

Welcome to Week 6!

Stepping Forward in Love

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Stepping Forward in Love inspired by Scripture

Palm Sunday

6th Sunday of Lent Gospel - Luke 22: 14-23:56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Palm Sunday liturgy opens with the crowds hailing Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. The mood quickly becomes more sombre. In the Gospel we encounter Jesus at the Last Supper, offering himself in the form of bread and wine, and making the agony that follows an eternal sacrifice, an eternal covenant with us, sealed in his blood for all time.

Jesus, in reflecting on the sacred mystery of your Passion, may I come to understand the depth of your love for me and for the whole world, and to appreciate ever more the Sacrifice of Holy Mass.

Maunder Thursday

Gospel - John 13:1-15

Now he showed how perfect his love was

Jesus knows that the time of his sacrifice on the cross is approaching, and that Judas will betray him. At supper, he assumes the role of a servant, and kneels before the disciples to wash their feet, a sign of the greater sacrifice he is about to make for us. Peter refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet; when Jesus says that unless he does this Peter can have nothing in common with him, Peter expresses his passionate love by asking Jesus to wash his hands and head as well! How poignant that in just a few hours Peter, in his weakness and fear, will deny Jesus three times.

Jesus, may I never deny my love for you, come what may. Help me always to follow your example and offer myself in the service of others. If I am ever called to leadership of any kind, or hold any authority, however small, may I remember that you are a servant king.

Good Friday

Gospel - John 18:1-19:42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

How familiar to us is John's account of Jesus' passion, and yet it remains an ever-new treasure house wherein we may gaze on God's love for us if we dare to look. We hear Jesus utter the words "I am he" to the soldiers who fall to the ground; he is proclaiming himself God in words similar to those heard by Moses "I am who am". We are reminded of our own frailty and sinfulness as we listen to Peter's heart-breaking denials. We hear Pilate incriminate himself in an all-too-modern denial that such a thing as absolute truth even exists. We look on Jesus' humility, simplicity, silence, and nobility in the face of unjust accusations, and his eventual condemnation by the rage of the crowd and the malice of the authorities. We look at Jesus hanging on the cross, incomprehensible and scandalous, and yet the only Way. We see Jesus give Mary and the Disciple who He Loved to each other, and so give us Mary as our heavenly mother. We hear John describe Jesus' last breath "he gave up his spirit", the perhaps intentionally ambiguous words reminding us of the gift of the Holy Spirit that is to come.

Jesus, help me to enter into the amazing mystery of your love for me. Help me to look upon your cross and know just how much You love me, that You died for me. Help me to accept the love of Mary my heavenly mother and let her always lead me to You. Amen.

Stepping Forward in Love begins with prayer

- ❖ Why not come along to the **Family Way of the Cross at St Peter's on Good Friday at 9:45am** where parents and children will join in with the Passion narrative in the grounds and church. All welcome!
- ❖ Don't miss out on the opportunity to receive the gift of God's love and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. As well as the usual times on Saturdays, the **parish Lenten Reconciliation Service will be at 7pm on Monday 14th April at St Peter's Church** with extra priests supporting to hear individual confessions.
- ❖ For the Triduum Masses and services, see the newsletter for more details: <https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Peterpost-5th-Sunday-of-Lent.pdf>

Activity

- ❖ **Easter Garden** - If you haven't already, you could make an Easter Garden. You could use a large plant pot or tray, sticks and twine for the crosses, a small plant pot or cup for the tomb, pebbles, and a large rock to cover the entrance. Add anything else you would like. On Easter Sunday, the children will roll the rock away, and they can place flowers there too!

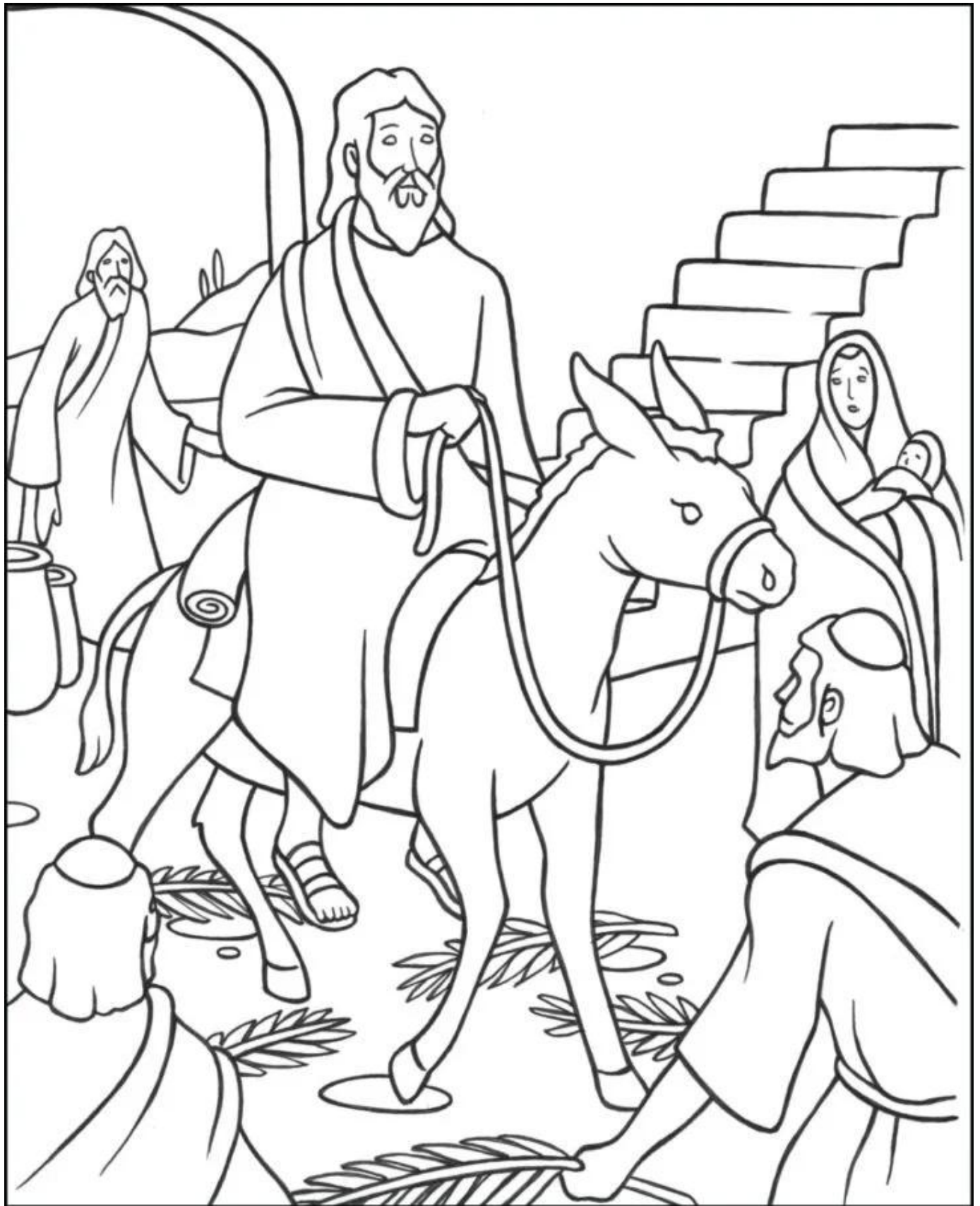
- ❖ **Washing of the Feet** - Before the evening meal on Maundy Thursday, the family gathers for a simple washing of the feet. All that is required is a bowl, a jug of water and a towel. The account from the Gospel of John 13:1-17 is read and then Christ is imitated by washing the feet of the family members. It starts with the father washing the mother's feet, the mother washing the eldest child's feet and so on until the youngest child washes the father's feet. You may like to remind them that we are imitating Christ being the servant of all, and that in our families we are called to love and serve one another. Just a little bit of water (even on just one foot) will suffice.

- ❖ **Simple Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday** - Maundy or Holy Thursday is one of the biggest feasts in the Church year, since it commemorates the institution of Holy Orders and of the Holy Eucharist. Sunday-best should be worn by participants and the table should be beautifully decorated, with a white tablecloth (in imitation of the white vestments used at Mass) and even the good china and silver. Before or during the dinner, **Exodus 12:1-20** is read (the story of the first Passover). Then the New Testament reading about the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist is read from either **Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26 or Luke 22:7-20**.

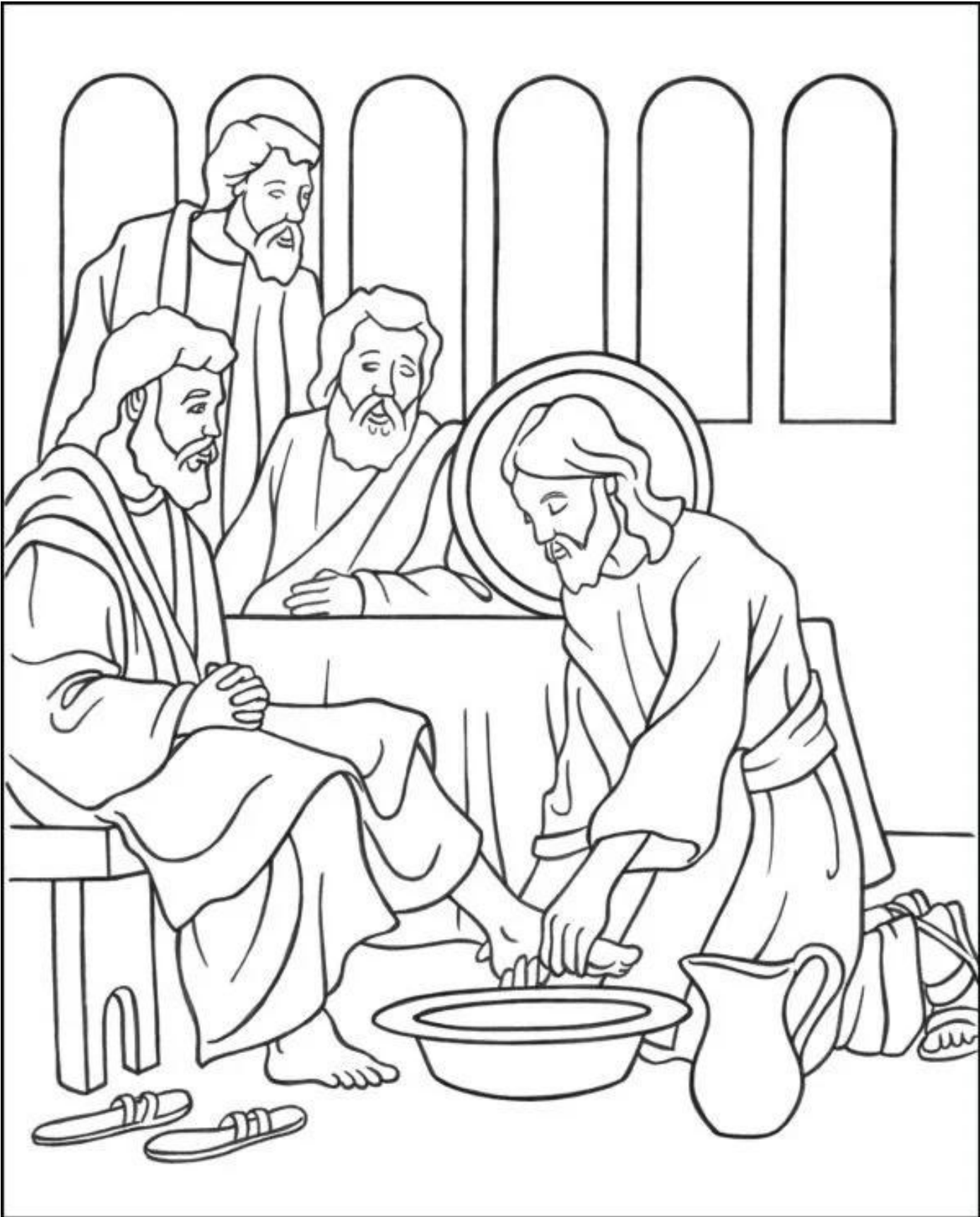
Simple Menu Suggestion:

- ❖ **Bitter Herbs:** Cooked spinach and raw celery sticks dipped in salt water
- ❖ **Haroset:** Applesauce with cinnamon and raisins
- ❖ **Unleavened bread:** Crackers or store-bought matzohs or pita bread or homemade unleavened bread (see recipes)
- ❖ **Wine:** red wine or grape juice/ribena
- ❖ **Lamb:** Leg of lamb, or roast lamb, or lamb chops, or if vegetarian/vegan a dish in the shape of a lamb
- ❖ **Dessert:** You might like to bake a cake since it is a special feast.

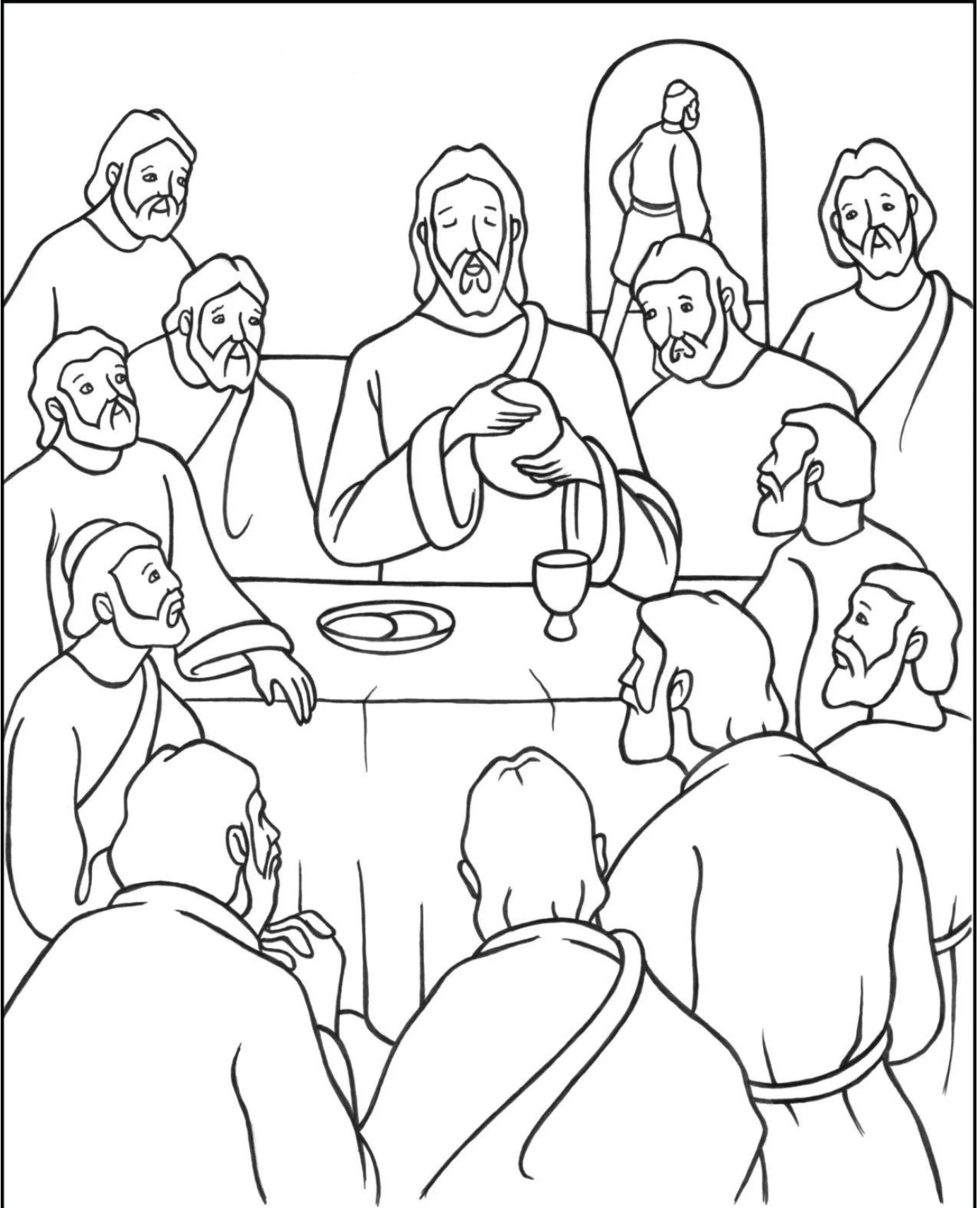
Wishing you all a blessed and grace-filled Holy Week!



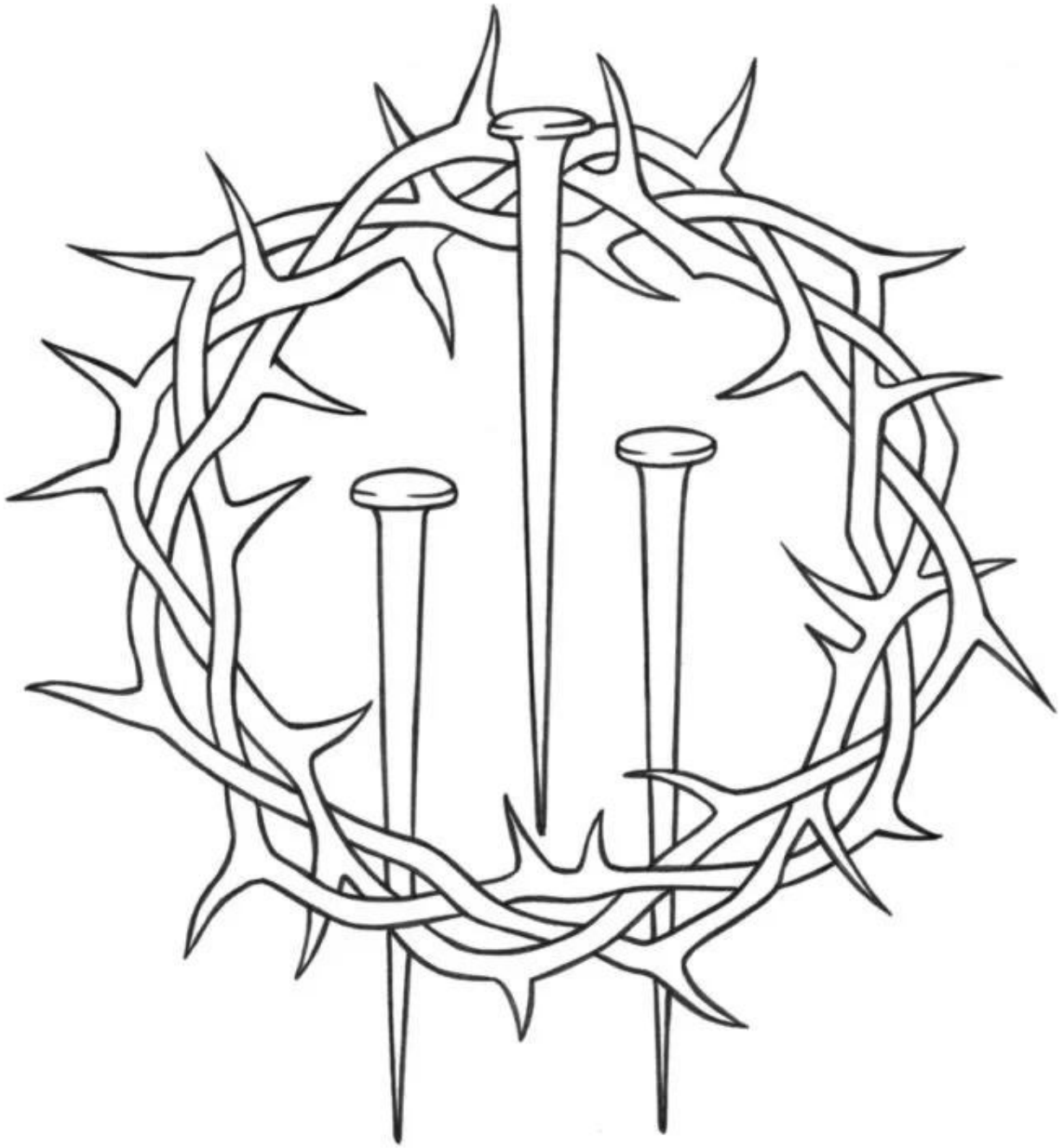
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5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com





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