

# The Easter Story



## Palm Sunday



2000 years ago a man called Jesus brought a message of hope and love to the world. Many people wanted to listen to his teaching. Jesus went from place to place with his friends, teaching people.

Once, they went to Jerusalem, for the Passover Feast. Jesus told two disciples to bring him a donkey on which he could ride into the city. It was a dusty, rough road. People put down their cloaks for the donkey to walk on. Others cut leaves from palm trees and put these down too. They were pleased to see Jesus. They shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel."



## Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper

Jesus and his disciples gathered together for a special Passover meal. Jesus knew he would be leaving them soon. He began to wash the feet of his friends. He did this to teach his friends that they should serve and help others.

Jesus then had a last supper with his friends. Jesus gave thanks. He shared a cup of wine and a piece of bread, telling his friends to "do this to remember me".



Then Jesus went to visit a garden to pray.

His disciples went along. Jesus prayed but his disciples were tired and soon fell asleep.

The leaders sent some soldiers to take Jesus away, even though he had done nothing wrong. Peter wanted to protect Jesus, but Jesus said, "No. I must allow this to happen". All the disciples ran away, and the soldiers arrested Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to the leaders.

## Good Friday

The soldiers took charge of Jesus; they took him to an important man called Pontius Pilate. Pilate put Jesus on trial and then handed him back to the soldiers to be killed. They put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of sharp thorns on his head. They made him carry a big wooden cross to a place outside the city and they nailed Jesus to the cross.

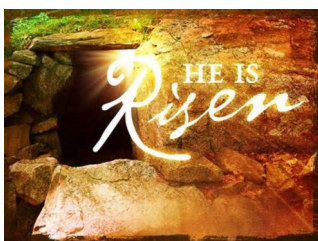


Jesus died on the cross.

Later his friends moved his body to a tomb and put a big round stone over the entrance.

Everyone who loved Jesus was very sad.

## Easter Day



Three women who were Jesus' friends returned to the tomb early on Sunday. They were astonished to find that the stone had been moved and an angel was there. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen!"

The women ran to tell Jesus' other friends what had happened.