

40 DAYS WITH JESUS



FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

BASED ON THE WORDS OF
JESUS ACCORDING TO THE
GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

MARCH 1ST-APRIL 16TH 2017
(MONDAY-SATURDAY)

Lenten Greetings, dear Trinity family!

Inspired by the **40 days** Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his ministry, and the **40 years** the Israelites wandered in the wilderness getting ready to enter the Promised Land, for centuries, the Church has taken up the practice of dedicating **40 days** to preparation for Easter.

This devotional is meant to be a tool in **getting our hearts, souls and minds ready** to receive the Good News of Resurrection. It consists of the words of Jesus according to the **Gospel of Matthew** (*New Living Translation*), followed by questions for discussion or for personal reflection.

Parents, this material is written to be engaging for both adults and children, but if your child does not want to share: simply hearing their parents' answers to the prompts will be a invaluable to them.

The first 3 weeks will focus mostly on the words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which includes the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. **Weeks 4 and 5** will draw from chapters 8-20, which are selections of Jesus' teachings and interactions with people.. **The final week** of Lent, we will journey with Jesus into the events of the Holy Week, culminating in Easter.

Please note: following the tradition of the church that has always counted 40 days **not including Sundays**, the devotional goes Monday-Saturday, and only includes a prompt for Easter Sunday. On Sundays at Trinity, we'll be looking at Jesus' words from the Cross.

As a **supplement to the devotional**, please look for the **Lenten Centerpiece** printout that offers several ideas for the creation of hands-on visuals using the images from this book.

With Prayers for an inspiring Lent for all of us at Trinity,
Julia Corbett

March 1st, 2017

Ash Wednesday

Genesis 3:17, 19

And to the man God said, "By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

- ❖ Attend Trinity's Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm
- OR**
- ❖ Confess your sins to God by writing them on pieces of paper.
- ❖ Pray to God for forgiveness as you burn the paper.
- ❖ Take turns using the ashes from the burnt paper, mixed with a little olive oil, to trace a cross on each other's foreheads, saying "*Name*, remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."
- ❖ Discuss how this made you feel or what it made you think about.



March 2nd, 2017

Thursday

Matthew 3:13-15

*Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” But Jesus said, “**It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.**” So John agreed to baptize him.*

- ❖ Share your baptism story or stories of baptisms you attended.
- ❖ How is baptism similar or different from the ritual of Ash Wednesday?



March 3rd, 2017

Friday

Matthew 4:2-4

*“For forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted and became very hungry. During that time the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” But Jesus told him, “**No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**”*

- ❖ What do you think it was like for Jesus to go without food for 40 days?
- ❖ Why do you think he did it?
- ❖ Is there something you are fasting from this season? Why?
- ❖ If not, have you done it before and what was the outcome?



March 4th, 2017

Saturday

Matthew 4:17

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

- ❖ The Kingdom of Heaven is the world as it is meant to be by God. Where today did you see the glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven?
- ❖ Where have you seen love, peace and beauty today?



March 6th, 2017
Monday

Matthew 5: 1-3

*One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them. **“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”***

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus says the Kingdom belongs to the poor?
- ❖ Who are the poor people you have come in contact with recently?
- ❖ Pray for them and talk about how God might use you to help them.



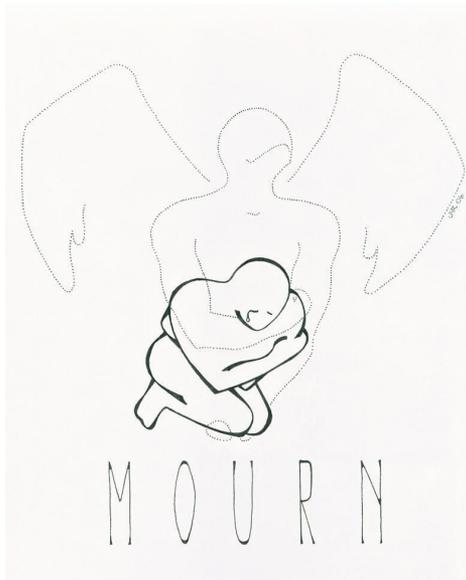
March 7th, 2017

Tuesday

Matthew 5:4

“God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

- ❖ To mourn means to feel very sad. When have you felt sad recently? Do you go to God for comfort when you are sad? How do you do it?
- ❖ Who have you been around recently who was sad?
- ❖ Pray for God’s comfort for yourself and others.
- ❖ Talk about what you can do for God to use you to comfort people who are sad.



March 8th, 2017
Wednesday

Matthew 5:5

“God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.”

- ❖ What does it look like to be humble?
- ❖ Why do you think it can be hard to be humble?
- ❖ Why do you think God values humility?
- ❖ In what way do you think knowing that we are loved by God unconditionally might help us be more humble?
- ❖ Pray thanking God for loving us no matter what.



March 9th, 2017

Thursday

Matthew 5:6

“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”

- ❖ Why do you think justice and fairness are so important to God?
- ❖ When have you come across things being unjust or unfair recently?
- ❖ What is one thing you can do to make the world more just or fair this week?
- ❖ Pray for God’s help to do it.

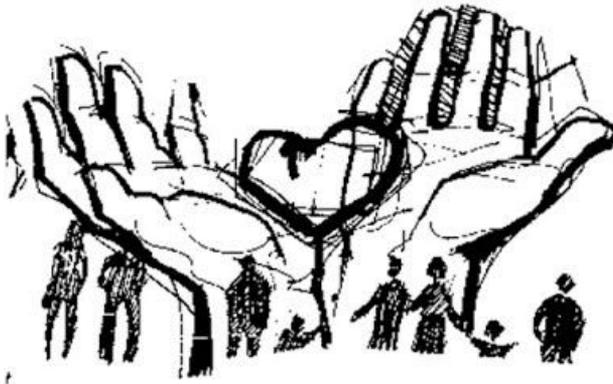


March 10th, 2017
Friday

Matthew 5:7

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

- ❖ To be merciful oftentimes means to forgive someone. When have you recently forgiven or been forgiven by someone? How did that make you feel?
- ❖ What helps you be better at forgiveness?
- ❖ Pray for God who forgives us all of our sin, to help us learn how to forgive.



March 11th, 2017
Saturday

Matthew 5:9:

“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

- ❖ If you painted a picture of peace, what would it look like?
- ❖ Why do you think people living in peace with each other is important to God?
- ❖ What is one thing you can do this week to work for peace?
- ❖ Pray for God to help you be a peacemaker.



March 13th, 2017

Monday

Matthew 6:9

“ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.”

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus wants us to call God our Father?
- ❖ How is God similar to an earthly Dad?
- ❖ How is God different?
- ❖ By what other names do we call God, besides Father?
- ❖ Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father



March 14th, 2017

Tuesday

Matthew 6:10

“May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

- ❖ If God were to have God’s way in your life, what do you think God would change?
- ❖ What are the things God would keep the same?
- ❖ Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Thy Will be Done
On Earth as it is
in Heaven



March 15th, 2017
Wednesday

Matthew 6:11

“ Give us today the food we need,”

- ❖ What do you need to live every day?
- ❖ Are there things you think you need but don't have? What are the things you don't need, but still get to enjoy?
- ❖ Pray the Lord's Prayer.



March 16th, 2017
Thursday

Matthew 6:12

“and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

- ❖ Ask each other for forgiveness for things you may have done to hurt each other.
- ❖ Take turns saying to each other, “I forgive you.” Thank God for forgiving us things we have said, done or thought that go against God’s will.
- ❖ End by praying the Lord’s Prayer.



March 17th, 2017
Friday

Matthew 6:13

“ And don’t let us yield to temptation,”

- ❖ Temptation is a desire to do something wrong. What are some things you do that help you not yield or give in to temptation?
- ❖ What else might help that you haven’t tried recently?
- ❖ Pray the Lord’s Prayer.



March 18th, 2017
Saturday

Matthew 6:14

“but rescue us from the evil one.”

- ❖ Have you ever been rescued before? Thank God for the rescue.
- ❖ Are there any situations where you don't feel safe these days?
- ❖ Are there any people who you know or hear about who need rescue right now?
- ❖ Pray for to God's help in those situations.
- ❖ End by praying the Lord's Prayer.



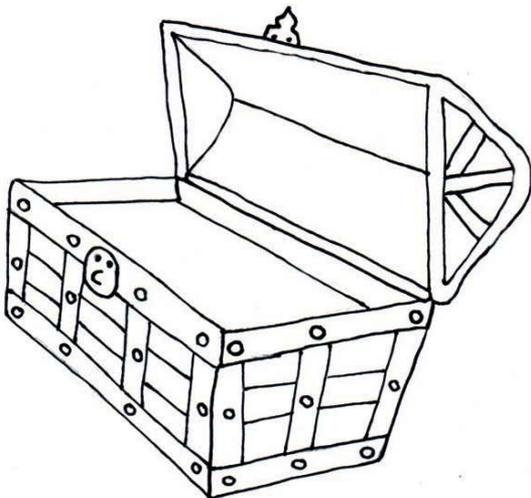
March 21st, 2017

Tuesday

Matthew 6:20

“Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

- ❖ Name something you desire that cannot be bought with money.
- ❖ What do you think it looks like to store up treasures in heaven?
- ❖ Talk about what you can do this week to store up treasures in heaven.
- ❖ Pray for God’s help and guidance.

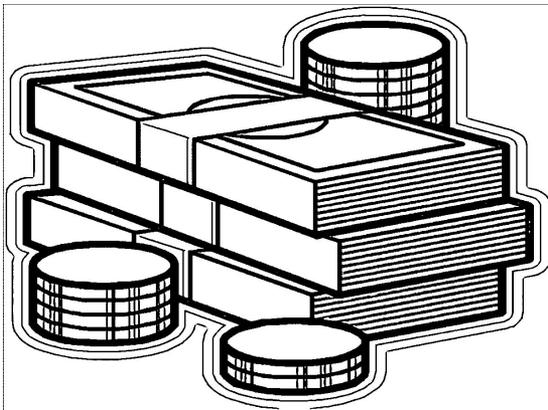


March 22nd, 2017
Wednesday

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

- ❖ What does it look like to serve God?
- ❖ What might it look like to serve or be enslaved by money?
- ❖ Why does Jesus say that it’s impossible to do both?
- ❖ Pray for the ability to put your trust in God and to use money as a gift from God to be shared, not a master to be served.



March 23rd, 2017

Thursday

Matthew 6:25-27

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”

- ❖ What are some things you tend to worry about often? Does worrying help you or not?
- ❖ As your prayer today, you can write down your worries on pieces of paper and take turns throwing them in the trash or take small pebbles and a bowl or cup of water and drop pebbles in the water naming your worries.
- ❖ As you let go of the pebble or wad of paper, imagine handing your worries over to God.



March 24th, 2017
Friday

Matthew 6:28-30

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. “

- ❖ Do you worry about clothing? In what way?
- ❖ Clothing, just like food, is a good gift from God. However, people have often misused it.
- ❖ Can you think of examples you have seen where clothing became too important to yourself or others?
- ❖ Pray asking God for help in treating clothes as a gift and not an idol.

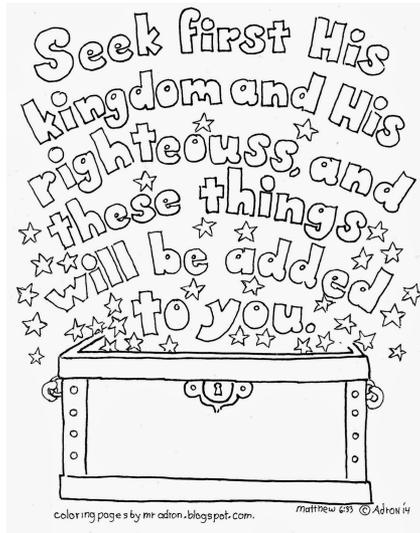


March 25th, 2017
Saturday

Matthew 6:33

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

- ❖ Jesus says that instead of filling our brains with worries, we should think more about loving God and doing what is right.
- ❖ In the same way you decide what to wear or what to eat for breakfast, take a moment to answer: What kind of person do you want to be today? Ask God to help you.
- ❖ Practice doing that this week every time you put on clothes in the morning.



March 27th, 2017

Monday

Matthew 8:2-3

Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"

- ❖ Jesus did an amazing thing: he touched the man who everyone avoided for years. What kind of a touch do you think it was? How do you think the man felt?
- ❖ Is there someone you know whom people avoid?
- ❖ What can you do to show kindness to this person

this week?

❖ Pray for them.



March 28th, 2017

Tuesday

Matthew 8:5-10

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, **"I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!"***

- ❖ Jesus admires the faith of a Roman soldier whom others hated. Who are the people you admire and want to be like?
- ❖ Who are the people you know or knew who had great faith in God?
- ❖ Thank God for those people.



March 29th, 2017
Wednesday

Matthew 9:2,6

Some people brought to Jesus a paralyzed man on a mat.

*Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “**Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!**”*

- ❖ Jesus sends some people to travel with him, to go to different countries, and to do ministry in cities they had never been too. Yet, there are a lot of people whom Jesus sends back to their home.
- ❖ How can people follow Jesus while at their home? What can they do to spread God’s love and his

kingdom?

- ❖ What are the places where Jesus sends you to do his work?
- ❖ Ask God for help and guidance as you fulfill God's mission.



March 30th, 2017
Thursday

Matthew 11:28

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

- ❖ What are the burdens you carry? What makes you tired? What are some hard things you are experiencing?
- ❖ Pray for Jesus' help.
- ❖ What is your favorite way to rest?
- ❖ Thank God for the wonderful gift of rest.



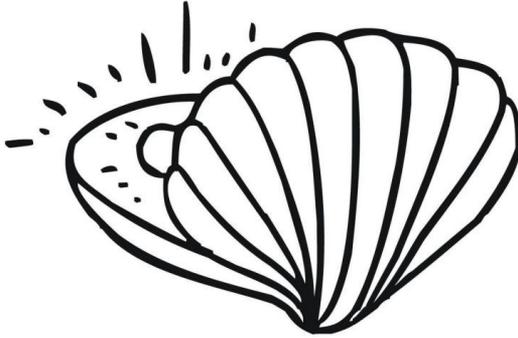
March 31st, 2017
Friday

Matthew 13:45-46

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!”

- ❖ How does it make you feel when you realize that Jesus gave everything, even his life, for you?
- ❖ What are some things that people sometimes have to give up to follow Jesus?
- ❖ Pray asking for God’s help in realizing how precious

God's kingdom is.



April 1st, 2017
Saturday

Matthew 14:24-27

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But

Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said.

“Take courage. I am here!”

- ❖ What makes you afraid?
- ❖ What helps you cope when you feel afraid? What does it make you feel to think that Jesus is always with you?
- ❖ Pray to God to always remember Jesus is with you when you are afraid.



April 3rd, 2017

Monday

Matthew 15:10

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “Listen,” he said, “and try to understand. It’s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth.”

- ❖ Share something kind someone said to you recently.

- ❖ Has anyone said anything mean to you recently? Or you to someone else?
- ❖ Jesus is saying that words are extremely important. In fact, when we say bad or mean words they not only hurt the person who heard them, but they also hurt us.
- ❖ Ask God to forgive you for the bad words you've said and ask him for help using words that are kind and loving.



April 4th, 2017
Tuesday

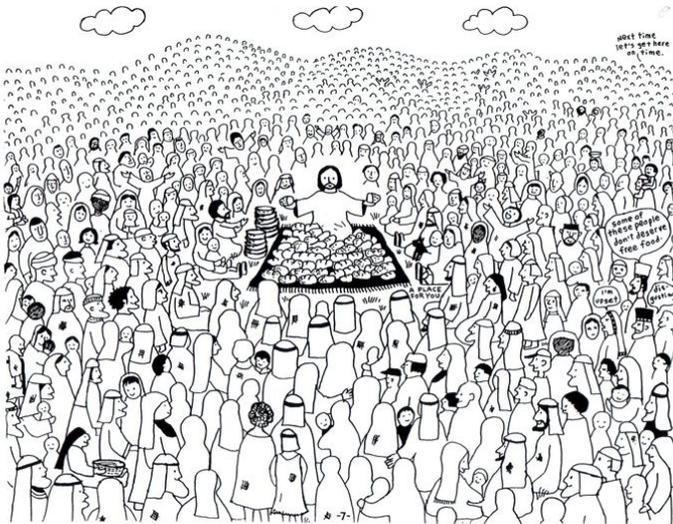
Matthew 15:32

Then Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, or they will faint along the way."

- ❖ Jesus notices that people who have gathered to

hear him are hungry and helps them.

- ❖ Who have you noticed recently who needed help?
- ❖ Were you able to do something to help them?
- ❖ If not, is there something you can plan on doing in the future?
- ❖ Pray for God to open your eyes to see those in need around you.



April 5th, 2017
Wednesday

Matthew 16:24-25

“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

- ❖ Do you like giving gifts?
- ❖ What about helping people?

- ❖ How does it make you feel when you “give yourself away”?
- ❖ Jesus says that there is life and joy in giving of ourselves, that this is what God created us to do.
- ❖ Pray to God for help living a generous life.



April 6th, 2017
Thursday

Matthew 18:2-5

*“Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, **“I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. And anyone who***

welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.”

- ❖ Name some young children that you know well.
- ❖ How are they different from grown-ups?
- ❖ Why do you think Jesus wants us to be more like little kids?
- ❖ Think of something kind you can do for a young child this week.
- ❖ Pray for the little children you know.



April 7th, 2017
Friday

Matthew 19:13-15

*One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, **“Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For***

the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

- ❖ If you were a child in this story, how would you have spent your day with Jesus?
- ❖ If you were a disciple in this story, who do you think you might not have liked to see with Jesus? (Maybe someone who has hurt you or who is not good enough?)
- ❖ Jesus loves and welcomes everyone. You don't need to be a certain kind of smart or good or hardworking to be loved by God. How does it make you feel?
- ❖ Thank God for God's unconditional love.



April 8th, 2017

Saturday

Matthew 20:26-28

“Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- ❖ Who are some good leaders you know?
- ❖ What is it about them that you like?
- ❖ What is Jesus advice for becoming a good leader?
- ❖ Ask God to help you become one.



April 10th, 2017

Monday of Holy Week

Matthew 21:2-3

“Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone

asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

- ❖ How do you think the owner of the donkey felt about Jesus using his animal?
- ❖ Can you think of any stories when something you own was used for God's work?
- ❖ What are the gifts that God has given you that can be used for God?
- ❖ Ask God to make you ready to share your possessions when needed.



April 11th, 2017
Tuesday of Holy Week

Matthew 26:2

"As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

- ❖ Jesus knew what was going to happen to him, but

did not run away.

- ❖ Were there times when you had to do something you knew was going to be difficult but did it anyway?
- ❖ Is there something hard you or someone you know will need to do soon?
- ❖ Pray for God's help in this situation.



April 12th, 2017

Wednesday of Holy Week

Matthew 26:18

“As you go into the city,” he told them, “you will see a certain man. Tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My time has

come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.”

- ❖ For his Last Supper with his friends, Jesus had to rely on someone’s hospitality.
- ❖ When have people hosted you at their home for a meal or overnight?
- ❖ Who have you hosted at your house?
- ❖ Thank God for the gift of giving and receiving hospitality.



April 13th, 2017
Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Worship at Trinity at 6:30pm

Matthew 26:36

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.”

- ❖ In hard times, Jesus goes to a special place to pray.
- ❖ Where do you like to pray?
- ❖ What are some things that help you pray?
- ❖ Step outside to pray or make a plan to pray outside this week.



April 14th, 2017
Good Friday

Matthew 26: 49-50

So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Jesus said, “My friend,

go ahead and do what you have come for.” Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

- ❖ When people come to take Jesus, he does not fight back. He responds with love even to those who hurt him.
- ❖ What are some situations where you have a hard time not hurting people back after they hurt you?
- ❖ Pray to Jesus for help to know how to respond to those who hurt you with love.



April 15th, 2017
Holy Saturday

Matthew 27:50

*Then Jesus **shouted out** again, and he released his spirit.*

- ❖ Imagine yourself there when Jesus died. What are

you feeling? Thinking?

- ❖ What is your prayer to God knowing that Jesus just died?
- ❖ Holy Saturday teaches us that it's good to take time to notice and feel sad for all the things that are going wrong in the world. What makes you sad?
- ❖ Take time to say an honest prayer to God about those things.



April 16th, 2017
Easter Sunday

10am Celebration of Resurrection at Trinity

Matthew 28:8-10

The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very

*frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, **“Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”***

- ❖ Why is Easter good news to you? What do you think you will do or say to Jesus when you see him in person?
- ❖ If you made a “Lenten tree”, decorate it with bright ribbons, paper flowers and plastic eggs.
- ❖ Pray thanking God for the surprising joy of Easter.

