

## We Celebrate Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, the priest processes (walks around) the church as Jesus walked into Jerusalem. We hold palm branches up high like the crowds who welcomed Jesus. **Read Matthew 21:1–11.**

**Crowds of people welcomed Jesus when he came to Jerusalem.**

They cut palm \_\_\_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_\_\_

and put them on the \_\_\_\_\_ **O** \_\_\_\_\_.

They shouted, "\_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_ are you, Jesus.

You come in the \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.

You are the \_\_\_\_\_ **N** \_\_\_\_\_ of David."

When people asked, "Who is this?"  
the crowd answered, "Jesus of \_\_\_\_\_ **N** \_\_\_\_\_,

the prophet from \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_."

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.

**HOSANNA!  
HOSANNA!**

**BLESSED** is he who  
comes in God's name!

**HOSANNA!** God save  
the Son of David.

**Catholic  
FAITH WORDS**

**HOSANNA!** A Hebrew phrase  
that means "God, save your people!"

**JESUS** A Hebrew name that  
means "God saves."

# James Says **GOODBYE**

**"I want to go home, Mom," James said as he sat up in his hospital bed.** He moved slowly and carefully, so he wouldn't pull the IV tube out of his arm. "I miss everybody."

"We have to talk with the doctor," said his mom. Happy drawings from friends at school covered the wall of James's room. Get-well cards from people at home lined the ledge of his window. Big balloons floated in the corner.

"Dr. Monroe will know the best thing to do."

"I don't care what the doctors say, Mom," James said. "The treatments aren't making my leukemia go away. They just make me feel sick and tired."

"We still need to have hope that they will work." His mom reached for James's hand and rubbed it gently with her own.

James looked up at his mom. "I prayed to be well, but the medicine isn't working. I know I'm going to die."

Tears filled his mother's eyes. "I have prayed too."

James said, "I don't want to die here. I've got some stuff to do first."

"OK, I will ask the doctor to let you go home."

**James went home in springtime.** First, he went

fishing with his younger brother, Chris, on the banks of the Missouri River. The



river cut through the hills near his family's house in North Dakota.

The two sat under a big cottonwood tree and watched their bobbers float in the water. They sat silently until suddenly James's bobber went under. He started to reel it in.

"Chris, help me bring him in," said James.

Chris caught hold of the line and pulled a huge bullhead up on shore.

"It swallowed the hook."

They knelt side by side, James holding the fish as best as he could and Chris trying to wiggle the hook out. James's arms were pale next to Chris's.

"Remember last summer?" asked James. "We went fishing every day."

Chris nodded. "We can go again tomorrow."

"OK, I'm getting tired now."

**James called his Aunt Loretta, who lived far away.** "I really love you, and I'm going to

be OK," he told her. He also talked to his friends on the phone.

"I want to go back to school," James told his parents.

"Are you sure you're strong enough?" they asked him. "That's a long time to go without a rest."

"I don't want to stay all day," he said. "I just want to visit. I miss my friends."

**The next day, James's mom and dad took him to school.**

His classmates clapped when he walked in.

"Listen, children," said Mrs. Casey. "James wants to speak to us now."

"Hi," James said. "I wanted to come to school today to tell you all something." Then he paused. "If there has been anything I've done to any of you, I want to say I'm sorry. And if there's anything you've done to me, I want you to know that I forgive you."

Everyone was quiet. No one knew what to say.

"Hang in there, James," said his friend Bobby.

"We're praying for you," said Clarissa.

"Thanks," said James. "You are great friends. Thank you for all the posters and letters."

### Before school was out that spring, James died.

His parents, brother, and friends followed his coffin to the cemetery. Chris looked toward home and saw the cottonwood trees along the river. *Hey, James. You can see me fishing from here,* he thought.

Later that summer, Chris sat under the big cottonwood tree beside the river. He pushed a fat worm onto his hook and cast his fishing line. He watched his bobber floating on the water. The sun was warm on his arms. Cotton from the tree floated in the air and on the water. His bobber didn't move.

Chris remembered how James's bobber went down when he caught the big bullhead. He remembered trying to get it off the hook. He remembered how pale his brother's arms were next to his. Chris looked and saw his mom coming down the road.

"Catch anything?" she called.

"No, but it's OK," said Chris. "I'm just thinking about James. I wish he was here."

"Do you know why James wanted to come home when the doctors couldn't make him better anymore?"

"Why?" asked Chris.

"He wanted to go fishing

with you," said his mother.

"Really?" asked Chris.

"We only got to go once. He caught this big bullhead."

"He gave us this place to remember him," said his mom.



- 1 What do James's actions tell you about him? What do his actions reveal about his faith?
- 2 What does James leave with his friends when he visits the school?
- 3 What helps Chris remember his brother James?



## SUNDAY GOSPEL

Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 26:14—27:66

During Holy Week, we celebrate the final days of Jesus' life on earth. On Palm/Passion Sunday, we read Matthew's story of Jesus' trial, suffering, Crucifixion, and Death. This lesson also includes John's Gospel story of Jesus' final days (see pages 5–8), so your teacher may choose to assign reading the Sunday Gospel as homework.



### Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

This week, we walk with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery of his suffering, Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection. We are saved out of God's love for us. "He loved us and sent his son to be the expiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). This means that Jesus makes things right through

his Death. Jesus dies so that our sins are forgiven—even the Original Sin that we inherited from our first ancestors. Jesus is called a suffering servant (CCC, 623). This means that Jesus humbly accepts and follows God's plan for his life, knowing that it will end in his death.



- 1 Whom do you know that puts their needs after the needs of others?
- 2 Name a charity your family supports with money or volunteer service. Why is it important to you?



We pray the Stations of the Cross throughout Lent and especially during Holy Week. The fourteen stations begin with Jesus being condemned to death on the Cross and end with him being laid in his tomb. Turn to page 57 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to follow the events of Jesus' suffering and Death. Compare these stations with those in the *My Good Friday Stations of the Cross* booklet on pages 5–8 in the lesson.



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# Jesus Washes His Friends' Feet

**W**hen John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper with his friends, he never mentions Jesus' blessing and sharing bread and wine the way the other Gospel writers do. Instead, John tells how Jesus washed the feet of his friends, a job usually done by servants. The Church remembers Jesus' example at Mass on Holy Thursday by reading the story and washing feet. What can we do for one another today that is like washing people's feet in Jesus' time?

## Great Christian Service Award

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for a Great Christian Service Award. This person  
follows Jesus' example of serving others by

**Nominate a person you know to receive a Great Christian Service Award for the way he or she has followed Jesus' example and showed you how to be a Christian in our time. Write the person's name and describe the way the person follows Jesus' example. You will read your nomination as part of the prayer service.**

## Jesus Celebrates the Last Supper with His Friends

*Celebrate this Last Supper prayer service based on the Gospel Reading for the Evening Mass on Holy Thursday, John 13:1–15.*

**Leader:** Jesus Christ is our teacher and Savior.

**All:** As Jesus did, so we must do.

**Narrator:** This is the story of how Jesus washed his friends' feet. Jesus rose from the meal that he was eating with his friends and took off his cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around himself.

**John:** What do you suppose Jesus is doing?

**Narrator:** Then Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and dry them with the towel he had around him.

**James:** Washing people's feet is a job for servants. Why is Jesus doing a servant's work?

**Narrator:** Then Jesus came to wash the feet of Simon Peter.

**Peter:** Are you going to wash my feet?

**Jesus:** You may not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

**Peter:** You shall never wash my feet!

**Jesus:** If I do not wash you, you will have no share in my heritage.

**Peter:** Then wash my feet, and my hands and head as well.

**Narrator:** After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his cloak back on and reclined at the table once more.

**Jesus:** Do you understand what I just did for you? You call me "teacher" and "Savior," which is fitting. But if I washed your feet—I, who am teacher and



Savior—then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do.

**Leader:** Let us tell about the people we know who teach us how to follow Jesus today. *Each person takes a turn telling about a person who should receive a Great Christian Service Award.*

**Leader:** Jesus showed us that serving one another is giving life to one another.

**All:** We can love and serve. We can give others new life.

## With My Family and Friends

Scan here for  
parent resources.



### Pray

God, help me to be selfless like Jesus and put other people's needs before my own. Amen.



### Think

How do I stand up for my friends?



### Act

Lead your family on a walk through your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.



## My Good Friday Stations of the Cross

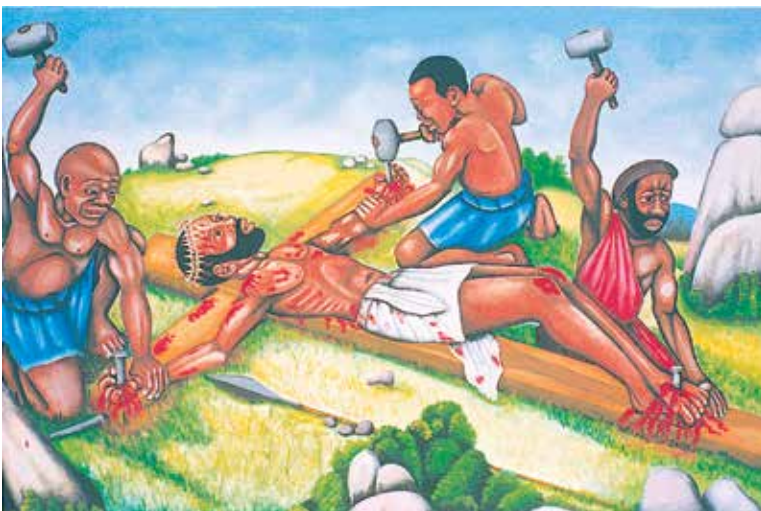
Name \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Even in your pain, Jesus, you forgive your enemies.

**Help us to let go of grudges and to forgive people who hurt us.**



### 4. Jesus Meets His Mother

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Mary follows you on your painful journey. What a sad meeting for your mother and for you, Jesus.

**Help us love our families even in the midst of trouble and separation.**





## 1. Pilate Condemns Jesus

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Pilate knows you are innocent, Jesus,  
but he washes his hands of guilt and  
condemns you to die.

**Give us courage to do what we know is  
right.**



## 14. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

In death's stillness, Jesus, you lie in the  
tomb.

**We believe that you died, you rose, and  
you will come again.**

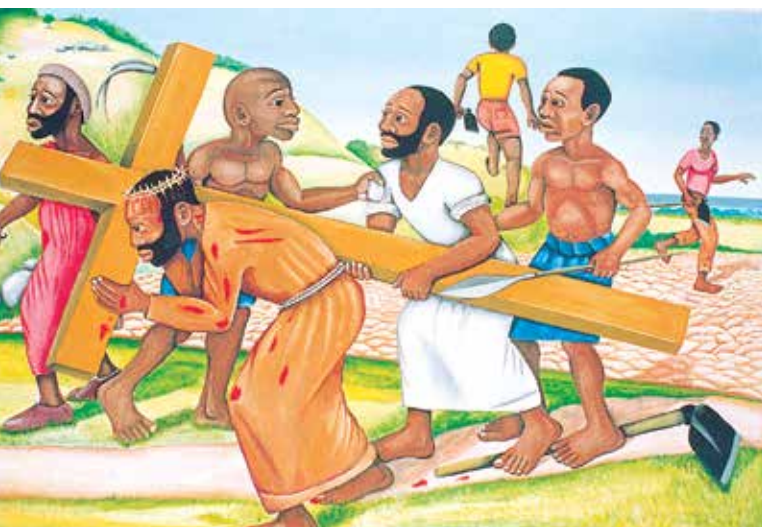


## 5. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Simon is forced to help you, Jesus. He  
doesn't know you are God's Son.

**Help us to see you in each person we meet.**



## 10. The Guards Strip Jesus of His Clothing

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

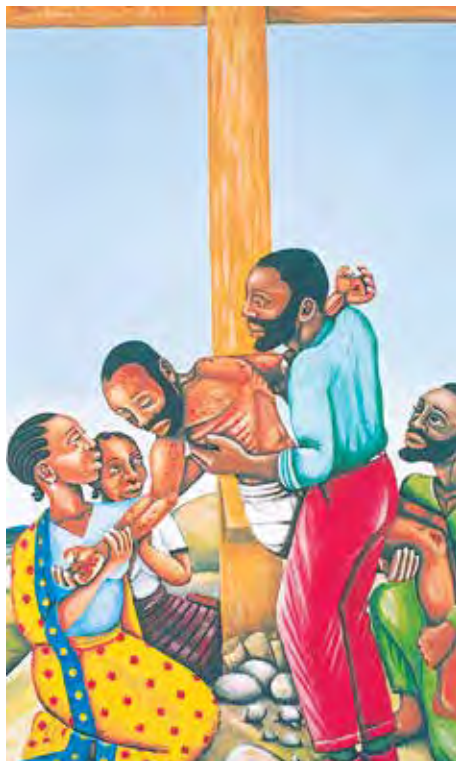
The soldiers take even your clothes, Jesus.  
They throw dice for your cloak.

**You died with no honor, no clothes, no  
money. Help us to see that God's love is  
our most important possession.**





## 13. Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross



We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Mary, faithful mother, you hold your son's bruised body in your arms.  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

## 2. Jesus Carries His Cross

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

You accept your Cross on which you will die, Jesus, and begin to carry it up the hill.

**Help us to carry our disappointments bravely.**



## 9. Jesus Falls a Third Time

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

You fall again, Jesus, and wonder if you can make it to the top of the hill.

**We remember your perseverance. Help us keep trying to be better people.**

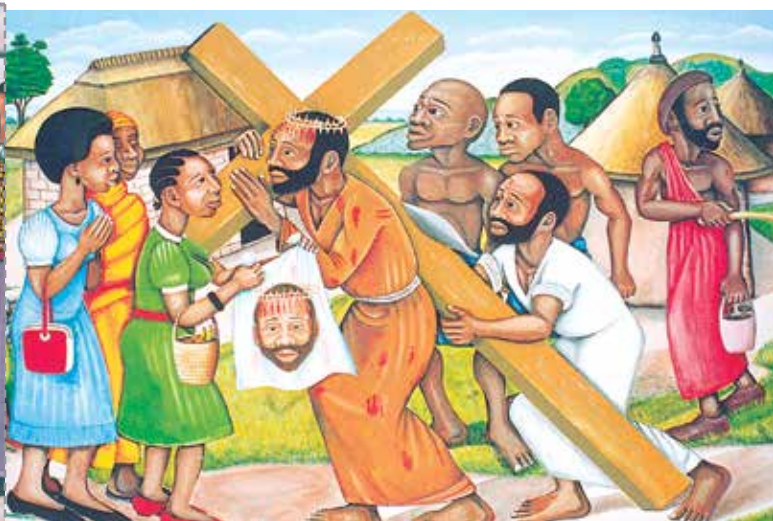


## 6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Veronica is brave, Jesus. When she offers you a towel, you leave the image of your face on it.

**Give us Veronica's courage to help a classmate when no one else will.**



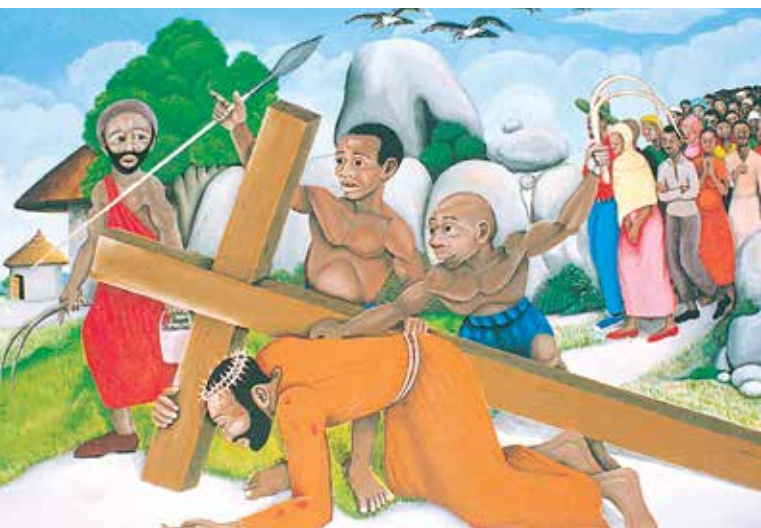


### 3. Jesus Falls the First Time

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

A few days ago, palm leaves and cloaks covered this street, Jesus, making a carpet to welcome you. Now you fall on the stones under the weight of your Cross.

**Make us loyal friends to the people we know.**

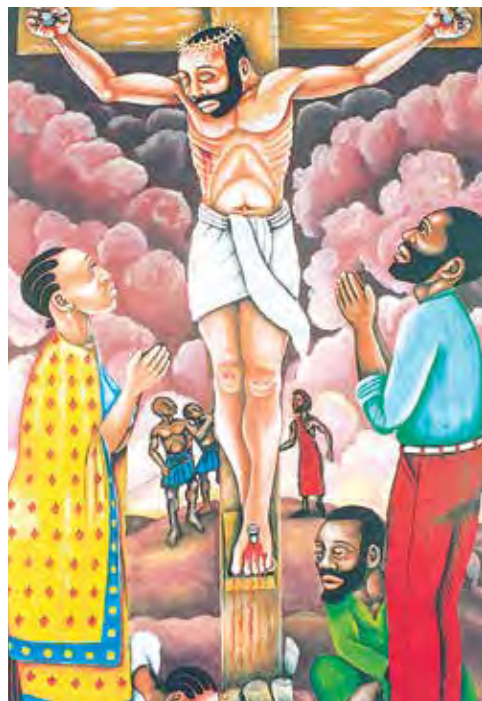


### 12. Jesus Dies on the Cross

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

You face death, Jesus, and show us that we do not need to be afraid to die.

**Help us to realize that death is part of life, when we will see you and our loved ones again.**

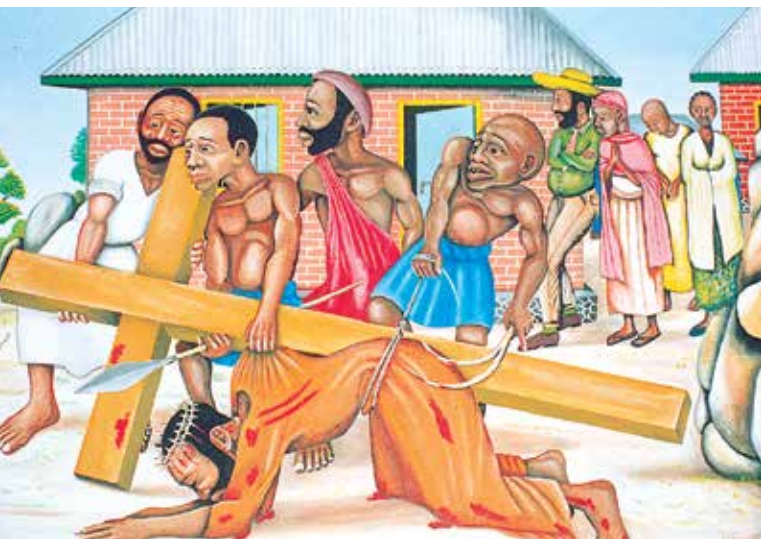


### 7. Jesus Falls Again

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

Your Cross gets heavier, Jesus, as you grow weaker. When you fall, soldiers poke and prod you to get up again.

**Help us remember your pain and the weight of your Cross when we don't feel like doing our part.**



### 8. Jesus Comforts the Women

We are your friends and followers, Jesus;  
**We walk the way of the Cross with you.**

The women who heard you preach on the hillside cry when they see you suffering.

You stop and comfort them, Jesus.

**Teach us to comfort people who are sad or lonely.**

