover. Jesus knew that he would soon be arrested and condemned to death, so he wanted to spend one last evening with his friends for this special supper.

When the time came for Jesus and his followers to eat, he said to them, "I have very much wanted to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer. I tell you that I will not eat another Passover meal until it is finally eaten in God's kingdom."

Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he told them, "Take this wine and share it with each other. I tell you that I will not drink any more wine until God's kingdom comes."

Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks for it. He broke the bread and handed it to them. Then he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this as a way of remembering me!"

After the meal he took another cup of wine in his hands. Then he said, "This is my blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes his new agreement.

The Passover meal is still celebrated every year in Jewish homes. There are particular words that are said and certain foods eaten, which help tell the story of how God sent Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery under the Egyptians to freedom across the Red Sea.

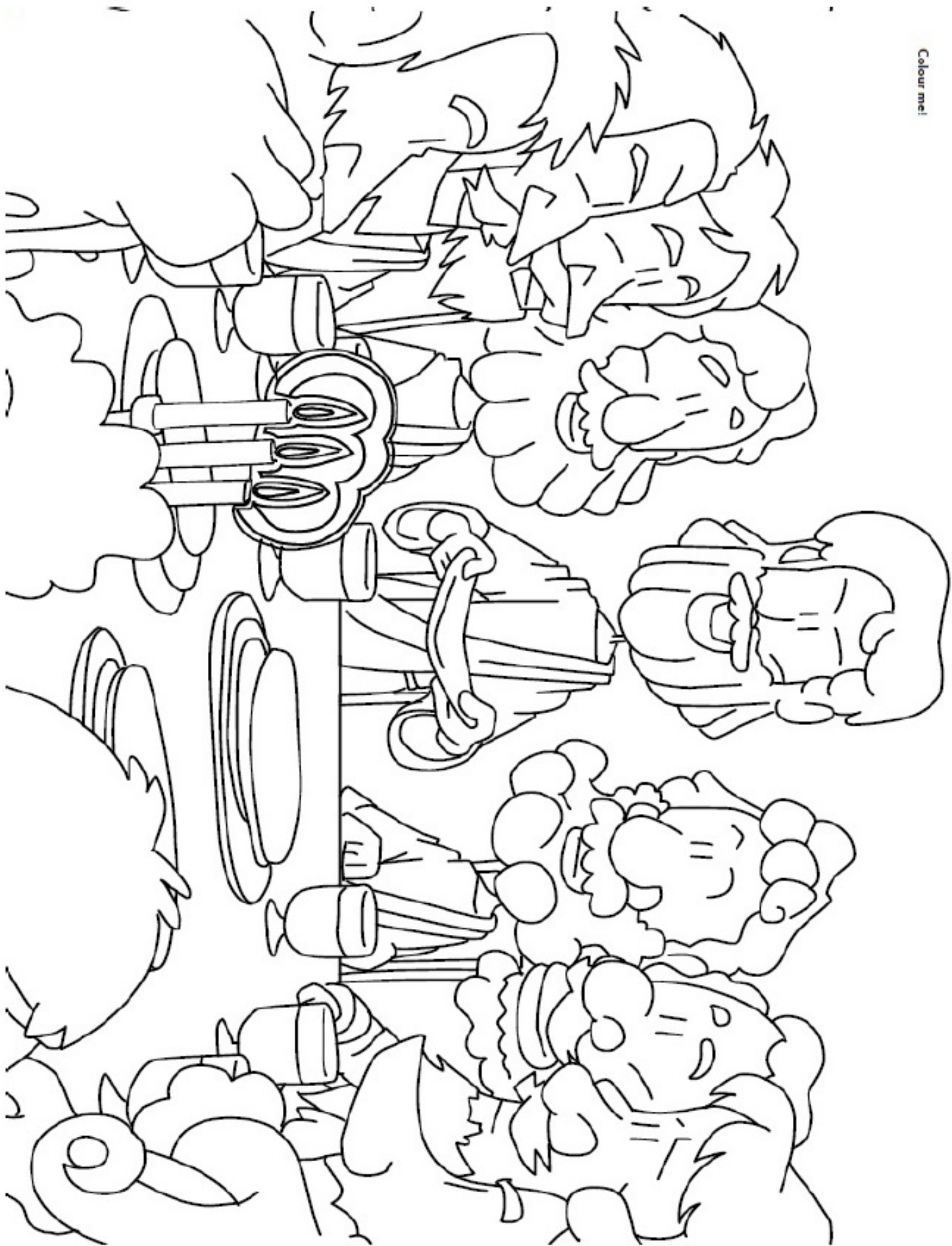
Jesus was the host for this particular Passover meal with his friends, but, to their surprise, he took some of the traditional parts of the ceremony and gave them new meanings. He described the bread as his body and the wine as his blood. He wanted his disciples to have a way of remembering his death, now only hours away, which would rescue them just as God had saved the Israelites long ago.

Prayer Idea

Eating the bread and drinking the wine are ways of remembering Jesus that we do in our worship. How does your family remember Jesus when you are eating? Do you have a special prayer you say? Special reminders are a good way to help us to pray. Talk about what you could carry with you to help you remember to pray for your family, your friends, people in need and people far away. For example, you could choose ribbons of different colours, or beads that are differently shaped. Decide what you as a family will do to make sure you are remembering Jesus when you eat, and what you will use as reminders while you are away from each other and from home.

Activity Idea

Pretzels are a special kind of bread that are shaped to remind us of hands lifted in prayer. As you follow the recipe included in this activity bag, see if there are any Bible stories you remember about water, wheat(grain), oil, yeast or salt.



The Crucifixion

FRIDAY IN HOLY WEEK - We call this day 'Good Friday', not because what happened to Jesus is good, but because it is a Holy day.

See Luke 23:38-49

Jesus was arrested and sentenced to death, even though he had done nothing wrong. He was led outside the city and nailed to a cross, like a common criminal. Two criminals were also nailed to crosses, one on each side of Jesus.

Above him was a sign that said, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging there insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah, the one anointed to save? Save yourself and save us!" But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!" Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise." Around noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until the middle of the afternoon. The sun stopped shining, and the curtain in the temple split down the middle. Jesus shouted, "Father, I put myself in your hands!" Then he died. When the Roman officer saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Jesus must really have been a good man!" A crowd had gathered to see the terrible sight. Then after they had seen it, they felt brokenhearted and went home. Jesus' close friends, including the women who had come with him from Galilee, stood at a distance and watched.

Even when he was hanging from the cross, Jesus continued to show love and bring hope to others. The criminals on either side of him were going through the same agony, but, unlike Jesus, they had committed crimes. One joined in with the crowd's insults. The other is clearly sorry for what he has done and simply hopes to be part of God's kingdom when he dies. Jesus promises that this criminal will be with him in paradise that day.

By now it is afternoon and the end is near. It is almost as if the whole world goes dark, but it is also the moment when Jesus defeats the powers of darkness.

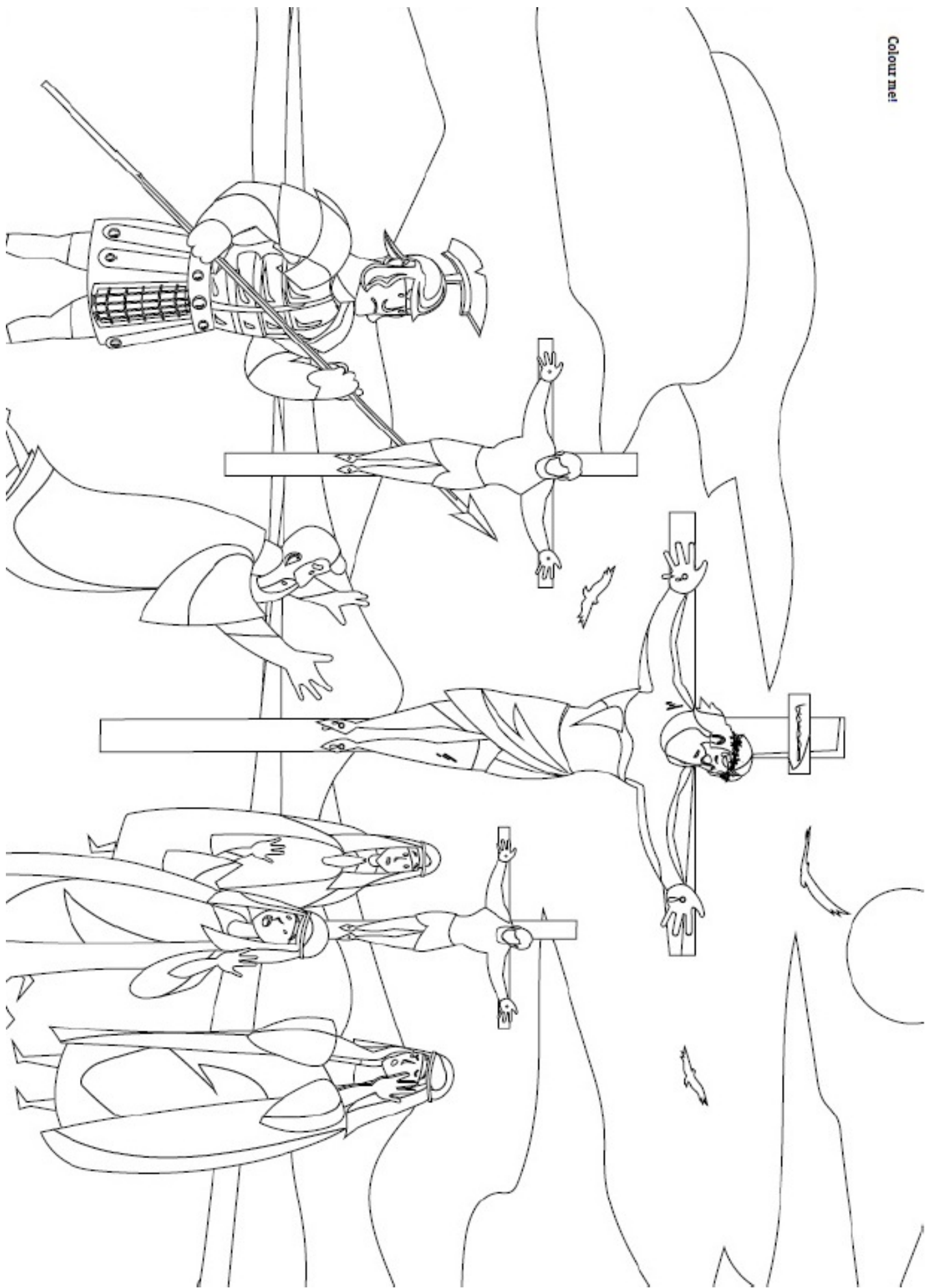
The crowd and Jesus' friends saw defeat and went away broken-hearted, but in fact what had happened that day was part of the greatest miracle God has ever done.

Prayer Idea

Jesus wants us all to have a heavenly life now and into eternity. The second criminal discovered this to be true. Offer a special prayer—either out loud or quietly—to say that you will trust Jesus just as the thief on the cross did. Heaven starts right here and now for everyone who prays this sort of prayer.

Activity Idea

Many people do a 'Walk of the Cross' on Good Friday. Gather your family and plan a walk. Make sure you take time to thank God for the wonderful things you see on your walk, and to make stops along the way to pray. You may want to take a Cross from home, or make one from branches, to carry on your walk.



Peter Denies Jesus

SATURDAY IN HOLY WEEK - Holy Saturday is a Day when we are encouraged to take some time to be quiet, still and serious as we think about the great sacrifice for us. The story we hear today actually takes place before Jesus was crucified, but it's a good story to help us think about how challenging it can be to truly follow Jesus.

See Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75

After the last supper, Jesus and his friends, called disciples, went to a garden to pray. The disciples, including Peter, fell asleep but Jesus was praying hard because he knew that he would soon be arrested. And that's what happened. Soldiers and a mob of people with clubs and swords grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

After Jesus had been arrested, he was led off to the house of the main religious leader, where the leaders and teachers were meeting. Peter followed along at a distance and came to the yard of the house to see what was going to happen. While Peter was in the yard, a servant girl came up to him and said, "You were with Jesus from Galilee." But in front of everyone Peter said, "That isn't so! I don't know what you are talking about!"

When Peter had gone out to the gate, another servant girl saw him and said to some people there, "This man was with Jesus from Nazareth." Again Peter denied it, "I don't even know that man!"

A little while later some people standing there walked over to Peter and said, "We know that you are one of them. We can tell it because you talk like someone from Galilee." Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't know that man!" Right then a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered that Jesus had said, "Before a rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went out and cried hard.

The disciples had all run away when Jesus was captured, except for Peter, who followed the temple guards secretly and made his way to where Jesus was being held. Inside they were busy questioning Jesus, accusing him of all sorts of things that he hadn't done. Jesus said very little, but just once he let them know that he was from God, and this caused uproar. Peter was nearby. He must have been terrified and, as a result, he denied being one of Jesus' followers, even saying that he never knew him. Jesus had warned him that this would happen, but Peter hadn't believed it. No wonder he burst into tears and disappeared off into the darkness.

This is a really honest story. Peter went on to become a leader of the church, but he didn't mind people knowing how low he had once sunk. Perhaps he wanted them to understand how much Jesus loved him and, therefore, each one of us, that he could forgive even this betrayal.

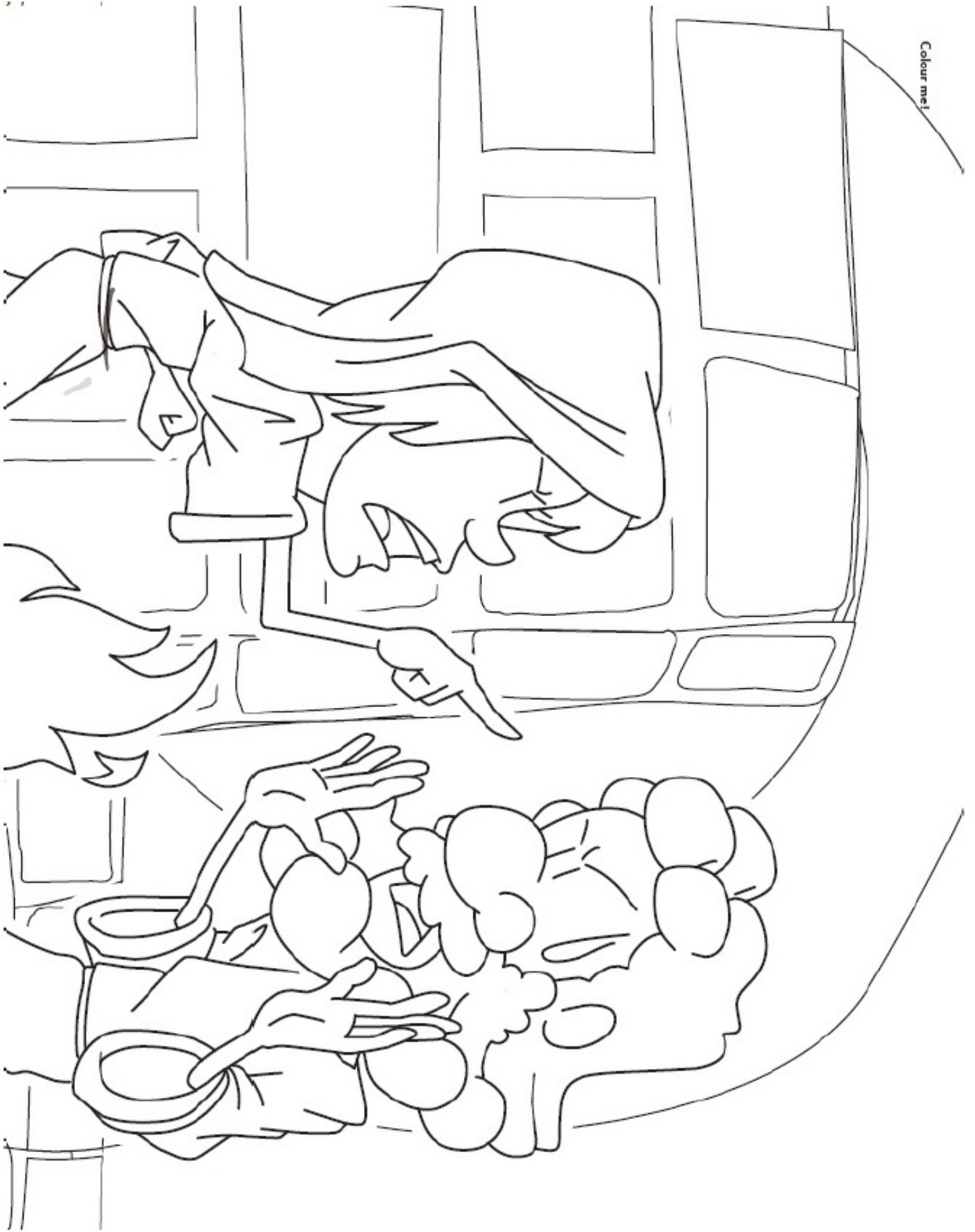
Prayer Idea

After a time of quiet, ask God to forgive you for the ways you have let him down and then be honest with each other and forgive each other for the ways you have let each other down. Sometimes, tears are involved when we say 'sorry' properly like this.

Activity Idea

Spend some time out in creation listening to the birds. How many bird songs and calls can you identify?

Special note: peak ahead to see tomorrow's activity, which you may want to start this evening.



The Empty Tomb

EASTER SUNDAY - Today we rejoice and give thanks that the Tomb is empty: Jesus Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

See Matthew 28:1-9

After Jesus died on the cross, his body was taken down, wrapped in burial cloths and placed in a tomb that had been cut out of solid rock, and a big stone was rolled against the entrance to the tomb. It was Friday and according to Jewish tradition, the burial had to happen before sundown because no one was allowed to do anything on the Sabbath (Saturday).

When the Sabbath was over, and it was almost daybreak on Sunday Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly a strong earthquake struck, and the Lord's angel came down from heaven. He rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel looked as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards shook from fear and fell down.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying. Now hurry! Tell his disciples that he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him. That is what I came to tell you."

The women were frightened and yet very happy, as they hurried from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples.

Jesus' dead body had been taken down from the cross before sunset on the Friday. A Jewish leader who was a secret disciple offered his own rock tomb nearby for the burial, and a stone was rolled over the entrance. The women, including Mary Magdalene, had watched all this. The next day was a special Jewish Sabbath, so no one travelled anywhere.

It wasn't until early on the Sunday morning that the women could go to the tomb to pay their last respects. To their surprise, the stone had been rolled away. They ran to fetch Peter and John, who came to see for themselves what had happened.

Later on, Jesus, who had come back from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, who had come back to the tomb to try and make sense of what had happened. Her last sight of him had been of a terribly injured body on a cross and perhaps that is why she did not recognize him at first. Only when he said her name did she realize that this was really Jesus, back from the dead.

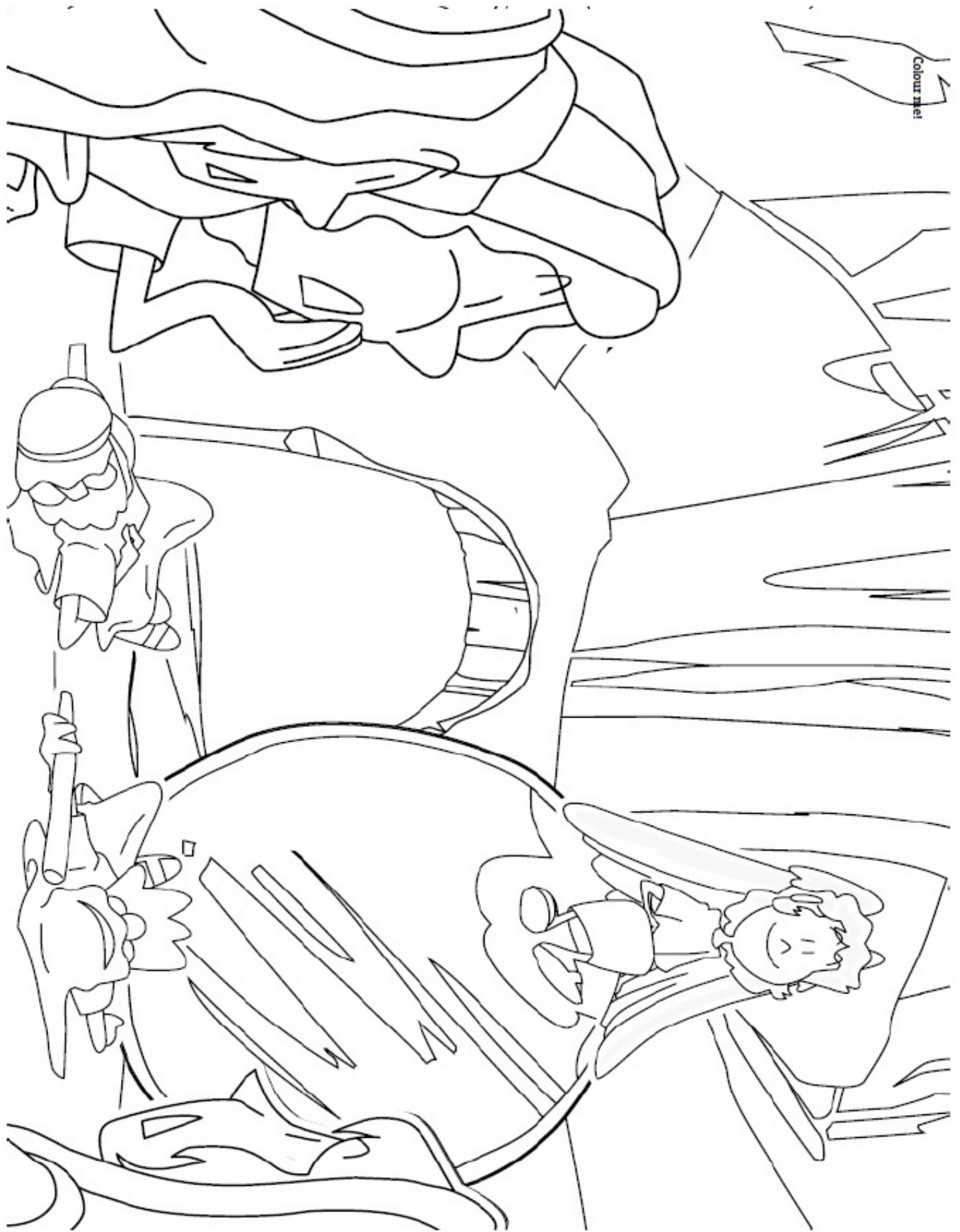
Prayer Idea

A traditional greeting between Christians on Easter Day is 'Christ is risen', to which the reply is 'He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!' Use this as a family at the end of each prayer you make today. Your prayers could perhaps be focussed on those who are sad because someone has died, those who are frightened about the future, and those who need courage to tell others the good news that Jesus is risen from the dead.

Activity Idea

In the Church we often follow the Jewish custom of starting the day when the sun goes down (so, for example, we start celebrating Sunday when the sun goes down on Saturday). You probably want to prepare today's activity on Saturday evening because Easter Sunday may be a very busy day!

See the recipe for 'Empty Tomb' treats.



Colour me!

Thank you for being part of LAM4Kids Holy Week 2024!