

# Get **CONNECTED**

with family and friends

## Jesus' Passion

In this chapter, you will learn how the Church remembers and celebrates the events of Jesus' Passion. You will focus on Jesus' suffering and the great sacrifice he made for us by giving up his life. Christ is alive in the Church today. He reaches out to us with love and forgiveness. Holy Week and the Season of Lent are the perfect times for us to respond to Christ's call to repentance.



## Activity

Mary couldn't believe what she was hearing. She felt miserable. She knew things with her parents weren't so good, but did they have to get a divorce? Life as a teenager was challenging enough without *this*. Mary wondered if she could do anything to change her parents' minds. Both parents told her that it wasn't her fault and they still loved her. They also said their decision was final. When Mary prayed, she wondered if Jesus understood what she was feeling. Did Jesus know what it was like to feel that a situation was hopeless? What hope could you offer Mary?


Do one of the following.


1. Think of someone you know who suffers from loneliness, rejection, or illness. With your family, plan to do something specific to alleviate the person's suffering.
2. Gather with your family or friends. Light a candle and pray for people who are going through difficult times.

## Triv**i**a

 Church History

 Social Studies

 Arts & Culture

 People & Places

Peter the Great was declared czar of Russia in 1682. Although he was known as a ruthless dictator, he was also a great political reformer. He is also known for revising the Christian calendar, simplifying the Russian alphabet, and moving the Russian capital to St. Petersburg.

## Quotable Scripture

"If you knew the gift of God . . . you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

—John 4:10



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## ✚ Scripture Background

### In the Time of Jesus

**Welcoming Guests** Since there were few inns in the Holy Land in the first century, a traveler usually stopped to rest at a private home. It was customary for the head of the household to welcome a stranger as his friend. He made his guest comfortable by washing his feet and offering him a meal. If the stranger was staying overnight, the host provided him with the best room in the house.

Read Luke 11:5–13 to discover how Jesus uses this custom to tell about the effectiveness of prayer.

## WEEKLY PLANNER

### On Sunday

Listen for words about Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection during the Eucharistic Prayer. Believe that Jesus understands our suffering and is there to help us.

### On the Web

[blestarewe.com](http://blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

### Saint of the Week



**Saint John the Apostle**  
(d. first century)

John was the youngest of the Twelve Apostles. He was the only Apostle who stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus was being crucified. The Gospel of John is believed to have been written by John or based on his memories. John's symbol is the eagle. This represents the majesty of his Gospel.

**Patron Saint of:** friendship  
**Feast Day:** December 27



### A Prayer for the Week

Lord, your Passion and Resurrection remind us of the unimaginable depths of your love for us. Teach us to love and serve others in ways that please you. May your dying and rising set us free. Amen.



# 14 Jesus' Passion



“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” *John 15:13*

## Share

You usually make an effort to include friends in your activities, and your friends do the same for you. Good friends usually exchange acts of kindness, remember important events in each other’s lives, leave time for each other, and try to spend equal time listening and helping each other.

## Activity

Using the letters in the word *friend*, write words or phrases beginning with each letter that name or describe qualities of a good friend. You may wish to add a design around these words to illustrate the meaning of true friendship.



F \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

How is your relationship with God like the “true friendship” you have described? Discuss ways that people can strengthen their relationship with God.

How do Catholics remember their relationship with Jesus Christ?





## Hear & Believe



# Worship

## Remembering the Passion of Our Lord

**Holy Week** is the holiest week of the liturgical year. We celebrate God's great love for us as demonstrated in the Sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and includes the **Easter Triduum**. The Triduum includes the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the remembrance of Jesus' Crucifixion on Good Friday, and the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday liturgies—rejoicing in the mystery of Christ's Passover from death to life.

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to begin the events of Jesus' **Paschal Mystery**. With palm branches in hand, we celebrate Mass and hear the story of Jesus' Passion. Here is an example of this reading.

### The Passion of our Lord according to Mark.

**Narrator:** Jesus and his Apostles came to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John. He began to be troubled and distressed.

**Christ:** "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will."

**Narrator:** Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived with a crowd of the chief priests, scribes, and elders, carrying swords and clubs. Judas, Jesus' betrayer, had arranged a signal with them, saying,

**Judas:** "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely."

**Narrator:** Judas went to Jesus and said,

**Judas:** "Rabbi."

**Narrator:** Judas then kissed Jesus. At this they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. As soon as morning came, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, who questioned him,

**Pilate:** "Are you the king of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** Jesus said to him in reply,

**Christ:** "You say so."

**Narrator:** The chief priests accused him of many things. Again, Pilate questioned him,



**Pilate:** "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of."

**Narrator:** Jesus did not answer. On Passover, Pilate used to release one prisoner. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with rebels who had committed murder. The crowd began to ask Pilate to release one prisoner. Pilate answered,

**Pilate:** "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate said,

**Pilate:** "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?"

**Narrator:** They shouted,

**Crowd:** "Crucify him!"

**Narrator:** Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:** "Why? What evil has he done?"

**Narrator:** They only shouted the louder,

**Crowd:** "Crucify him!"

**Narrator:** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas. After he had Jesus scourged, he handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away inside the palace. They clothed him in purple and placed a crown woven out of thorns on his head. They began to salute him, saying,

**Crowd:** "Hail, king of the Jews!"

**Narrator:** and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. When they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to the place of Golgotha, translated "Place of the Skull," to crucify him. They nailed him to a cross and divided up his



garments by casting lots. On the cross, they inscribed the charge against him, The King of the Jews. Those passing by said,

**Crowd:** "Save yourself by coming down from the cross."

**Narrator:** The chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves, saying,

**Crowd:** "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."

**Narrator:** At noon, darkness came over the land and lasted until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

**Christ:** "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

**Narrator:** Some of the bystanders said,

**Crowd:** "Look, he is calling Elijah."

**Narrator:** One of them soaked a sponge with wine, and put it on a reed for Jesus to drink, saying,

**Bystander:** "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

**Narrator:** Jesus cried out and breathed his last. *(Here all kneel and pause for a short time.)*

**Narrator:** The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing Jesus saw how he breathed his last he said,

**Centurion:** "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

*Based on Mark 14:32—15:39*

### The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Call to Repent

By his suffering and Death, Jesus destroyed the power of sin and death, and restored our friendship with God. By his Resurrection, Jesus brought us the promise of life everlasting. When we reflect on this Paschal Mystery throughout Lent, and especially during Holy Week, we experience a call to repent. The Church carries on Jesus' work of forgiveness and Salvation. One way the Church does this is in the celebration of the two Sacraments of Healing, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

Before receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we examine our conscience and express sorrow for our sins. Feeling sorrow because of our

love for God, rather than because of fear of punishment, is called "perfect contrition." Next, we make a firm promise to avoid sin in the future. We are now ready to confess our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Only a priest has the power to forgive our sins in the name of Christ. If we commit a mortal sin, receiving this Sacrament is an ordinary way to be reconciled to God and the Church. Although it is not necessary to confess venial sins, the Church encourages us to do so.

After we confess our sins we receive an act of penance from the priest that we must do for the sins we have committed. This penance may be a prayer or an act of charity that helps us follow Jesus more closely. After we accept our penance, we receive absolution from the priest.

In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, people suffering from illness or old age receive special grace. In this Sacrament, which can be received more than once, the priest anoints the people's forehead and hands and prays for their healing, comfort, strength, and forgiveness.

## Activity

Discuss why there is a special focus on repentance during Holy Week.

## Faith Words

**Holy Week** Holy Week is the week that begins on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It includes the final days of Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

**Easter Triduum** The Easter Triduum is the holiest celebration of the liturgical year. It is the three-day celebration that begins on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

**Paschal Mystery** The Paschal Mystery is God's plan for our Salvation through the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.

Why is it so important to receive Jesus' forgiveness?



## Hear & Believe

### **Scripture Peter's Denial**

One of the most difficult parts of Jesus' Passion must have been the abandonment of Jesus by his closest friends. Judas betrayed him. Peter, James, and John slept as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter denied even knowing Jesus. Matthew's and John's Gospels tell of Peter's denial this way:

After Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends, he told them that their faith would be shaken that night. Peter said that he would remain strong. Jesus then told Peter that he would deny Jesus three times before the cock crowed in the morning.

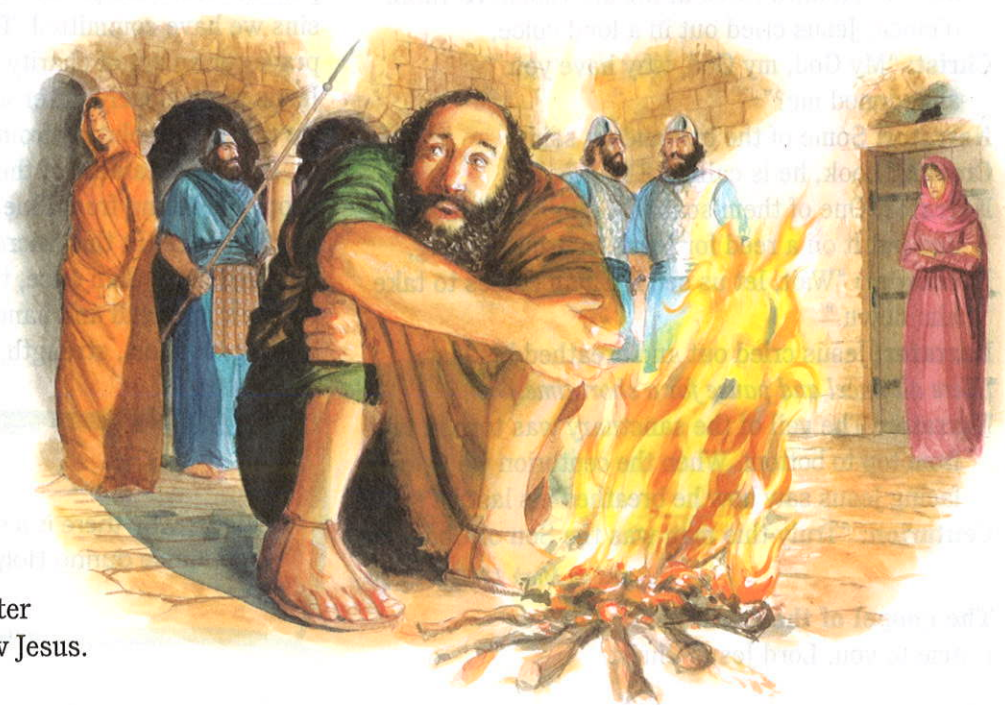
When Jesus was arrested, Peter followed him at a distance. He stayed outside when Jesus went into the place where he would be tried by the Jewish leaders. When bystanders recognized Peter as one of Jesus' Apostles, three times Peter denied that he even knew Jesus.

When the cock crowed, Peter remembered Jesus' prediction and left, weeping bitterly.

But the story did not end there. After the Resurrection, Jesus offered reconciliation to Peter and asked him to lead the Apostles.

*Based on Matthew 26:26–50, 69–75; John 21:15–19*

Like Peter, we are offered a new start on our Christian journey through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



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## Our Church Teaches

Lent is a time of penance. In repenting of sin, we grow closer to God. If we commit mortal sin, the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconciles us with God and the Church. It brings us into God's grace and excuses us from eternal punishment for mortal sin. It brings us peace of mind, comfort, and the strength to avoid temptation and to continue our Christian journey through life. Reconciliation also excuses us from

some of the temporal punishments we might suffer in Purgatory, a purification process we undergo after death for the effects of our sins. If we die without having fully atoned for all our sin, we may be purified in Purgatory. Through prayers and good works in this life, we can find spiritual strength and lessen this suffering both for ourselves and for the souls already in Purgatory.

### **We Believe**

**We rejoice in the Risen Christ who brings us his love and forgiveness. Through Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus heals us.**



## Activities

1. How is sin a way of denying Jesus?

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How can we atone for such a denial of Jesus?

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2. In the left column, list five effects of sin that you have learned about. In the right column, list five graces, or effects, of Reconciliation that are mentioned in "Our Church Teaches."

### Effects of Sin

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### Graces of Reconciliation

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How can we honor our relationship with Christ?



## Respond

### Saint John the Apostle

It's not very easy to stick by a person who is mocked for their beliefs or who is not very popular. According to tradition, John, the youngest of the Twelve Apostles, did just that. In the Gospel of John we learn that when others ran away from Jesus, John stuck by him. John was the only Apostle who stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus was being crucified.

Do you stand by Jesus even when it is not the popular thing to do?

John was with Jesus almost from the very beginning of his ministry. Along with Peter and his brother James, John was part of Jesus' inner circle of friends. In the Gospel of John we read that the three of them were with Jesus during the important moments of his life. Now, as Jesus was dying, only John remained a faithful friend.

According to tradition, John the Apostle died when he was very old, having lived for about seventy years after Christ's Resurrection. It is believed that during that time, he traveled with Peter, preaching the Good News of Salvation and healing the sick. The Gospel of John is believed to have been written by John the Apostle or based on his teachings. John's symbol is the eagle, representing the majesty of his Gospel.

Because of his unwavering devotion to Jesus, John the Apostle is honored as the patron saint of friendships. We celebrate his feast day on December 27.

Do you try to remain a friend to Jesus by living a good and holy life?

### Activities

1. What can you learn from Saint John the Apostle about being a true friend to Jesus?

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2. Why is it important for us to prepare for the Easter Triduum by reflecting on our lives, repenting for sin, and doing penance?

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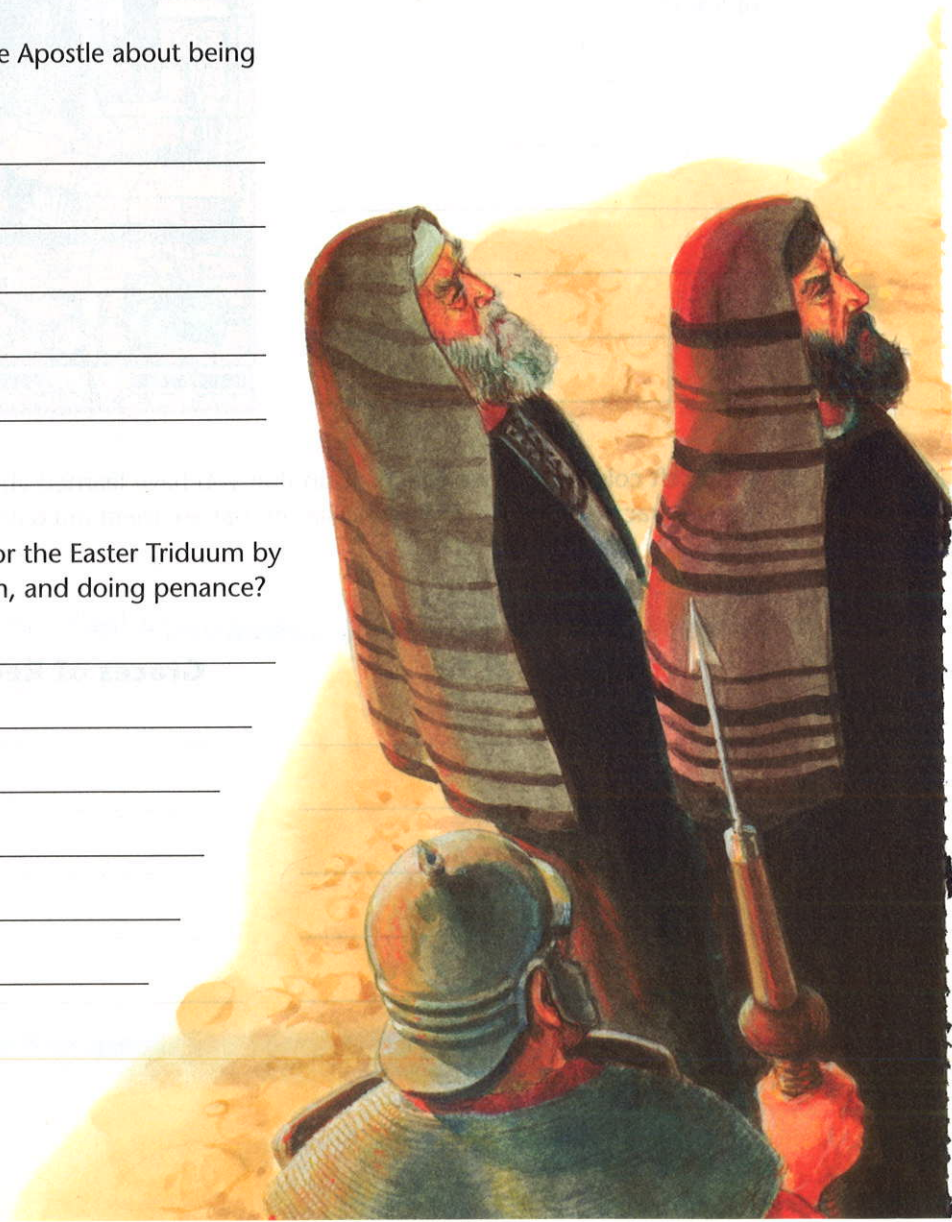
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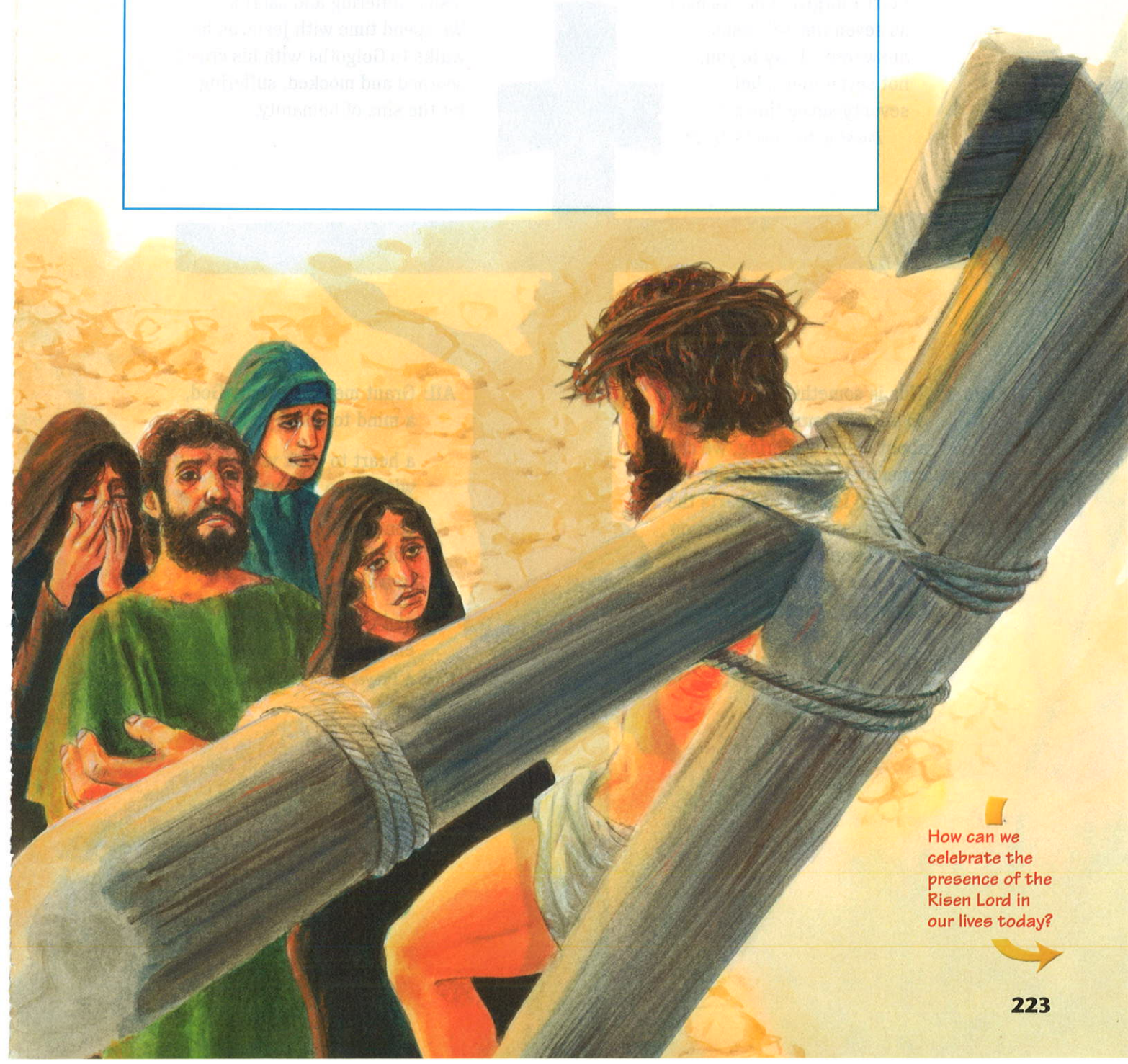
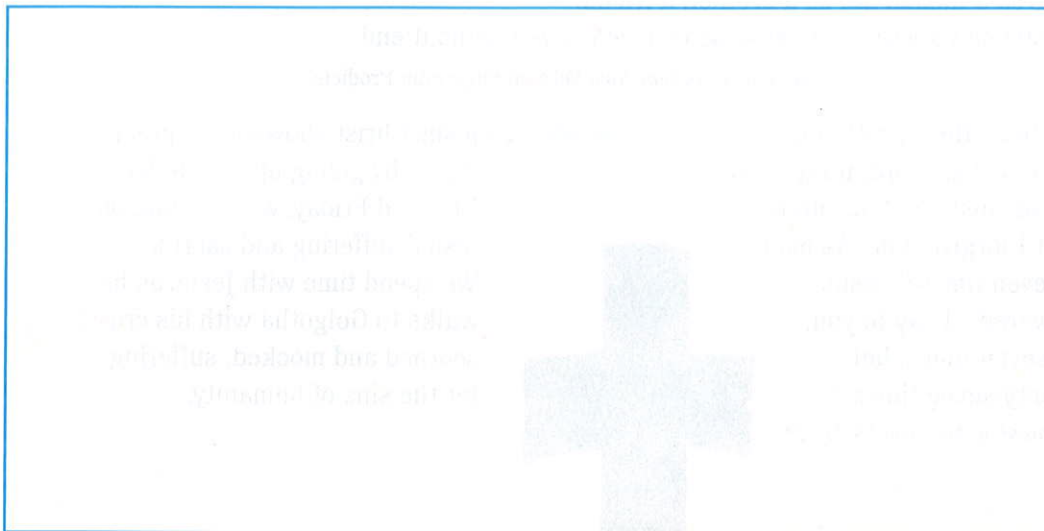




3. Choose one day of the Easter Triduum, and design a symbol that shows its significance for the lives of Christians.



pages 346 and 347 to read more about the Easter Triduum for help with this activity.



How can we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives today?





# Prayer Celebration

## A Prayer for Mercy

**Leader:** Being born, he gave himself to all.  
He lived a human life as a brother, a friend.  
He died on Calvary's hill because he loved, loved without end.

*Based on a passage from Verbum Supernum Prodiens*

**Reader 1:** One time, the Apostle Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

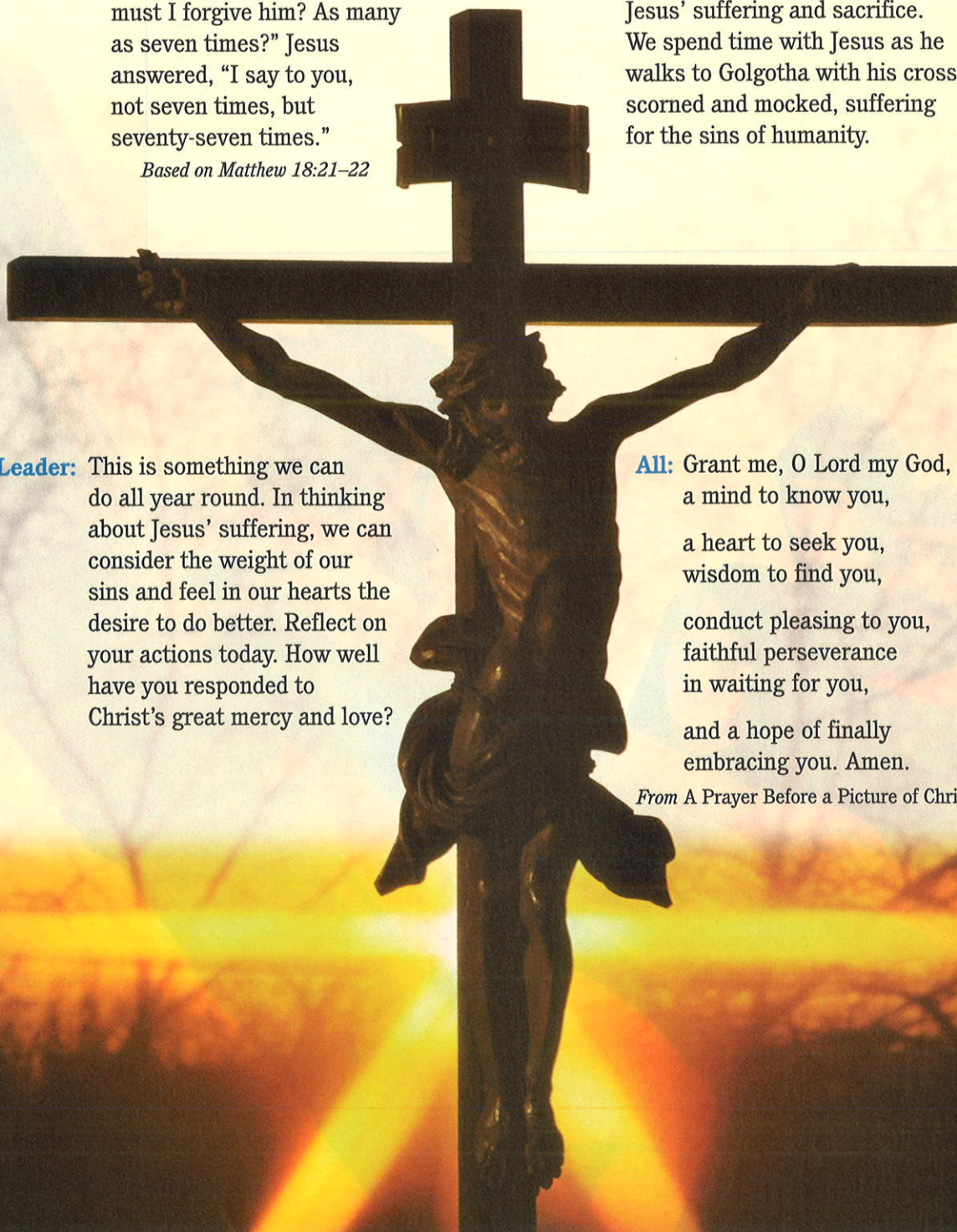
*Based on Matthew 18:21-22*

**Reader 2:** Jesus Christ showed this great mercy by giving up his life for us. On Good Friday, we meditate on Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. We spend time with Jesus as he walks to Golgotha with his cross, scorned and mocked, suffering for the sins of humanity.

**Leader:** This is something we can do all year round. In thinking about Jesus' suffering, we can consider the weight of our sins and feel in our hearts the desire to do better. Reflect on your actions today. How well have you responded to Christ's great mercy and love?

**All:** Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance  
in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally  
embracing you. Amen.

*From A Prayer Before a Picture of Christ*





A

Write a brief summary of what you learned in this chapter, using words from the box.

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Crucifixion  
 Passion  
 denied  
 Resurrection  
 forgiveness  
 repent  
 sacrifice  
 friendship

B

Circle the letter of the best answer.

- When Jesus was being crucified, John was the only Apostle who \_\_\_\_\_.
  - testified against Jesus
  - hid in a cave
  - stood at the foot of the cross
  - made friends with the soldiers
- The symbol for John the Apostle is \_\_\_\_\_, representing the majesty of his Gospel.
  - an eagle
  - a dove
  - an oak tree
  - a lamb
- After Jesus' Resurrection, John traveled with Peter to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - preach the Good News of Salvation
  - escape persecution
  - heal the sick
  - both a and c
- According to tradition, John lived for about \_\_\_\_\_ years after Jesus' Resurrection.
  - thirty
  - fifty
  - seventy
  - ninety
- John is the patron saint of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - brothers
  - disciples
  - writers
  - friendships



**C** **Who am I? Write the name or a description of the person or persons described by each clue.**

1. I made a deal with the chief priests and elders to hand over Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I questioned Jesus at the request of the Jews, but I found no fault in him.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I was released from prison on the Passover instead of Jesus, even though I was a convicted murderer. \_\_\_\_\_

4. We mocked Jesus and crucified him. Then we divided up his garments.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. After witnessing Jesus' death, I remarked that truly he was the Son of God.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D** **Match Column A with Column B by writing the correct number in the space provided.**

**A**

1. Holy Week

2. Paschal Mystery

3. Easter Triduum

4. Lent

5. perfect contrition

**B**

\_\_\_ the Church season that is a time of penance

\_\_\_ the week that begins on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

\_\_\_ feeling sorrow because of our love for God, rather than because of fear of punishment

\_\_\_ God's plan for our Salvation through the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus

\_\_\_ the holiest celebration of the liturgical year

**E** **Write about two ways in which you develop your friendship with God.**

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