



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES  
of Billings, Montana

®

**First United Methodist Church**  
[billingsfirst.org](http://billingsfirst.org)

**Evangelical United Methodist Church**  
[actyourfaith.org](http://actyourfaith.org)

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
[graceumcbillings.org](http://graceumcbillings.org)

**Hope United Methodist Church**  
[billingshopeumc.org](http://billingshopeumc.org)

**Shiloh United Methodist Church**  
[shilohbillings.church](http://shilohbillings.church)

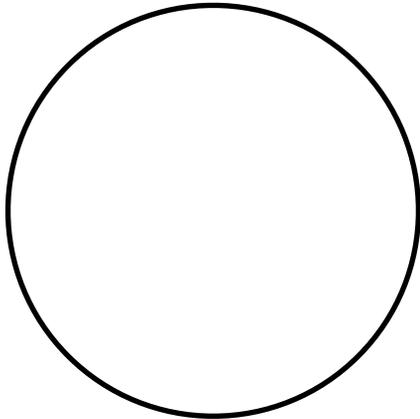
# Holy Week



# Instructions

This is the most sacred week in the Christian calendar. We remember Jesus' journey from the shouting crowds on Palm Sunday to the upper room for a final meal with the disciples, to the horror of the cross and the loneliness of the grave, and finally the new beginning of Easter morning.

You're invited to join us as we go with Jesus into the wilderness. Our Billings congregations will be coming together at various locations this week. For each service you attend, you'll receive a stamp for the day. If you get all of the stamps, your name will be printed in the bulletins at all the churches.



## *Palm Sunday*

### **April 14**

Shiloh - 1810 Shiloh Road

8:00 am or 10:15 am

Hope - 244 Wicks Lane

9:00 am

Grace - 1935 Avenue B

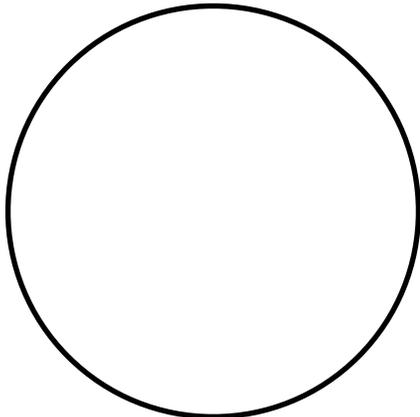
10:15 am

Evangelical - 345 Broadwater

10:30 am

First - 2800 4th Ave N

10:30 am



## *Maundy Thursday*

### **April 18**

Evangelical - 345 Broadwater

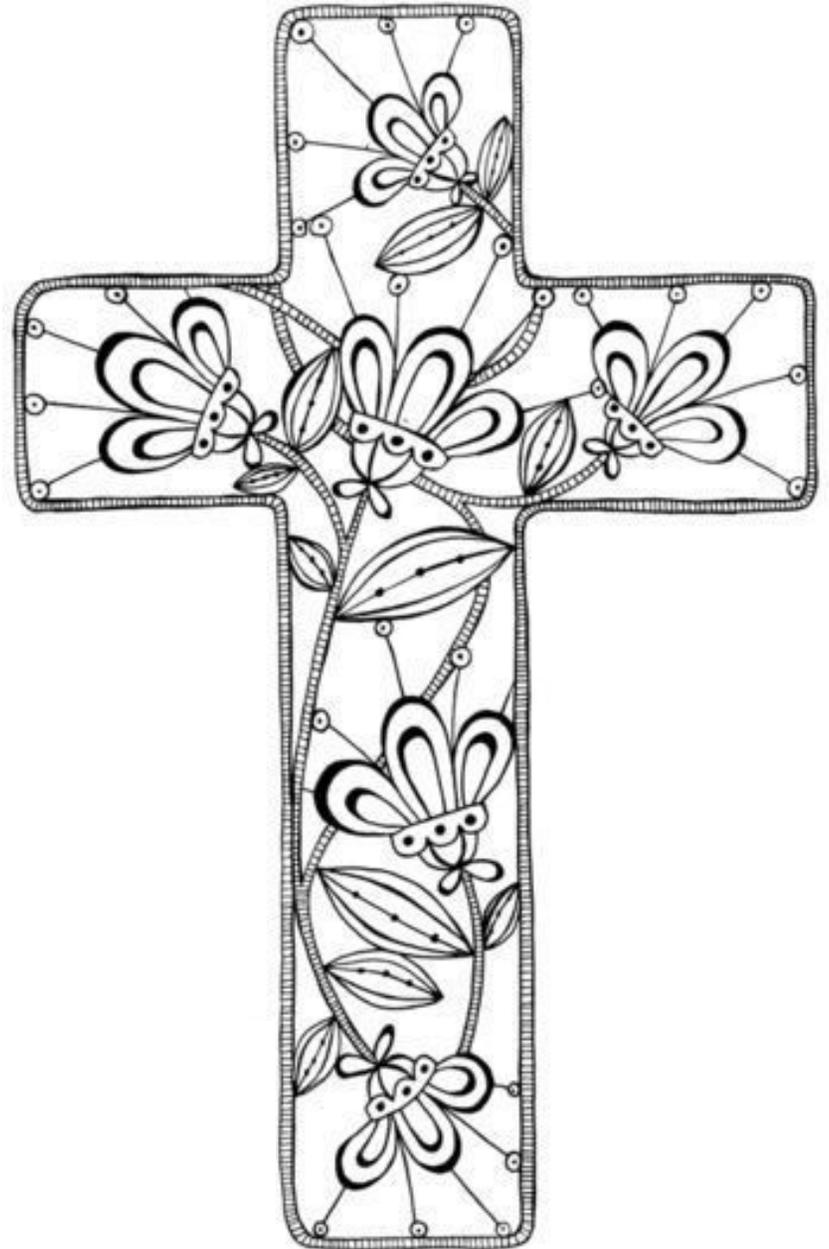
6:00 pm

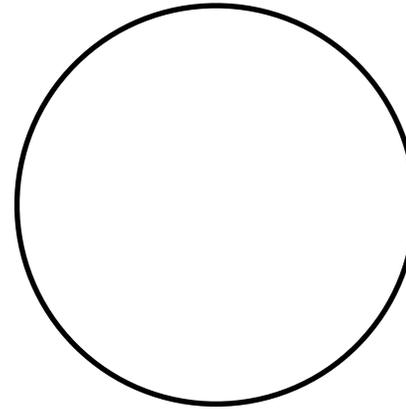
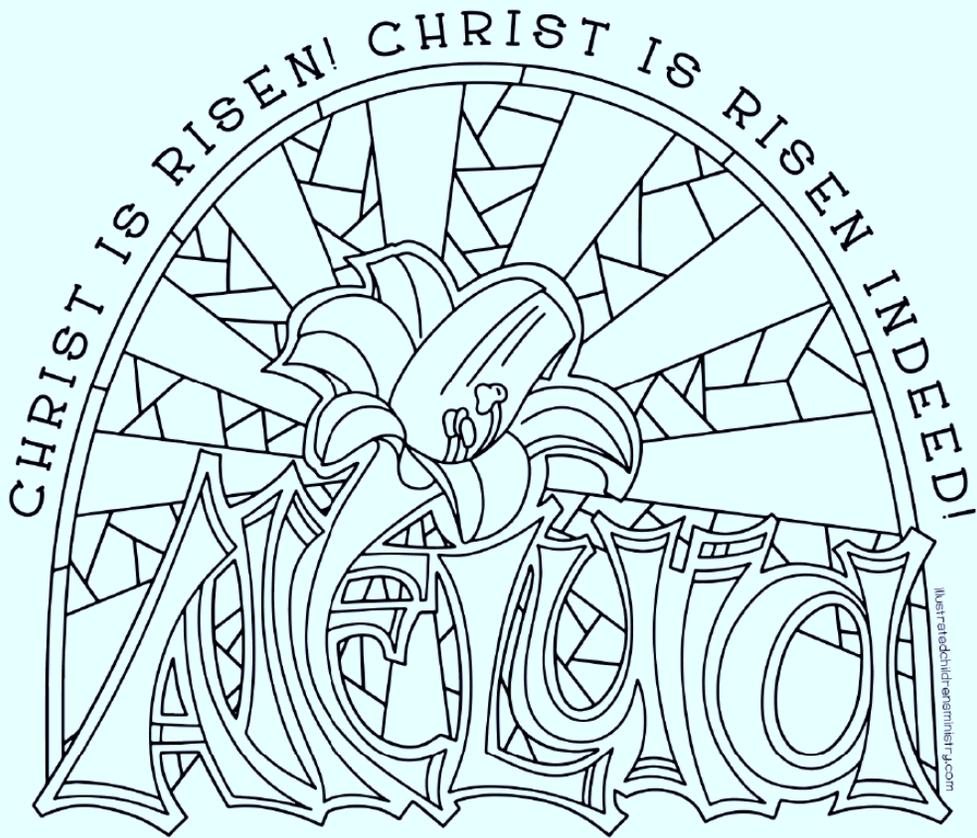
First - 2800 4th Ave N

7:00 pm

Hope - 244 Wicks Lane

7:30 pm





## *Good Friday*

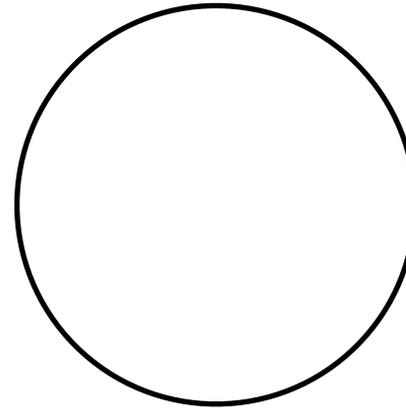
### **April 19**

First - 2800 4th Ave N

6:00 pm

Grace - 1935 Avenue B

7:00 pm



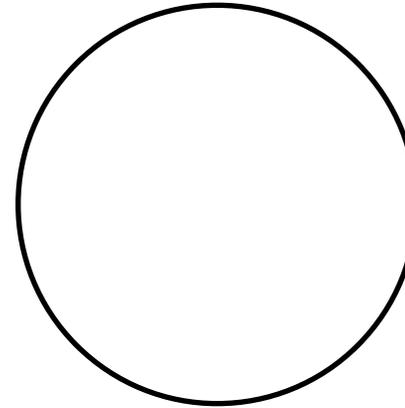
## *Holy Saturday*

### **April 20**

Easter Egg Hunt

Shiloh - 1810 Shiloh Road

11:00 am



## *Easter*

### **April 21**

Sunrise Service

Riverfront Park - Shelter #2

6:30 am

Hope - 244 Wicks Lane

7:00 am or 9:30 am

Shiloh - 1810 Shiloh Road

8:00 am or 10:15 am

First - 2800 4th Ave N

8:30 am or 10:30 am

Grace - 1935 Avenue B

10:15 am

Evangelical - 345 Broadwater

10:30 am

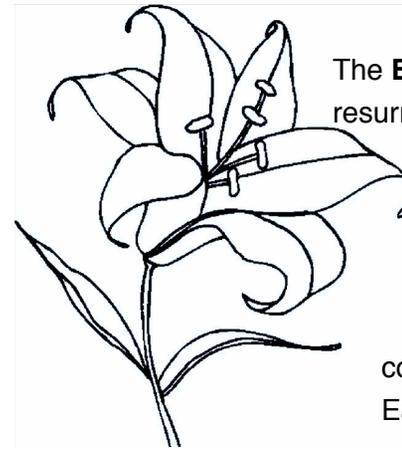
# Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and it reminds us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

We call it Palm Sunday because we often get to wave palm branches during worship. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey to the cheers of the disciples and townspeople who threw clothes, palms, and small branches in front of him to show how happy they were that he came. This was a typical practice to show respect for important people.

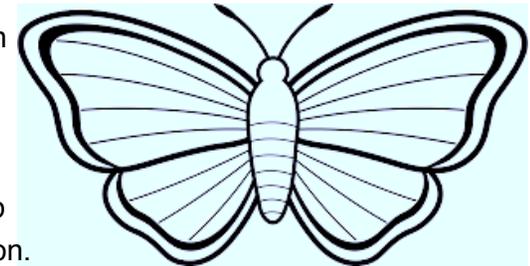


## Symbols of Easter

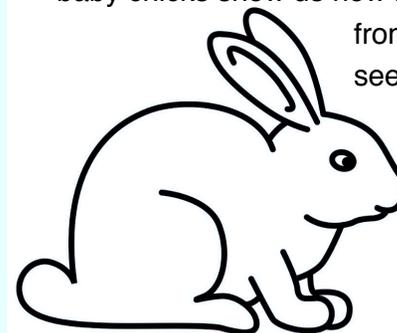
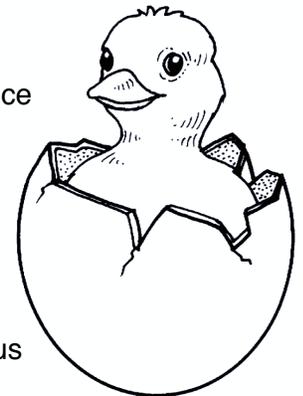


The **Easter lily** is a symbol of the resurrection. Lilies grow from a bulb planted in the ground. Through most of the year, the bulb is dormant (deep asleep), but around Easter it comes to life again. The Easter lily is also white, which is color the church associates with Easter.

In Christianity, the **butterfly** is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ as well as the resurrection of believers. The caterpillar disappears into a cocoon, which is like the tomb Christ lay in after the crucifixion. The caterpillar gives up life crawling on the ground and receives new life soaring in the air.



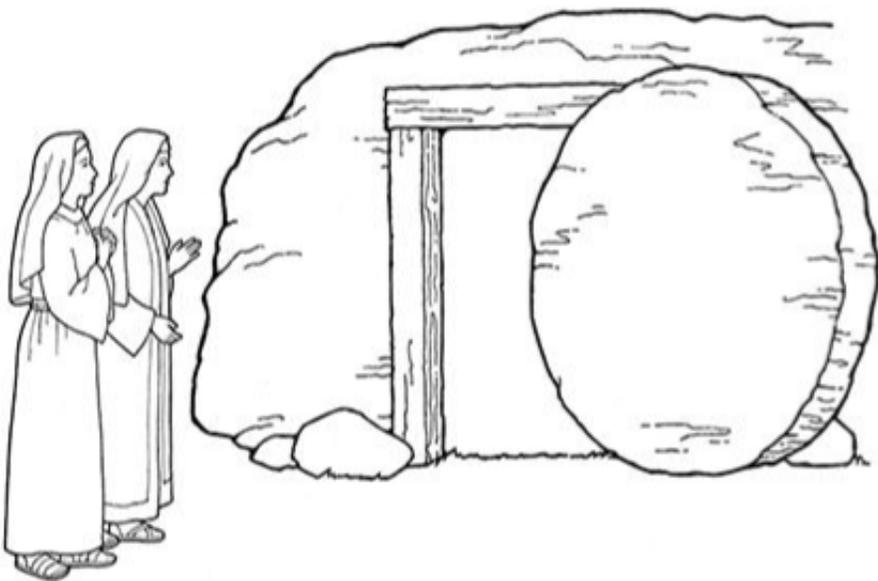
**Baby animals** are also symbols of Easter, since many are born around this time. In particular, baby chicks show us how life can break out from something that seems dead.



Rabbits remind us of the abundant new life given to us through Jesus.

# Easter Sunday

The date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar (moon calendar), which means the actual date moves around. It can be either in March or April. Easter is held the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or soonest after March 21st. This year (2019), the full moon was April 19.



## What happens during this service?

Usually at the beginning of the service, people walk through the church waving palm branches. The word people shouted when Jesus rode by was “hosanna” which means “Praise God,” so it is said or sung often this day.

At some churches the whole congregation goes outside to wave palm branches and walk through the streets as a reminder of Jesus’ parade into Jerusalem.



# Maundy Thursday

This is the day that Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Jewish Passover meal. This meal is also known as the Last Supper.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and a cup of wine and told the disciples they were like his body and blood. He invited them to eat and drink these things to remember him.



Instead of the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. He tells them to be servants of others, just as he was their servant, to show they are followers of Jesus.



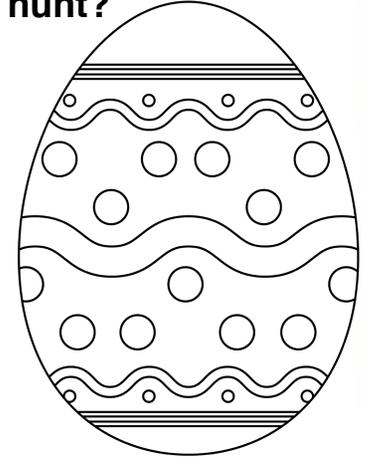
## What happens during this service?

At this service, we will wash each other's feet to remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet. We will remember the love that Jesus showed to us and that Jesus called us to show to others. Often the Lord's Supper (or Communion) is served. At the end of the service, all adornment (decorations) in the sanctuary are removed. The bare church prepares us for Good Friday and the hour of Jesus' death.

Christ is brought back into the sanctuary, often lit from an Easter fire outside the church. The service of Easter Vigil has not usually been celebrated in United Methodist Churches.

## What about the Easter egg hunt?

Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus: though an egg appears to be like the stone of a tomb, a bird hatches from it with life. The Easter egg, for Christians, is a reminder of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.



# Holy Saturday

This is the day we wait. On Good Friday, after Jesus died, his body was taken down from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb. The tomb had been carved into solid rock, and a heavy stone was rolled in front.



Saturday is the Jewish day of Sabbath, so all of Jesus' followers rested according to the commandment.

## What in the world does "Maundy" mean?

The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

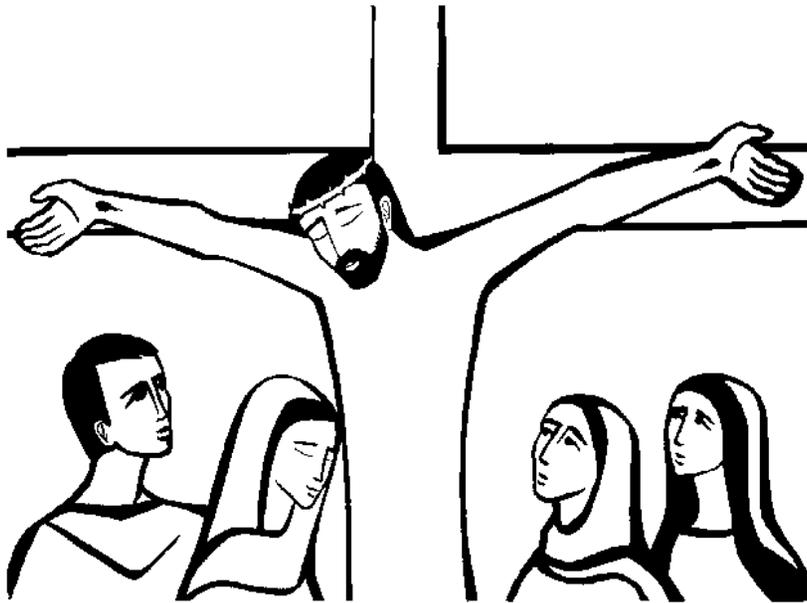


## Is there a service?

Catholic, Lutheran, and Episcopal churches hold a service on this night, called Easter vigil. In the ancient church, this service was held from sundown to sunrise. It was the one night a year when new Christians would be baptized after a year (or two!) of preparation. This is also the day that the Light of

# Good Friday

This is the day that Jesus died. After celebrating the Passover with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While he was there, he was arrested. He was then questioned and sentenced to death. He was hung on a cross along with two criminals. During his last three hours on the cross, from noon to 3 p.m., darkness fell on the whole land.



## What happens during the service?

During this service, we read the scriptures that tell the story of Jesus' death. Sometimes we extinguish (put out) candles as we remember the events leading to Jesus dying on the cross. It is a very somber (serious) service. The sanctuary is has no decorations in it and the people leave in silence.

## Why is it called "Good Friday"?

Friday is the day Jesus died on the cross, so it's hard to imagine what could be "good" about it. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the "good" in Good Friday refers to a holy day. The earliest known use of the term "Good Friday" dates all the way back to 1290. Good Friday is a holy day because it's a day that reminds us just how much Jesus loves the whole world.

