

## **For Teachers: Holy Week Reflection**

**BELIEVE!**

*Mt 26:14-27:66; Mk 14:1-15:47; Lk 22:14-23:56*

Jesus' passion is a story rich in emotion and drama. We stand witness while an innocent man—selfless, powerful and noble—is executed by a diverse group that looks much like ourselves. Do we, like the centurion, become convinced that Jesus is God's Son?

### **MONDAY STAY AWAKE**

*Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11*

Sometimes we just don't understand the significance of what is going on all around us. Events move too quickly to be sorted out or too slowly to be noticed. It was like that for the disciples too. Although Jesus had tried to prepare them for his crucifixion, they were stunned that Passover night when he was arrested. They ran like the wind.

### **TUESDAY MARVEL AT REDEMPTION**

*Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38*

In an ideal world, love, denial and betrayal wouldn't go together. But in the real world, they often do. The disciples no doubt loved Jesus, yet most were disloyal to him at the end. What a marvel that God loves us and sent his Son!

### **WEDNESDAY PREPARE FOR VICTORY**

*Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25*

In literary tragedy, the hero or heroine is ultimately cut down and dies. The gospel, though, is different. The hero, Jesus, willingly walks the path that leads to death. But soon after, he is raised up, given a new, resurrected life by God. Jesus glorified becomes "the Christ." Our story is no tragedy. Good triumphs!

### **HOLY THURSDAY BE OF SERVICE**

*Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15*

Being a servant runs against the grain of most people. It's lowly and difficult. We prefer being served. Jesus' disciples still didn't understand that selfless service is God's way, the key to the Kingdom. So Jesus showed them what to do. He washed their feet.

### **GOOD (HOLY) FRIDAY PUT YOURSELF IN GOD'S HANDS**

*Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42*

Often, the only way out of an ordeal is to go straight through it. We have to accept and submit rather than fight. While on trial for his life, Jesus is asked repeatedly to do this or that to save himself. But he refuses. Jesus accepts his unjust conviction. Then he puts himself completely in God's hands.

### **EASTER EVE CELEBRATE GOD'S SURPRISE**

*Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-7; Lk 24:1-12*

When Mary peers into Jesus' tomb on Easter morning, she is stunned at the emptiness. So are Peter and John, who look for themselves. When Jesus, whom God raised to new life, appears to the disciples, his presence defies their understanding. Today, what does Easter mean to you? Do you believe that Christ's Spirit lives among us?