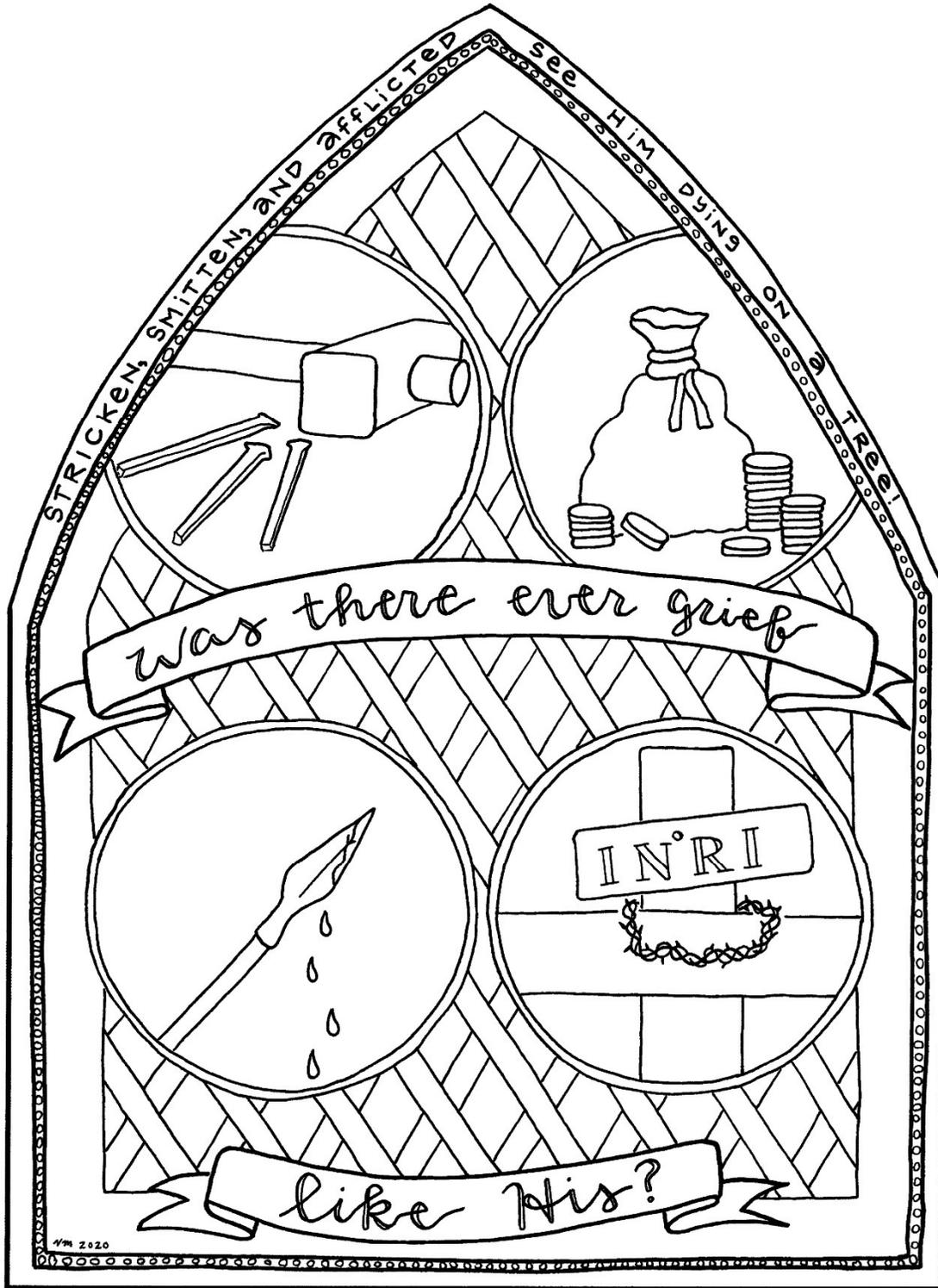


When from Death I'm Free

A Shelter-In-Place Resource for Holy Week, 2020



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You can find recordings of these and other songs at
www.findmynextstep.org/music.

The podcast related to this resource is found at
community.findmynextstep.org/category/podcast/.

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Palm Sunday

Read

Luke 19:37-44

Visual Faith Experiment

The crowds are shouting Hosanna to welcome their king; but Jesus mourns.

The Hebrew phrase from which we get the word “Hosanna” came to be used as a welcoming shout of praise and expectation; but at its root “Hosanna” means, “O, Save Us!”

How often do we see what Jesus is doing, but get it wrong? How many times have our shouts of joy brought tears to the Lord’s eyes? How often have we hoped for success and forgotten how much we need saving?

Until the King comes again in glory, we, the people of the Kingdom, will always be a mixed bag. Sometimes our lives will reflect a godly joy; and sometimes what we long for makes Jesus weep.

As you add color to the art on the following page, use shades of green and shades of blue. As you use the green shades, remember the shouts of Hosanna: give Jesus praise and welcome Him again as your King.

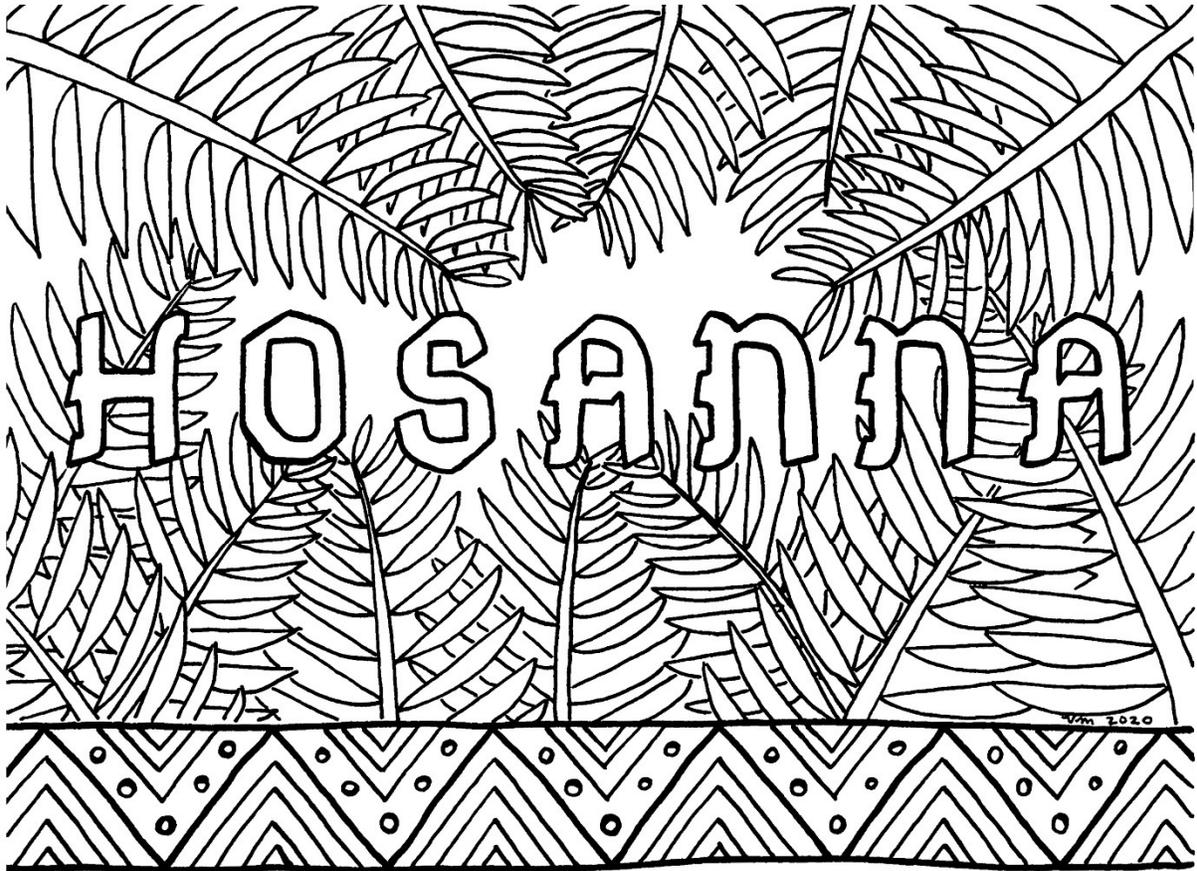
And then, as you use shades of blue, remember the tears of Jesus. Mourn the sin and confusion and misunderstanding in the world and in your own life. Ask Him again to save you.

Greens and blues: joy, sorrow; a kingly welcome and a plea for help, all focused on Jesus.

Pray

Jesus, thank You for Your tender heart for me. Gently draw my gaze away from fear or worry, and cause me to focus on You more and more.

Hosanna! O, Save us! Amen.



Monday of Holy Week

Read

1 Corinthians 15:21-26

Devotion

“The last enemy to be destroyed.” That’s what Paul calls Death. Not a companion. Not a door. Not a comfort or a resting place. An enemy.

Of course, in Jesus, death has already lost its power to cause fear. Those who die in Christ are at peace in His presence. By His rest in the tomb, Jesus set aside as holy all the tombs of all His saints. So in one sense, Death is a kind of repose, a respite from the labor of living.

But in another, perhaps more central sense, Jesus isn’t done with His saving acts until Death, that last enemy to be destroyed, is finally and completely done away with forever.

When you die, your soul rests with Jesus. But you were created to be a physical as well as spiritual being; your soul and your body belong together, by divine design.

So as long as any human body of someone Jesus loves lies in a grave, Jesus isn’t content with the status quo. His work isn’t fully finished. His victory is not yet completely complete.

Jesus loves your body. Jesus died for your body. Your body is going to rise. Come quickly, Lord.

Pray

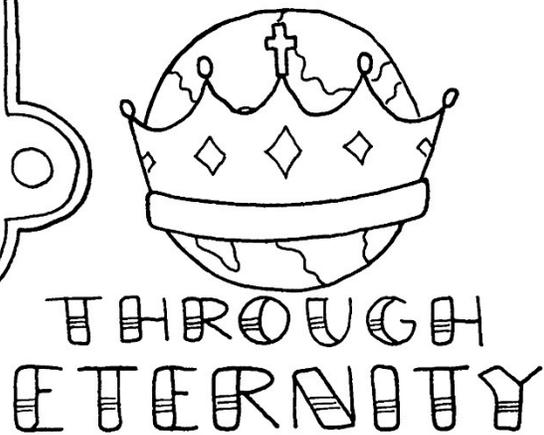
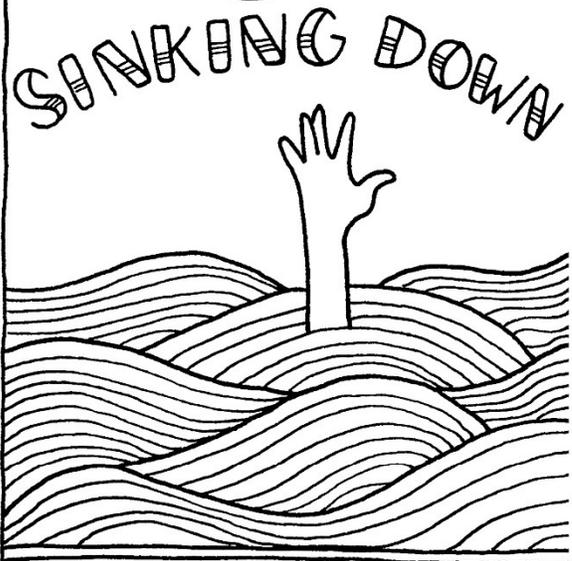
Listen or sing along to the hymn, “What Wondrous Love Is This” as you color on the next page. Use the time to prayerfully consider what Jesus did for you and what Jesus is still doing in your life.

Thank you, Jesus, that you love me so much! Amen.

L A I D
A S I D E
H I S
C R O W N

B E A R
T H E
D R E A D F U L
C U R S E

what
W O N D R O U S
love is this



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Tuesday of Holy Week

Read

Luke 14:16-23

Devotion

The self-sufficient guests in Jesus' parable show one way we tend to respond to God's kingdom invitation. They have already RSVP'd yes, but after the caterer has all the food in warming trays, these ingrates beg off. They are too busy. They can't be bothered.

If you are self-sufficient in your spiritual life, you will have trouble needing Jesus. The poor in spirit—they receive the Kingdom as a gift. The little children, who can do nothing for themselves, they enter in.

Outsiders. Castaways. Unwanted. Unworthy. Hungry. Helpless. Come like that to Jesus, and you will find a joyful welcome!

And watch it! False humility is as damaging as false pride. The poorest of the poor in the parable know they are not worthy, that they cannot return the invitation, that they don't own the right kind of party clothes and couldn't afford the postage for a thank-you note.

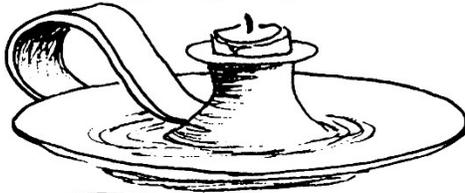
The Master says, "Compel them to come in." Because they will feel morally obligated to refuse. Jesus knows you are not worthy and that you can't repay; He wants you at His feast, anyway. His invitation is both gracious and compelling. Say yes.

Pray

Find the song, "The King is Calling" by Kip Fox. As you color on the next page., listen to the words. When have you felt unwanted or helpless or like you have "no candle left to burn?" How do you experience the gracious invitation of Jesus to rest and renewal?

Jesus, thank you for your kind and compelling invitation. Please don't stop inviting me. And give me Your Spirit so I can respond with a resounding, "Yes!" Amen.

Sing for Joy
the **King** is
calling



KHelmreich

Wednesday of Holy Week

Read

Philippians 3:7-10

Devotion

The teachings of Jesus are full of paradoxes. “The first will be last.” “Whoever want to be greatest, must be a slave.” “Those who lose their lives will save them.” “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom.”

The death of Jesus is full of paradoxes. At the cross we see the greatest justice and the greatest travesty of justice combine. The symbol of kingship is interwoven with the sign of sin’s curse. Sorrow is mingled with love. We boast and glory in this shame. Our greatest loss is also our greatest gain.

The lives of those who follow Jesus are full of paradoxes. You are called to love your enemies. You are spurred to constant and active engagement in a life of faith you can only passively receive. You are invited to die, but only so that you can truly live.

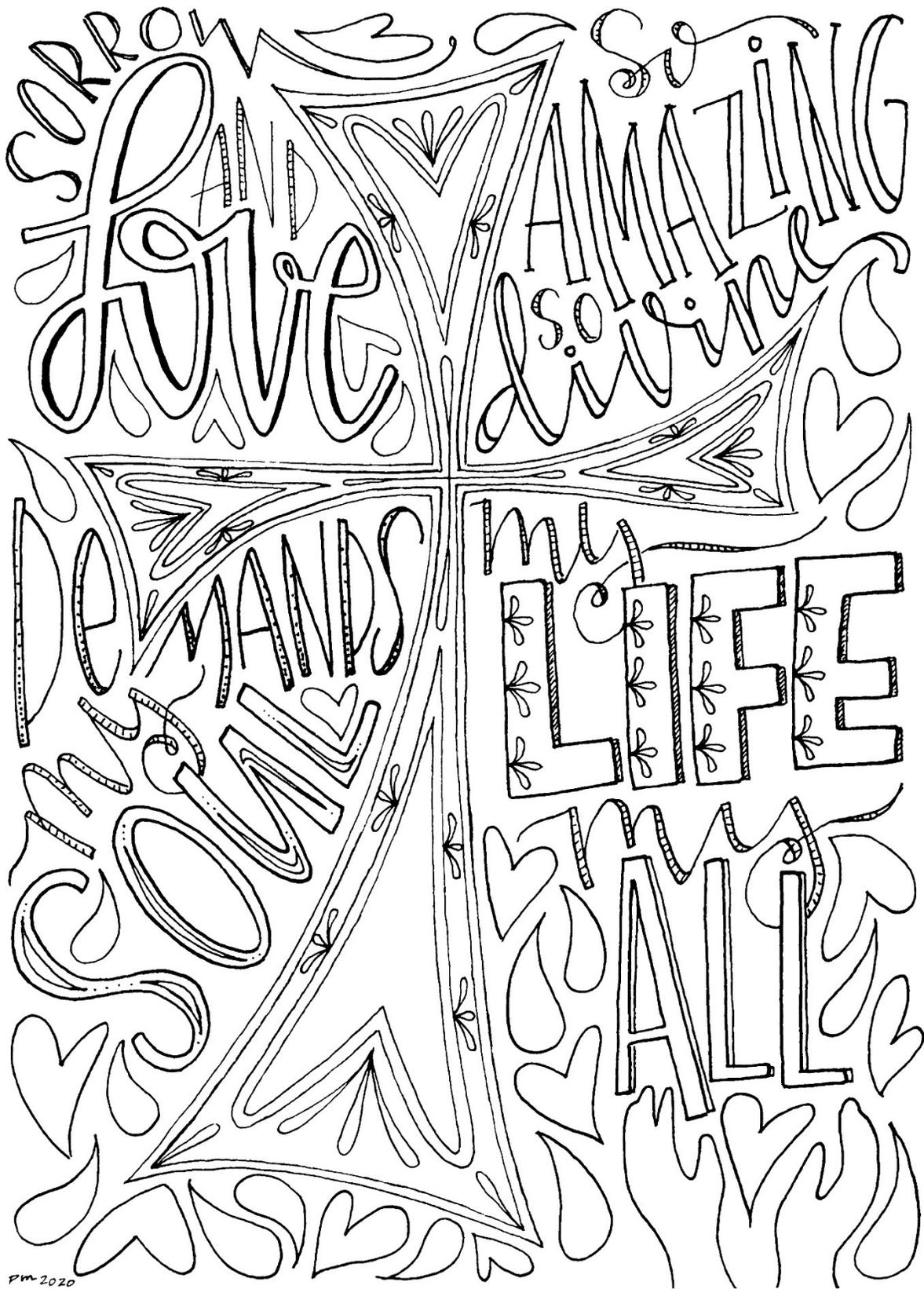
The cross shows us clearly the breathtaking beauty of the ugliest moment in human history. And the cross sends us out as people of paradox: people who pour themselves out, yet are never empty. People who suffer great loss, and yet own the world. People who are riddled with weakness and sin, and yet shine like the stars in their splendor.

The power of the cross turns people inside out and the world upside down. And we will never be the same.

Pray

Sing the hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” As you color on the next page, prayerfully consider where you have seen the Spirit work resurrection in your life, ahead of time. Where have you seen peace come out of the tomb of your pride, or joy blossom where you buried your need to be right? How has the death of your self-sufficiency brought a new life of needing Jesus? How do sorrow and love mingle in your life? And what is Jesus doing in that paradox?

Lord Jesus, by the power of your cross, bring life to my loss, hope to my confusion, and light to my darkness, for Your name’s sake. Amen.



PM 2020

Maundy Thursday

Read

Mark 14:35-36; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15, 29

Devotion

The Spirit shapes you to be like Jesus.

Over time, the Spirit shapes the life of Jesus in you, so that you are conformed more and more to the image of the Son; that is, so that you look more like Jesus in your everyday life.

By looking at what Jesus does for us we catch a glimpse of what the Spirit is doing in us.

For us, the obedient Son prays to the Father in the Garden, prays for God's Kingdom to come and God's will to be done on earth as in heaven. In us, the Spirit shapes the prayer, "Our Father, thy Kingdom come; thy will be done..."

For us, the suffering Son picks up His cross and carries the shame and sorrow of the world. In us, the Spirit shapes a willingness to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

For us, the sacrificial Son shows the full measure of His grace, embracing even death for those He loves. In us, the Spirit shapes a daily dying to self and pride and the need to be right.

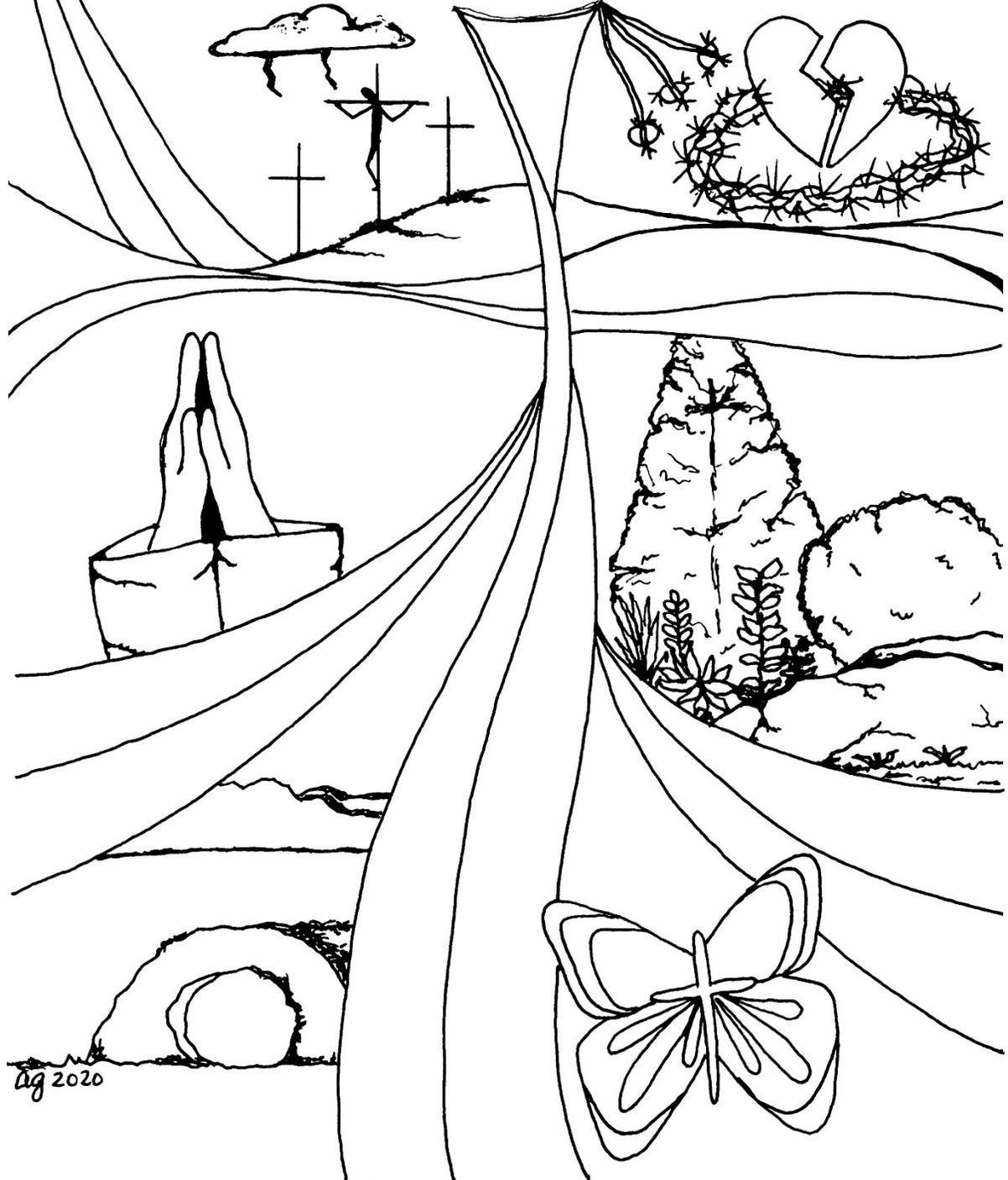
For us, the victorious Son rises in glory. In us, the Spirit shapes resurrection life, already now, and will one day conform our lowly bodies to be like the glorious, human, risen and glorified body of Jesus. The Spirit shapes you to be like Jesus.

Pray

Find the words to the hymn "Go to Dark Gethsemane." Sing through the hymn once. Then write some of the words or phrases from the hymn onto the illustration on the next page. What jumped out at you? Color each of the sections of the illustration as you pray about the ideas expressed in the words you wrote.

Come, Holy Spirit, and shape me to be more like Jesus. Amen.

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



Good Friday

Read

Luke 23:32-43

Visual Faith Experiment

One of the most remarkable promises in all the Gospels is spoken to this unremarkable thief who knows and admits he probably had this death sentence coming.

Jesus speaks that remarkable promise to you, too. The first step is not to be good, or holy, or try a little harder, or do a little better. The first step is to be like that unremarkable thief on the cross: admit your life and heart are far from God.

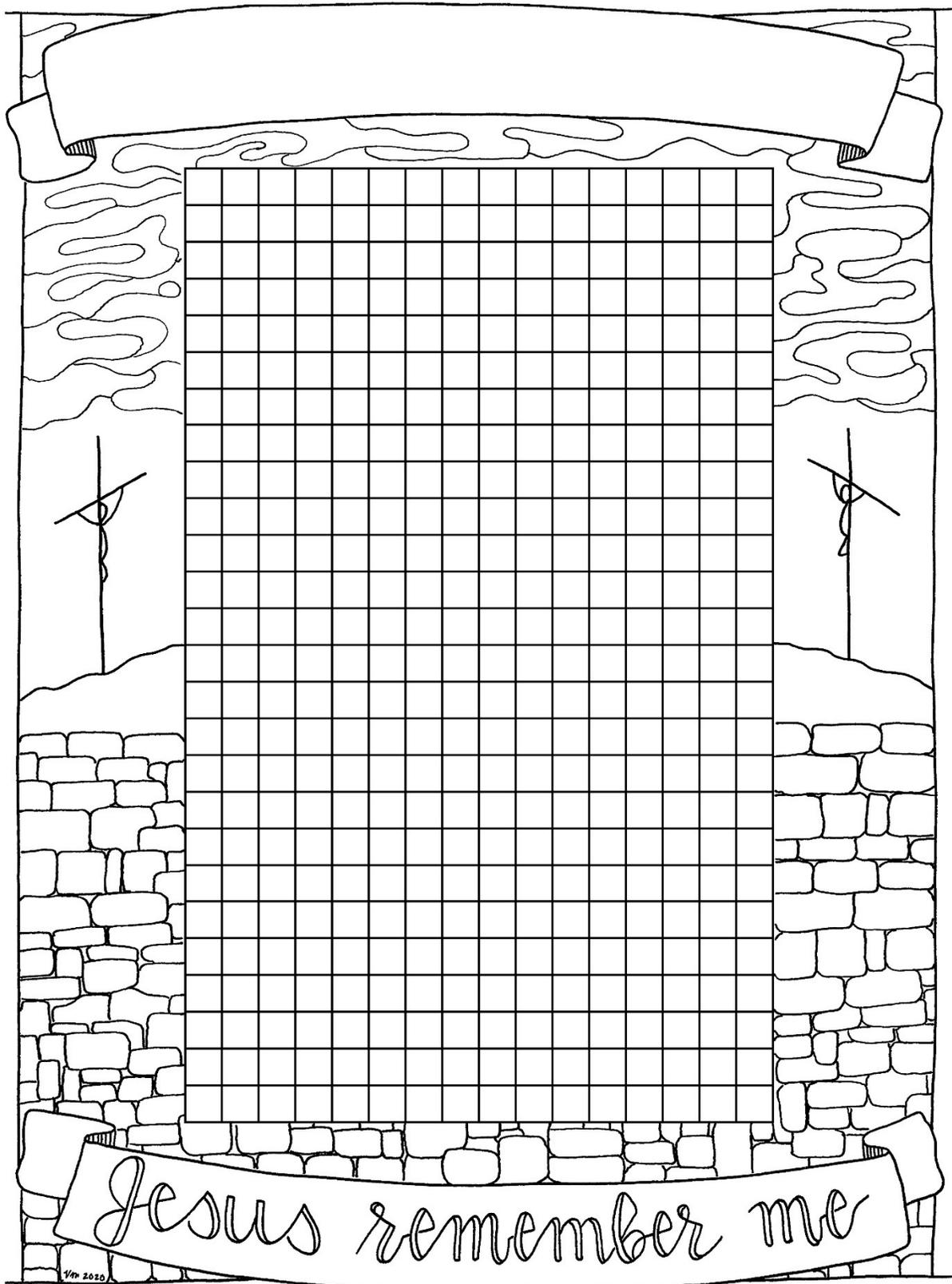
The grid on the next page is designed to slow your thinking and praying down, but it has one really helpful side effect: if anyone happens to glance over your shoulder, they won't be able to read your words quickly or easily. (That's why it's called The Secret Code prayer, even though it's not actually in code...)

Take this somewhat covert opportunity to confess your sins, one letter at a time, with no space between the words. Use all capital letters or all lowercase. Be as honest as you want, as honest as a thief on the cross.

When you are finished, reread the verses from Luke 23 and the text of Thieves on a Cross. Then write, "Father, forgive!" in colorful letters above your prayer. Use a dark colored marker, paint, or whiteout to blot out your confession. Your sins are covered by the blood of Jesus.

Pray

Jesus, your prayer and your promise from the cross overwhelm me! Let me remember your Passion today with a sincere and contrite heart. Give me the gift of sorrow over my own sin and the peace of knowing your forgiveness. Amen.



1/9/2020

Holy Saturday

Read

Genesis 3:12-15

Devotion

A venomous snake striking your heel is just as deadly as stomping on a snake's head. The question isn't which blow is worse; the question is, what happens next?

From our perspective, after the fact, we usually view the death of Jesus on the cross as a victory for our side. And it is. But from Genesis 3 on, the death of the Seed of the Woman has also been viewed as a kind of defeat.

The cross is the enemy winning; the open tomb is God overturning defeat.

Jesus didn't deserve death. In fact, Jesus wasn't even subject to death. But the sinless Son of God submitted Himself to death's authority.

And death had its way with Him. By the time the lifeless body of Jesus is tenderly laid in a borrowed tomb, death had won, without remainder. But you know now, that's not the end of the story.

What would change in your life if you knew, down to your bones, that even total defeat is not the final answer? What if your abject failure, your persistent sin, your heartbreaking loss, didn't count as the final word?

What if you had a Savior who was completely defeated, and still won? What would you do then? Jesus took a death blow, and got right back up. For you.

Pray

Today is the day smack dab in the middle of Good Friday and Easter. Consider both experiences as you color in the next page. What experience of failure, defeat, or loss come to mind? Take it to the Lord in prayer. What experiences of rescue, transformation, or new life come to mind? Give thanks with a grateful heart. Let your coloring and your praying turn into conversation with Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for entering into my failure; thank you for giving me your victory. Be present with me in joy and in sorrow. Amen.



Easter Sunday

Read

Job 19:23-27, 1 Corinthians 15:36-37, 42-43, 54-57

Devotion

Filled with fear and joy, the women are on their way back from the open tomb when the risen Jesus meets them on the road. Matthew goes out of his way to tell us that the women grabbed Jesus by the feet (Matthew 28:9). What a strange detail! Until you understand what was common knowledge in that culture: ghosts don't have feet.

Mary and the other Mary are holding tightly to the physical evidence that this is Jesus, the real Jesus; the risen, human Jesus, with a real body that was dead, but is now alive. No ghost. I think Matthew wants you to fall at the risen Lord's feet in worship. And then grab onto those physical, human, resurrection feet of Jesus.

That's a real body you have in your hands, not some spirit or memory or disembodied soul. Those feet are a tangible promise for the future of your human body: a real, human, physical, resurrection existence. You won't be an angel. You won't be a disembodied soul. You won't be a ghost. Your body will rise from the dead.

Your Redeemer lives! And in the end, He will stand upon the earth. And in your flesh, you will see God. So grab the resurrected feet of Jesus, and hang on for dear life!

Visual Faith Experiment

The Apostle Paul makes the point that different seeds produce different kinds of plants. While your New Creation body will be almost unbelievably different from your current body, it will somehow be the same you, just full-grown, and uniquely different from everybody else and their unique, full-grown, physical, human, New Creation bodies. On the next page, think of some people who are important to you and about what makes them unique. In words, or shapes, or colors, create a bouquet of people you love.

Risen Savior, thank you! Thank you for new life already now! And thank you for the promise of the life of the world to come! Come quickly, Lord. Amen.



What's Your Next Step?

We hope this Hymn Journal has been a useful tool as you seek to get to know Jesus better. Being intentional about your faith isn't easy: keep it up!

As you try to take a next step following Jesus, we have found that having a regular time with a regular person or two is a real help. Get together a couple times a month, invite the Spirit to be present, and simply talk about these three questions:

- What's Jesus speaking into your life?
- What response is Jesus shaping in you?
- What promise from Jesus is guiding your next step?

If you don't know how to begin to answer one of those questions, that's an invitation from Jesus to turn to Him again in need.

Your next step might be, "Talk to someone about figuring out my next step." Maybe your prayer is, "Jesus, I have no idea what I am supposed to be doing right now."

Needing Jesus is the single most important trait of any disciple. He won't give up on you.

About Next Step Press

You're trying to follow Jesus; that's awesome! We want to help.

Next Step Press is a ministry devoted to producing engaging resources that help you delight in taking a next step following Jesus.

When you need to find your path forward, either as an individual or in a small group, we're there for you. One size does not fit all when it comes to discipleship; find something that works for you.

When the task of leading a group feels overwhelming, we can help with that, too. Everything we design for congregations and leaders will support your effort to build and sustain a culture of discipleship, no matter the size of your community. From books, to sermon series, to staff training, to weekend retreats, we've got your back.

We know it's not easy to follow Jesus, and the Next Step Press team wants to alleviate the burden of being a Christian with the joy of being a follower.

What's your next step? Find out more at www.findmynextstep.org.

About This Shelter-In-Place Holy Week Resource

Sometimes things don't go the way you had planned....

Who would have thought, even a few weeks ago, that we would be celebrating Holy Week in our homes instead of in our churches?

Jesus uses every circumstance to bring us to Himself.

Next Step Press released *When from Death I'm Free: A Hymn Journal for Holy Week* before Lent had even begun. That resource quickly went to the #1 New Release spot In Amazon's "Christian Devotional" category.

And now, as Holy Week approaches, my family and friends are all under Shelter-in-Place orders and Amazon has stopped even shipping books until mid-April.

Soo... what would you do if you wanted to help people delight in taking a next step following Jesus?

That's right! Create a resource you can print and use at home, and give it away for free!

You have our permission to use, print, duplicate, copy, share, and otherwise disseminate this resource (with safe social distancing) for home use during Holy Week of 2020.

Color, pray, share the devotions, and dig into some of the music. Seek Jesus in His Word every day during Holy Week this year. Spend some extra time in contemplation, conversation, and prayer. May this resource be a blessing to you and those in your household as Jesus draws you to His cross and open tomb during this unusual Holy Week.

And... if you would like to order the actual book, Amazon will be glad to send it to you in time for next Lent... Go to findmynextstep.org/music for more.

And... if you kind of like the idea of helping people delight in taking a next step, you might want to check out our blog at community.findmynextstep.org or even become a monthly Patron at patreon.com/findmynextstep. For as little as \$3/month you can help make these kinds of next step resources possible.

God bless your Holy Week observance as God shelters you in your place.