

Triduum “Scavenger Hunt”

Since we cannot gather as a community at this time, this “scavenger hunt” has been developed to help you honor and observe the Triduum in your own home.

The Triduum are the three most sacred days of the Church calendar: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. In the eyes of the Church the three days flow together as one whole, seamless story. We begin with Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, we solemnly observe Jesus’ trial, torture, and death on a cross, and then we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

This “scavenger hunt” is designed so that you could do this in your own home, or out in the world. You are going to be looking for specific symbols which represent each day of the Triduum, and then once you find those symbols you will read a sentence or two from scripture and say a prayer or read a reflection. You could do the “hunt” each day of the Triduum (it should take you about an hour or less each day), or you could do all three days in a single afternoon.

As a reminder, if you do decide to go outside please practice social distancing guidelines. And before you go out, look over the symbols you will be looking for, you may decide that you want to bring some supplies with you on your journey.

May this be a blessing for your growth in faith, hope, and love.

-Rev. Alex Leach

Maundy Thursday

-Begin by **finding some water**. This could be flowing water or a body of water. It could be natural water you find outside, or it could be simply a faucet in your house. Gather around this water, read this sentences form scripture & say this prayer:

Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and begin to wash his disciples' feet. (John 13:4-5).

Loving Jesus, your love for us is like water. Your love washes away all our sin, refreshes our thirsting spirits, and comforts us in our sorrow. May your love flow through us and out towards our neighbors, drawing us into right relationship with all people and all of creation. Thank you for the gift of your love. Amen.

-**Find some food**. This could be a loaf of bread from your cupboard, or a picnic meal you brought with you out into the world. Gather around this food and read this sentence from scripture & reflection:

*Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."
(Matthew 26:26)*

God offers God's Self to us in the form of food. The most obvious layer of meaning in that symbol is that God sustains us. It is God who fills our bodies with good things, it is God who nourishes us and helps us grow, and it is God who helps us in our pain and loss. To separate ourselves from God would be like separating ourselves from food: we would die. So when you are hungry for something that actual food cannot give you: when you are hungry for peace, or hungry for justice, or hungry for comfort, or hungry for connection and wholeness...feast upon God. Let God feed you God's own Self.

-If you are out in the world, **find someone treating another person with loving kindness**. If you can't find an example of this (or you are at home), do something for one another that embodies loving kindness. Or if you are doing this alone, do something for yourself that embodies loving kindness. Afterwards read this scripture and say this prayer:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you...by this all shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

(John 13:34-35)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer for the Human Family, BCP, p. 815)

Good Friday

-Share a story of when you've felt great loss and pain. If you are alone, write the story in a journal. You may want to share only a few words, or you may want to share many. Afterwards, read this scripture and say this prayer together:

All the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

(Matthew 27:1-2)

Jesus, you humbled yourself and endured great suffering, pain, and loss for our sake. Out of your love for us, you decided to join us in the human experience of suffering. Please walk with us now in whatever pain and losses we are experiencing. Help us to know that we are never alone, and absolutely nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.

-Either in your home, or out in the world, **find a cross**. This might be an intentional religious object. Or it may be something more symbolic like a crooked tree. When you've found it, read this scripture and say the following reflection:

*When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals.
(Luke 23:33)*

Jesus died a public, brutal, and humiliating death. But why? Perhaps because Jesus radical love for everyone was challenging to the status quo of divisive "us versus them" thinking. Perhaps because Jesus' ministry of reconciling those who had been cast out of society challenged the notions of superiority and exclusivity. Perhaps because Jesus wanted to use his death as one final teaching of God's unending love and solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the victims of violence. The cross is not supposed to fill us with shame or guilt...the cross is a symbol of our salvation. Our salvation from death, our salvation from violence and oppression, our salvation from arrogance and superiority.

-Finally, **find something dead**. As above, this could be something literally dead (like a plant or a bug), or it could be something that is more suggestive of death (like a broken down house). Read this scripture and say this prayer together:

*Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
(Mark 15:37)*

*Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

(from the Solemn Collects in the Good Friday liturgy, BCP p. 279)

Saturday Evening/Sunday

-Light a Candle or find some small source of natural light. Read this scripture and say this prayer together:

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

(Matthew 28:1)

God of surprises and endless hope, thank you for the gift of the resurrection. Help us to seek your new light which always begins in small ways which most of the world does not see. Bless us with deep trust and unfailing hope in the promise of the resurrection. In Christ all things are being made new, even ourselves. Thank you for this grace. Amen.

-Either in your home, or out in the world, **find something beautiful.** Try to find something that everyone can admire. When you do, read this piece of scripture & reflection:

Jesus met [the women] and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

(Matthew 28:9)

Can you imagine how those women felt when they saw Jesus' face? They must have felt utterly astounded. It must have been the most beautiful thing they had ever seen. God uses beauty to awaken in us awe and wonder. Beauty is God's tool for drawing us out of despair and into hope. Beauty is God's gift to us which makes life rich and joyful. Out of the cross, the ugliest of human experience, God creates something new, something beautiful. When the Church invites you to live a life marked by Christ's death and resurrection, what that means is to live in the certain trust that God can and does create beauty out of the most ugliest of circumstances.

-Share a story of a time when you were surprised by a new opportunity or a new hope in the midst of loss or suffering. If you are alone, write about this story in a journal. Afterwards, read this scripture and say this prayer:

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

(John 20:19)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(From the collects in the Easter Vigil liturgy, BCP p. 291)