

Holy Week in a Box from <https://buildfaith.org/holy-week-in-a-box/> and <https://camillelebronpowell.wordpress.com/2013/03/18/holy-week-box/>

Materials Needed

Small box, figure, Paper palms, 2 coins, heart, Marker/playdough, Pipe cleaner, Piece of cloth, tealight

Palm Sunday: Paper Palm Fronds

It's Palm Sunday. The people cut down palms and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem.



Read Matthew 21:7-11

⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying,
“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

How can we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes?

Holy Monday: Coin

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he went into the Temple. There were people cheating others out of their money. Jesus was very angry.

Read Matthew 21:21:12-13

¹² Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’;
but you are making it a den of robbers.”

Question: How can we use our money wisely?



Holy Tuesday: Another Coin

Put a second coin on the box. The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor.

Read Jesus' answer in Matthew 22:15-21.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”



Question: How we can give to God?

Holy Wednesday: Heart

Place the heart in the box. Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was. His answer was found in Matthew 22:34-40: ³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Questions: *How can we show love to God? How can we show love to our neighbours?
How can we show love to ourselves?*



Maundy Thursday: Table

Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends. Use the top of the box as a table. Draw a cup and plate on it, or make a cup and plate out of modelling clay. Place Jesus by the table.

Read Matthew 26:26-30

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the ^[d]covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Questions: *In church, how do we remember this meal?*



Good Friday: Cross

The leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. They told lies about him. Jesus was arrested. It was a very sad day, because the authorities put Jesus to death on a cross. Make a cross out of the pipe cleaner and place it with Jesus in front of the box.

Read Matthew 27 (selected verses)

³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him....

³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Question: *How do we see Jesus loving us through the cross?*

Good Friday Continued: Cloth and Tomb

When Jesus had died, his friends took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in linen cloth. They placed Jesus' body in a tomb cut out of rock. Wrap Jesus in the cloth. Place him in the box and put the lid on.

Continue with Matthew 27:57-61



⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Question: *I wonder how his friends felt?*

Saturday: Stillness

On the Saturday, everything was so still you could almost hear the earth breathe. There was nothing that could be done. Holy Saturday is a waiting day. Place a tea-light by your box as a way of showing that you are waiting.



Easter: Empty Tomb

Early on the Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb and had an amazing surprise. Open the box. Place Jesus at the side of it and the cloth neatly wrapped in the bottom of it.

Read about it in Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, ^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Question: *I wonder what difference it makes that God raised Jesus to life?*