

Family Age

We are now in the last week of waiting for Easter. There are new life signs all around to remind us of the new life we hope to experience with Jesus someday. The anticipation will be easier to handle if we begin planning and preparing now. Some of the children can make place mats or name cards for the table. Decorate them with special symbols of the Resurrection. Others can decorate a candle to represent Jesus.

In planning your meal, remember that some of the food can be symbolic. Easter eggs represent the darkness of the tomb before the Resurrection; they can be decorated with religious symbols. A lamb cake reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

Here is a recipe for a simple (and fun) Easter salad. The children can make these shortly before Easter dinner next week.



Bunny Salad

For each serving, place a crisp lettuce leaf on a plate. On top of the lettuce, place a chilled pear half, upside down. For the bunny's face, use the narrow end of the pear. The eyes are raisins, the nose is a maraschino cherry, the ears are two blanched almonds, and the tail is a cottage cheese ball.



Written by Francine M. O'Connor. Art by Chris Sharp. © 2021 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Imprimatur: Most Rev. Robert J. Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Printed in USA. All rights reserved. It is a violation of copyright law to reproduce all or part of this material without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Liguori.org



explaining GOD'S WORD

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B) • Mark 14—15:47 or 15:1—39 • March 28, 2021

GOSPEL SCRAMBLE

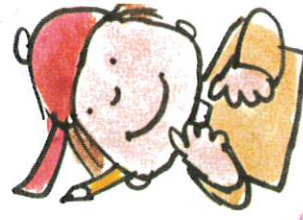
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When the people complained to Jesus that the woman was wasting perfume, Jesus told them, "She has performed a good service for me." Can you think of anything that you can do for others this week? Unscramble the words on this page for a few starting ideas.

A Kind and Beautiful Service

This week's gospel is the long story of all the sad things that happened just before Jesus died. But in the very beginning of the story, one woman does a kind thing for Jesus. She puts some expensive perfume on Jesus' hair to show him how much she loves him.

"How foolish," some people tell her. "You should sell the perfume and give the money to the poor." But Jesus tells them, "She has performed a good service for me. Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." With all the sadness that was to come, Jesus was very pleased with this woman, for she didn't put off being kind. In a little while he would leave, and the time for her to love him would not come again.

Do you ever put off doing kind things for the people you love the most? Maybe you really mean to write Grandma or you mean to tell Mom you love her or you mean to tell your best friend what fun it is when you play together. But you just never get

around to it. There's always tomorrow, you say.

Remember what the gospel story teaches: The time to love others is now!

Is there someone you want to love? Don't put it off — DO IT NOW!

