Easter Egg Hunt - Readings & Prayers 2017

A class made a number of laminated and decorated Easter eggs that got blu-tac’d under the pews. The service started with the egg hunt with students bringing up their found eggs to place on our Easter trees in the sanctuary – a little chaotic, but I had my year 6 leaders help to coordinate getting the trees decorated. There were other special eggs around the chapel with the main symbols on them. These we “found” through-out the service, and each introduced the symbols, bible readings and explanations that the kids brought up. Again, songs were a big part of the service too, and rather than one big “message” I had mini-messages throughout the service.

**Palm Sunday**: **Palms**

### A reading from John chapter 12

###  Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

The next day the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted,

“Hosanna! ”

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

**Penny: The Palm Branches: What does this mean for us?**

Jesus came into the town as a king. He rode on a donkey, and people spread palm branches on the road. They called out, "Hosanna" which means “Praise”."

Frans: Palm branches were seen as symbols of victory and success. It was a big parade.

We remember that Jesus is a king for all of us, and he loves us always. We can praise him still today and sing Hosanna to him.

**Maundy Thursday**: **Bread & Wine**

### A readings from Matthew 26:26-30

### The Last Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, “Take this and eat it. This is my body.”

Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, “All of you drink from it.  This is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people.  Here is what I tell you. From now on, I won’t drink wine with you again until the day I drink it with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

**Rhianna: The Bread and Wine: What does this mean for us?**

Jesus knew that he was going to die on the cross. So he had a special meal with his friends. In this meal, the bread and wine are Jesus’ body and blood.

Olivia: Jesus wanted his disciples to know that he would always be with them and would help make them strong all their lives.

We remember that Jesus is with us too, and he promises to help us and forgive us.

**Good Friday: Crown of Thorns**

A reading from John chapter 19

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped.  The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus’ head. Then they put a purple robe on him.  They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, “We honour you, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find nthing to charge him with.”  Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Elliot: The Crown of Thorns: What does this mean for us?**

Before Jesus died, people made fun of him. They called him king but didn’t mean it. They made a crown of thorns for his head and hurt him.

**Madelyn:** We remember that Jesus felt the hurt of all the things we get wrong. He carried the hurts of the whole world.

**Good Friday: Cross**

**READING:**

A reading from Luke chapter 23:

### Jesus Dies

It was now about noon. Then darkness covered the whole land until three o’clock.  The sun had stopped shining. The temple curtain was torn in two. Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my life.” After he said this, he took his last breath.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Brandon: The Cross: What does this mean for us?**

When Jesus died, he died on a cross. When we see a cross we remember that he died for us. He died so that we are forgiven for the wrong things we do.

**Easter Day:**

**READING:**

A reading from Luke chapter 24

Jesus Rises from the Dead

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

**April: The Egg: What does this mean for us?** Jesus did not stay dead – he rose again on Easter Day.

Easter eggs remind us of new life.

**Alex:** Just as little chicks break out of an egg and their new life begins, Jesus broke out of his tomb and brought us new life.

**Closing Prayers:**

### Leela: Easter prayers (1) – 4C

Lord our God, we thank and praise you for your love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who was willing to die for us, to bring us into your family, and to bless us with the life that lasts for ever.

We thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter; help us to keep growing in the life that never comes to an end.

We pray for our families, our friends, and all those we care about: fill them with hope and happiness.

We pray for people who are unhappy today: those who are hungry, or homeless, those who fear violence or harm; may they find protection and peace.

We pray for those who are ill, or facing difficulties: may they find hope in the cross of Christ, and be strengthened by the knowledge of your love.

**Amen**.

### Beth Easter prayers (2) – 4D

Dear Lord God,

We give you thanks for your loving mercy shown to us in Jesus Christ, who endured the suffering of the cross to overcome all that separates us from you, and was raised up to new life.

Strengthen our faith in the victory of the cross and the hope of eternal life. Help us to grow in the life which does not end, in love and friendship with you, which lasts for ever; through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
**Amen.**

**Final Blessing:**

**Easter Blessing**

May the loving power of God,
which raised Jesus to new life,
strengthen you in hope,
surround you with his love,
and fill you with joy in the faith;
and the blessing of almighty God,
Father, Son & Holy Spirit
Be with you always. Amen.

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| Item | Details | Personnel Involved |
| **Welcome** | **Students, parents and staff seated and ready to begin** | **Mrs Carden** |
| **Processional**  | **Lift High the Cross** | **Congregation** |
| **Processional** | **Cross, Bible, Candles and Year 1 Eggs** | **Chaplain Kirstin** **Primary Years Captains** **Year 1’s** |
| **Introduction** | **Egg Hunt** | **Chaplain Kirstin** |
| **Image result for palm leafFirst Symbol- Palm**  | **Reading/Explanation** | **Reader Year 6 - Matthew** **Year 1 – Explanation****Symbol holder – Penny and Frans (1A)** |
| **Song** | **Hosanna** | **Congregation** |
| **Second Symbol – bread and wine** **... Clip Art Communion Bread ...** | **Reading** | **Reader Year 6 - Robyn** **Year 1 – Explanation****Symbol holder – Rhianna (1A) and Olivia (1B)** |
| **Image result for crown of thornsThird symbol – crown of thrones**  | **Reading** | **Reader Year 6 - Chelsea** **Year 1 – Explanation****Symbol holder – Elliot and Madelyn (1B)** |
| **1b018af5873ecca9eb909125cfa5a5 ...Fourth symbol - cross**  | **Reading** | **Reader Year 6 – Liv** **Year 1 – Explanation****Symbol holder – Brandon (1C)** |
| **Song** | **Choir** |  |
| **Image result for chicken and eggFifth symbol - egg**  | **Reading** | **Reader Year 6 - Liv** **Year 1 – Explanation****Symbol holder – April and Alex (1C)** |
| **Song** | **Resurrection shout**  | **Congregation** |
| **Prayers**  |  | **Year 4****4C (Leela Wallace) and 4D (Beth Staples)** |
| **Benediction** |  | **Chaplain Kirstin** |
| **Recessional** | **Music only** | **Chaplain Kirstin**  |
| **Address** |  | **Mrs Carden** |