

Welcome to our Easter Service

Welcome and introduction (Rev'd Carol):

3 pupils to bring forward the Bible, cross and candles with an adult to supervise candle lighting.

We open the Bible to remind us...**That God speaks to us through his word.**

We place the cross at the centre to remind us that...**Jesus is at the centre of our school.**

We light the three candles to remind us...**That God's love burns brightly for each one of us; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**



Prayer:

Lord we have gathered together in your name to remember the events of the first Holy Week.

Draw us closer to you,

Inspire us with your love,

And fill us with your Spirit,

That we might leave here ready to serve you with our lives.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

As we remember Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem, how people welcomed him by laying palm branches on the road and shouted hosanna, let's sing:

(Palm branches are brought forward by children)



We have a king who rides a donkey

We have a king who rides a donkey

We have a king who rides a donkey

We have a king who rides a donkey

And his name is Jesus

Trees are waving a royal welcome (x3)

For the King called Jesus

We have a King who cares for people (x3)

And his name is Jesus

Jesus the King is risen

Jesus the king is risen

Jesus the King is risen

Early in the morning

What shall we do with our lives this morning? (x3)

Give it up in service!

Later that week, Jesus washed the feet of his friends, and invited them to share supper together. Jesus taught his friends to be humble and caring.

(Children bring forward a basin, towel and jug)



Prayer: (Year 6):

Lord Jesus we are amazed that you were willing to leave the glory of heaven to come to earth to give up your life for us.

Give us the grace to serve you.

Lord Jesus you taught us that whatever we do for one of the least of our brothers or sisters, we do for you.

Give us the grace to serve you.

Lord Jesus you lived a life of self-sacrificial love, reaching out with compassion to those in need.

**Give us the grace to serve you. In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Let's hear Luke's account of what happened next:



A Reading from Luke, Chapter 22 (Year 4):

"When the time came, Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table. He said to them, "I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. I will never eat another Passover meal until it is given its true meaning in the kingdom of God."

Why was the Passover so important to Jesus and his friends? Year 6 will tell us.

The Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples remembered the time when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt by the Pharaoh, and then the wonderful way in which God saved them and led them to freedom. When God prepared to rescue the Israelites from captivity in Egypt, he used blood as the symbol of life. The blood of the sacrificial Passover lamb saved the Israelites from death. As part of the remembering of these events, the Passover celebration meal that Jesus shared with his disciples included roasted lamb and bread without yeast. The Passover remembers all the wonders God did to lead His people from slavery in Egypt to freedom. We too remember too that Jesus is the One who leads us out of sin and into freedom, so let's celebrate His goodness as we sing together:



Oh, Lord all the world belongs to You
(Bring forward bread and a jug of wine)

Oh, Lord all the world belongs to You,
And You are always making all things new,
What is wrong, You forgive,
And the new life You give,
Is what's turning the world upside down.

The world wants the wealth to live in state
but You show a new way to be great:
like a servant you came,
and if we do the same,
We'll be turning the world upside down.

The World's only loving to it's friends,
But Your way of loving never ends,
Loving enemies too;
And this loving with you,
Is what's turning the world upside down.

Oh, Lord all the world belongs to You,
And You are always making all things new,
What is wrong, You forgive,
And the new life You give,
Is what's turning the world upside down.

The world lives divided and apart,
You draw us together, and we start,
In our friendship we see,
That in harmony we,
Can be turning the world upside down.

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During that evening Jesus spoke a number of times to his disciples. He predicted that one would betray him, whilst another would deny knowing him.

During the evening, Jesus also had to intervene in an argument among the Disciples, about which one of them was the greatest!

Just as the Disciples sinned, so do we.



Confession: (Rev'd Carol):

So, let's confess the times when we have sinned in our thoughts, words and actions.

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have failed you as did your first disciples.
Please forgive us where we have betrayed you in our thoughts, words or actions.

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy.

Please forgive us where we have disowned you in our thoughts, words or actions.

We confess that there have been times when we have been afraid of people knowing that we belong to you.

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy.

Please forgive us where we have become proud or self-important in our thoughts,
words or actions.

We confess that we have often been self-absorbed, caring more about ourselves than about others.

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

Amen.

As the night got darker, Judas left the table to betray his friend.

Jesus led his friends to a garden on the Mount of Olives to pray.

The disciples grew sleepy, but Jesus urged them to keep awake while he prayed to his Father.

While they were there, soldiers came to arrest Jesus, and his friends ran away.

The next day, the soldiers crucified Jesus. His mother and his friends came to be close to him at the end.



From Heaven You Came helpless babe

From Heaven You Came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but the serve
And give your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said

Come see his hands and his feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives, enthrone him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

Graham Kendrick

But we know that Jesus' death on Good Friday is not the end of the story. God turned a place of pain and suffering into hope for the world. Now, we may have eternal life and peace because of the love Jesus gives to us



The Peace (Rev'd Carol):

Peace to you from God who is our Father.
Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life.
The peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

(We turn to our neighbours and say 'peace be with you')

Sending out and blessing (Rev'd Carol)

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith and hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing ...

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**



Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John -
they came with me
and the dance went on.

I dance on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
They left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone

*We wish you a very blessed Holy Week, and a joyful
Easter.*

