




# Happy Easter!

from TrinityKids!

We hope you enjoy the Egg-stravagant, Egg-cellent, and Egg-citing message of God's love for YOU with these special Lenten Eggs that tell the story of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and much of what happened in between! Read this booklet & open the 12 eggs to reveal this special story of Jesus' greatest gift to us!



## *What is the Passover?*

Passover is the Jewish celebration of God's freeing the Israelites from Egyptian slavery around 1300 BC. God sent ten plagues to Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Jewish people leave. The final plague caused the death of Egypt's first-born sons. The sons of the Israelites were spared because God protected his people from the Angel of death who "passed over" their homes when they marked their door frames with the blood of a sacrificial lamb. This finally persuaded Pharaoh to let the people go and Moses helped them escape Egypt. Passover is also called the festival of Unleavened Bread because the Jews didn't have time for their bread to rise as they escaped from Egypt.

## *Why did Jesus and his friends go to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover?*



God commanded the Israelites to remember that important event each year, preferably in Jerusalem. The Passover is celebrated with a special meal called a Seder. It involves telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt and eating symbolic foods. The meal ends with after-dinner blessings and singing traditional songs, many of which are from the Bible's book of Psalms.





**BLUE EGG**

## **PALM BRANCH & DONKEY**

Mathew 21

Palm Sunday is a special day because Jesus and his disciples entered into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead, telling them, "Go to the village ahead of you, where you will find a **DONKEY** and her colt, tied. Untie them and bring them to me."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut **PALM BRANCHES** from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" This is why we call the day "Palm Sunday." Can you imagine how excited people were to see the amazing teacher who performed so many miracles? He even raised his friend Lazarus from the dead a few days earlier!

Five hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Zechariah told us that the Messiah would come riding on a donkey. Many of the amazing things Jesus did fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament.





## PALE PINK EGG THREE SILVER COINS

Matthew 26, Luke 22



Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus. They were afraid and jealous of the way people were excited about Jesus' teachings and miracles.

Then Satan entered one of the Twelve disciples – the one called Judas Iscariot – who went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Jesus over to you?" So the priests gave Judas **THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER** and told him to find a time when no crowd was present so they could arrest Jesus. From then on, Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them.

Jesus allowed Judas to keep the money box for the disciples, but Judas used to steal from it! Judas was angry when Lazarus' sister, Mary, poured perfume on Jesus. He said he thought it was wasteful, but he was really just angry that couldn't have stolen it. Jesus told him to leave Mary alone. Even so, Jesus still loved Judas and gave him every opportunity to change his mind and follow him.





## PALE YELLOW EGG SOAP & TOWEL

John 13



After Palm Sunday, Jesus spent several days teaching in the Temple and on Thursday night, Jesus and his friends gathered together to celebrate Passover dinner.

Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a **TOWEL** around his waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."  
Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."  
"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, Jesus put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." And Jesus and the disciples continued their Passover meal.





## LIGHT BLUE EGG BREAD & CUP

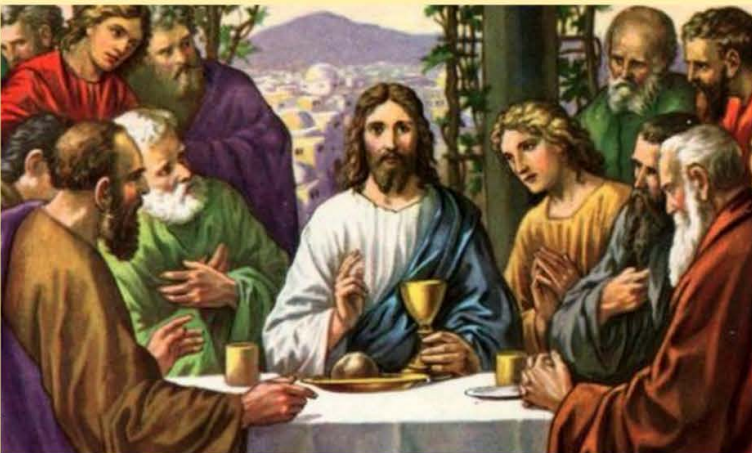
Matthew 26



While they were eating, Jesus took **BREAD**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took **A CUP**, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Jesus was trying to prepare the disciples to understand that his time on earth was quickly ending; that he would be leaving them before he ate again.

After they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

When we take communion in church, it is to remind us of this special dinner.





## PURPLE EGG JESUS

Matthew 26



**JESUS** and his disciples walked across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus prayed and asked his friends to pray with him, but they kept falling asleep. While they were praying, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Judas had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the soldiers stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.





## ORANGE EGG ROOSTER

Matthew 26 & Luke 22



Earlier that Thursday night, when they were still having dinner, Jesus told the disciples, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written by the prophet Zechariah, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

Peter replied, "Even if everyone else runs away from you, I never will."

"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the **ROOSTER** crows, you will disown me three times."

But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never betray you." And all the other disciples said the same.

After the soldiers seized Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, they led him away and brought him into the high priest's house. Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Three different people said of Peter, "This man is one of Jesus' followers." But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know him." The third time Peter denied knowing Jesus, immediately, even while he was still speaking, a **ROOSTER** crowed. And Jesus turned and looked at Peter and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

And Peter went outside and wept bitterly.







## GREEN EGG WHIP

John 18, 19 & Matthew 26



Remember when they were still having dinner? Remember, Jesus told the disciples, "This very night, you will all fall away on account of me, for the prophet Zechariah wrote: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

What Jesus said happened. Jesus (the good shepherd) was struck by one of the Temple guards. The guard slapped Jesus across the face when he thought Jesus was being rude to the high priest. Jesus was also struck that night when the Sanhedrin mocked him and spit in his face.

Jesus was struck a third time the next morning. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, ordered the Roman soldiers to **WHIP** Jesus. The Roman soldiers took him into the barracks of the palace, called out the entire palace guard, dressed him in a purple robe, and made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head. Over and over they went up to him and said, "Greetings, King of the Jews!" They slapped him in the face. They beat him on the head with a cane and spat on him, and went down on their knees to "worship" him.

When they finally tired of their sport, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again, and led him away to be crucified.

When the chief priests and their deputies saw him, they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify!" And just as Jesus said, the disciples (his sheep) ran away.





## DARK PINK EGG CROSS & NAILS

Matthew 27



When the crowd screamed to crucify Jesus, the governor, Pontius Pilot, said, "You take him and crucify him, I find no fault with him."

As the soldiers left the city with Jesus to take him to be crucified, they saw a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced Simon to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus was exhausted from being whipped. The cross was too heavy for him to carry. They came to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means "The Place of the Skull.") There, the soldiers gave Jesus some wine mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. Gall was a drug to stop Jesus from feeling pain. Then, the soldiers **NAILED** Jesus to a **CROSS**. It was about 9:00 in the morning on Friday.

We call this day when Jesus was crucified, Good Friday. But how in the world could it be a "good" day if Jesus suffered so much? He was beaten, mocked, spit at, and died cruelly, nailed to a cross. But Good Friday WAS a good day, because Jesus chose to go through all of that so that we could be reunited with God, so that our relationship with God could become whole again. You see, many years ago, when Adam and Eve **CHOSE** to disobey God and ate the apple in the Garden of Eden, they introduced sin into the world which separated us from God. Well, on Good Friday, Jesus **CHOSE** to take our sins so we don't have to suffer the consequences of those sins. Jesus showed his great love for us by doing that. That is why it was a very Good Friday.





## DARK YELLOW EGG DICE & CLOAK

Matthew 27

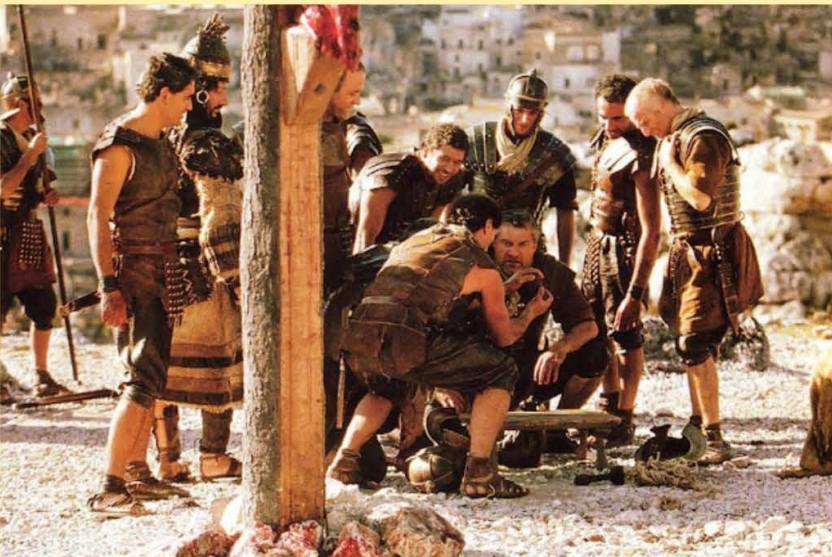


After Jesus was put on the cross, the soldiers threw **DICE** to divide up Jesus' **CLOAK**, sandals, and other garments among themselves. Clothes were expensive in the time of Jesus, so the soldiers gambled to take them home.

Then the soldiers sat watching Jesus hang on the cross. Above Christ's head they nailed a sign: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Once again, the things that happened to Jesus fulfilled a prophecy from the Old Testament. Psalm 22 predicted the gambling for the Messiah's clothes: "They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

King David wrote that psalm 1000 years before Jesus was born.





## PALE GREEN EGG SPONGE

Matthew 27



That Friday, Jesus stayed up on the cross all day in terrible pain. Jesus spoke aloud seven times while he hung on the cross. He asked God to forgive the people that crucified him. He said "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." When one of the two thieves who were hanging on either side of him asked Jesus to remember him when he became Messiah, Jesus said to him, "Today you shall be with me in paradise."

Even in his pain, Jesus was so loving that he asked his disciple John to take care of his mother, Mary.

At one point, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Did that mean that Father God turned his back on Jesus when Jesus needed him most? No! Remember that Jesus was without sin; he never sinned! Dying on the cross included taking on all of OUR sin--yours, mine, everyone's! Since Jesus had never felt sin before, experiencing sin was especially horrible. Sin is simply not being in God's presence; Jesus had never been outside of God's presence until that moment. That is why he said, "Why have you forsaken me? Why have you left me?"

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a **SPONGE** in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and said, "Father, into your hands I give my spirit."

When Jesus said "It is finished," it meant that his work was done. He had taken on our sin so we could be redeemed and restored to wholeness with God. His enormous sacrifice for us - taking on our sin and conquering death - ended the need for any temple sacrifice.





## MEDIUM PINK EGG STONE

Matthew 27:61



As evening approached on Good Friday, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph (a member of the Sanhedrin), who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pontius Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph and Jesus' friend, Nicodemus, took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. Nicodemus brought 75 pounds of herbs! As it was almost the Sabbath (Sabbath started at sundown Friday night), they had to hurry. They rolled a big **STONE** in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

After they left, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary stayed, sitting across from the tomb.

Can you imagine how Jesus' mom, Mary and Mary Magdalene and the disciples felt? They thought Jesus was the Messiah! They believed him when he said he came to change the world! But now, he was dead! Had they misunderstood? Were they wrong? Maybe he wasn't the Messiah! They did not want to leave the place where Jesus was buried. They could not believe that he was gone! All day Saturday, Jesus' friends must have been so sad!





## WHITE EGG EMPTY

John 20:1-8



Early Sunday morning (on the third day, after the Jewish Sabbath was over), while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. She came running to Peter and John and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" Peter and John started for the tomb. Both were running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally John, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" She told them that he had said these things to her. Jesus was still alive! He had risen from the dead! He had conquered sin and death once and for all! Hallelujah! He Has Risen!



### *Why did Jesus choose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?*

Jesus knew that he was the Messiah, the King of Kings. But he chose to enter into his kingship riding a lowly donkey. In Jesus' time, kings would ride a horse if it was a military parade; otherwise, they would ride a donkey. Jesus rode a donkey to show that his coming was peaceful; it showed his humility. The prophet Zechariah had said the Messiah would ride on a donkey.

### *Why did Peter cry when Jesus looked at him after the rooster crowed?*

Peter was so sure that he wouldn't betray Jesus! He was crushed when he realized he had denied knowing Jesus three different times! Jesus understands that sometimes we make mistakes, yet he still loves us! In fact, Jesus kindly let Peter know he was forgiven when after the resurrection Jesus cooked him a fish breakfast. Three times Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" This was Jesus' way of letting him know he had been forgiven.

### *Why is Easter called Easter?*

In most languages, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection is called "The Passover" (Paques in French, Pascua in Spanish, Pascha in Greek and Latin, Pesach in Hebrew etc..) But English is unique because the word for Resurrection Sunday comes from the old English word "eastre" that means "East" or "dawn." Since the sun rises in the East, it is a symbol of the dawn of the day. When Jesus chose to die for us and redeem us, it was like a new day (or dawn) when he was resurrected!



## The Good News of Easter!

The Easter story can appear to be sad and scary: soldiers capture Jesus, beat him, and hang him on a cross. BUT there is Good News in this story!

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, so that whoever should believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life!      John 3:16

That means that because of Jesus' love for us, we never have to be afraid of anything! Not even death!

Would you like to tell Jesus that you trust him and believe him? You could say this prayer: "God, I love you and your son, Jesus. Please forgive me for the mistakes I have made and the things I have done that I shouldn't have. Thank you Jesus for dying for me because you love me so much that you wanted to save me from the pain and suffering caused by those mistakes. Please give me a new, pure heart. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever. Thank you, Lord.

Amen."

