

# Palm/Passion Sunday

*“Do this in remembrance of me.”—Luke 22:19 NRSV*

## Explore

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box of memories, pictures of famous memorials, dictionary, history of memorials at local church, location list

### Why Do We Remember?

Compile a box of items that have special memories for you. At the beginning of class, open the box and begin to tell a short story or history of each item (a rock picked up during an exceptional camping experience, a postcard from a special site, a token saved from a campfire worship, an important letter). Ask the class if they have a drawer, a box, or a special place that holds letters, pictures, awards, books, special memories of people, events, or places they want to remember. Spend a few moments talking about their treasures. Ask the class why they are keeping them. Ask: “Did you ever give someone something to remember you by? Every time they look at your gift, would they think of you? Why would you want to be remembered?”

Display pictures of famous world memorials (the pyramids, Arc de Triomphe, Lincoln Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier). Ask a student to look up and read the definition of a memorial (something destined to preserve the memory of a person, event, or achievement).

A memorial may take the form of a statue, monument, building, or park. Frequently, highways and streets, schools, churches, mountain peaks, and books are dedicated to the memory of heroes, public servants, loved ones, peace events, or war. Humans have been building memorials since ancient times. Discuss with the class about memorials in their local communities. If possible, take a trip to a cemetery, city park, or town square to discover memorials of local individuals or events. Before class, search the church for memorials such as windows, signs, furniture, or books that have been given in memory of someone. Write up a brief history of each memorial and place each history beside its memorial.

Give a list of these memorials and their locations to the students and invite them to explore the building looking for the reasons these people, events, or achievements were remembered. Return to class and discuss the different reasons humans create memorials (for respect, honor, showing of love, remembering the impact on the lives of others).

Hold on to your experiences with Jesus for support. Continue looking for new ways to experience him.

## Extract

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Bible

Luke 19:28–40/  
19:27–39 IV  
Luke 22:14–23:56/  
22:14–23:57 IV

### “The Lord Has Need of Him”

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 19:28–40/19:27–39 IV. This was Jesus’ last week on earth before his death. He knew what was coming in his life. Why did he need the colt? What were the disciples to say if anyone questioned why they wanted the animal? What happened when the disciples arrived with the colt? Why did the disciples treat Jesus this way? What was Jesus saying in the final verse?

### Jesus Establishes His Memorial

Read together Luke 22:14–23:56/22:14–23:57 IV. Why did Jesus desire to eat with the apostles? (It was the last time he would eat with them until he came again, to establish the memorial of the Lord’s Supper or Communion.) What did Jesus do with the bread and the wine?

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## *Palm/Passion Sunday*

This night there were two suppers going on: the Passover Supper and the Lord's Supper coming at the close of the Passover Supper. (Luke mentions two cups. Matthew, Mark, and Luke mention two suppers.) The Passover Festival, also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was held in the spring on the fifteenth day of the first month, lasting seven days, as a memorial to the Jewish people of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The Passover meal began with a blessing, thanking God for the bread. The meal ended with a shared cup of wine. The Jewish custom of breaking the bread was for the blessing of the bread. Eventually, the Lord's Supper was moved from individual homes to buildings and was no longer a part of the actual meal.

This newly created memorial supper was to be kept in loving remembrance of Jesus by his followers until he came again. Jesus took a simple, sacred tradition and made it part of our connectedness to God. He offered his own life to God for us. We remember his act through Communion and by responding to the call to fulfill God's purpose in us.

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### **Experience**

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#### **We Still Remember Him**

Early in the history of Community of Christ, church members were instructed to "meet together often to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus" (Doctrine and Covenants 17:22). Today, ask students to look up the Communion prayers (Doctrine and Covenants 17:22, 23) and make a list of all the active words they find (meet, ask, bless, sanctify, partake, eat, administer, kneel, call, say, witness, willing, take, remember, keep, give, drink, shed). These prayers really are an active experience. Ask: "Has Communion become an active experience for you? Is the symbolism found in the bread and wine, the symbolic touching of Jesus and the renewal of the covenant with God, a different experience? Are you living out the memory of Jesus?" Discuss. The Communion service is remembering Jesus alive and with us, nourishing our lives through the Holy Spirit. We observe Communion to remember Jesus and the way of living he exemplified. How, then, do we respond?

Doctrine and Covenants, flip chart, markers

Doctrine and Covenants 17:22, 23

#### **Memorials for Jesus**

Besides the bread and wine memorials for Jesus, what other memorials are there in the world that remind us of Jesus and his teachings? How do they remind us of Jesus (churches, cathedrals, temples, hymns, stories, pictures, food parties, hospitals, shelters, disaster aid)? Wherever there is love, courage, and generosity in the hearts of people, Jesus is remembered.

paper, pens

You can be a living memorial to Jesus because you embody hope, companionship, strength, communication, love, witness, and spirit. You can, if willing, be like the colt carrying on the work Jesus started because he needs you. On the paper provided, ask students to write or draw how they can be a living memorial for Jesus.

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### **Expand**

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#### **Keep in Touch**

Make pocket reminder cards. Cut rectangles 1 1/2 inches by 3 inches from card stock. On one side, print "Because he needs me." On the back write "Because I need him." Decorate. Suggest students find a place to carry the cards with them wherever they go (in their wallet, purse, or notebook). Make a few extra to give away.

card stock, markers, scissors

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**Lectionary scriptures**—Luke 19:28–40/19:27–39 IV; Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Isaiah 50:4–9a/50:4–6 IV; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Luke 22:14–23:56/22:14–23:57 IV